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CaixaBank and Biome Makers collaborate to promote more sustainable agriculture

CaixaBank and Biome Makers work together in a pilot project for technological innovation in agriculture.

(Valladolid, Spain. – July 20, 2023) Biome Makers, a world leading AgTech company specialized in the biological analysis of soils, and AgroBank, CaixaBank's business line aimed at agri-food activity, have signed a collaboration agreement consisting of a commercial pilot. The combined effort increases access to Biome Makers' BeCrop® technology to farmers and CaixaBank customers, revolutionizing agriculture with innovative soil data and artificial intelligence technology, financed by the bank.

The relationship between the two companies was cultivated at the International Agrotech Ventures Program organized by the European Innovation Council and CaixaBank, where Biome Makers was announced the winner for its BeCrop® technology as a solution for the agricultural and livestock sector in Spain. BeCrop® technology is the standard in soil health, with the world's largest taxonomic database of microorganism references, providing clear and actionable data to overcome common problems in agriculture such as nutrient cycling, pathogen pressure, among others.

"We are excited about this collaboration and the possibilities it offers farmers," says Adrian Ferrero, Cofounder, and CEO at Biome Makers. "Farmers and CaixaBank customers will now have the opportunity to use BeCrop® technology with zero-cost financing, thanks to which the entire agricultural industry will benefit from gaining crucial biological soil data to inform their decision-making process."

Both companies have a deep understanding of the vital role soil health plays in agriculture. They recognize its importance in mitigating the effects of climate change, such as droughts, while striving for sustainable food production. To consolidate their commitment to these shared goals, the companies have forged a partnership agreement whereby CaixaBank will offer, as part of a commercial pilot, to finance BeCrop® Test, a soil biology analysis based on BeCrop® technology, to farmers and customers. In addition, Biome Makers will support and guide AgroBank customers in the use of its technology and how to use the information obtained to improve productivity or reduce costs.

"We are very pleased with this agreement. We believe that improving and recovering soil health is a key factor in improving agricultural sustainability, which is so important for feeding the population in a sustainable way and mitigating climate change," says Jaime Campos, Director of AgroBank at CaixaBank.

This agreement aims to promote the recovery of soil health in Spain, helping farmers to improve their productivity in a sustainable way, so that they can overcome the challenges that the agricultural sector has been facing for several months due to weather, inflation and other factors.

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About Biome Makers

Founded in the Bay Area of California in 2015, Biome Makers is one of the foremost global AgTech leaders, setting the standard in soil health with BeCrop® technology. Built on industry leading AgTech expertise and driven by data and science, Biome Makers connect soil biology to agricultural decision-making to optimize farming practices and reverse the degradation of arable soils. With labs across the globe, customers on 4 continents, and 1M+ acres of land impacted, Biome Makers revitalizes soil functionality and agricultural sustainability worldwide. For more information, visit <https://biomemakers.com>

AgroBank, financial and social commitment to the agribusiness sector in Spain

AgroBank, the leading financial institution in the agri-food sector in Spain by branch presence and market share, with more than 500,000 agricultural customers, has been working for many years on a value proposition that reflects its commitment to the agri-food sector and the rural world from a financial, social and digitalization point of view.

AgroBank's commitment to the agri-food sector has been reinforced after a 2022 in which €29,479 million was financed, 95.6% more than in the previous year. This highlights CaixaBank's ongoing support for an essential sector such as the agri-food sector.

All this is possible thanks to the fact that it has the most extensive branch network in Spain, which makes it the financial institution with the greatest presence in small municipalities, reinforcing its social commitment to the promotion of these localities, being present in 95% of the municipalities with less than 5,000 inhabitants, and in 482 of them as the only entity.

In addition, the entity has a strong commitment to sustainability and the digitalization of the sector, with the aim of promoting its transformation. In this regard, it has launched 'AgroBank Tech Digital INNOvation', a startup acceleration program for the agri-food sector. With this initiative, which is developed in collaboration with Innsomnia, the entity is positioned as the main reference for startups to offer the sector technological solutions.