

Vanizem Wins Double Honours at NutraIngredients Awards 2026

13 May 2026 | News

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Nektium's mood-boosting Vanizem has been named both Botanical Ingredient of the Year and Mind & Mood Ingredient of the Year at the NutraIngredients Awards 2026.

Launched in 2024, Vanizem is a fast-acting, non-sedative Aframomum melegueta extract that is clinically proven to improve mood, reduce stress levels and enhance sleep quality within just three days.

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The Botanical Ingredient of the Year award honours the best branded or own-label botanical ingredient. It reflects increasing consumer demand for effective, natural solutions and the growing body of research substantiating the therapeutic properties of plant-based ingredients.

In their citation for the Botanical Ingredient award, the judges said: "Vanizem has been selected as the winner thanks to its compelling blend of innovation, scientific credibility, and responsible sourcing. As a relatively new entrant to the market, it distinguishes itself through proprietary extraction methods and a patent-pending encapsulation technology that elevates its performance and reliability.

"The ingredient is supported by a robust scientific dossier including toxicology, mode of action research, and clinical studies demonstrating statistically significant benefits – underscoring its safety and efficacy. Sustainably sourced and commercially successful, Vanizem has rapidly gained traction across a wide range of nutraceutical formulations, reflecting both strong market confidence and meaningful impact."

The Mind & Mood Ingredient of the Year award is given to the ingredient that best supports cognition, memory, alertness, mood, stress, anxiety, relaxation, sleep and brain recovery.

Commenting on the Mind & Mood Ingredient award, the judges said: “Vanizem is recognised for its highly innovative vanilloid technology, delivering fast-acting improvements in mood and sleep through modulation of the body’s endocannabinoid system. With a distinctive mechanism, strong early clinical signals, and impressive commercial momentum, Vanizem stands out as a breakthrough botanical with genuine disruptive potential and exciting opportunities for future expansion.”•