Fertinagro Biotech and the CSIC collaborate to respond to the challenge of sustainability from the bioeconomy

Fertinagro Biotech, a company that centralizes the R + D + i of the Térvalis Group, and the Superior Council of Scientific Research (CSIC) have signed today, Wednesday May 23, a general protocol of action for the development of scientific and technological research, of a multidisciplinary nature, in order to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and development in the field of the circular bioeconomy 2.0. with the purpose of generating added value to the productive processes, since it is done in a sustainable manner.

This alliance responds to the commitment of Fertinagro Biotech with all the interest groups of the company, mainly clients, to whom it intends to make available the new scientific advances to achieve value generation with a lower environmental impact.

With this agreement for scientific research, technological development and innovation, Fertinagro and the CSIC want to contribute to farmers, responsible for providing environmental services in the 21st century - such as the capture of CO2 in crops and soils, the conservation of soils such as water purification systems, maintenance of biodiversity, optimization of bionutrient cycles, soil phytoremediation (technique to decontaminate soils, sediments and waters through the use of certain plants), etc.-, new opportunities economic, offering tools, products and processes that make them more sustainable and competitive.

Farmers, the main actors in this context of transition from the fossil economy to biological resources, are the main responsible for the generation of biomass and those who face new challenges in the sustainable economy. Fertinagro Biotech under this agreement can continue to provide answers to the challenge of sustainability of all agricultural processes from the bioeconomy and offer farmers new opportunities to make profitable their productions not only in the traditional value chains (food, fibers and even biofuels), but also in the environmental and social fields.

The creation of new biomaterials; new environmental services; the generation of a new rural renaissance that generates equal opportunities for citizens will be some of the achievements that are achieved with this alliance that unites the commitment of Fertinagro Biotech and the CSIC with people and knowledge in general. In turn, this collaboration will allow the company to advance exponentially in its commitment to provide more value to the farmer and service companies.

The CSIC will provide the multidisciplinary and circular knowledge that will help Fertinagro Biotech solve technological problems that arise in all sectors (generation of biomass and use and treatment of by-products, for example) to generate added value in all of them, in a circular manner . From soil to biomass (agricultural production), from agricultural production to the food, biomaterials and bioenergy sectors and the by-products that result from the previous processes towards the field again.

The president of the CSIC, Rosa Menéndez, thanked the research effort of Fertinagro Biotech and this collaboration that will "transfer interdisciplinary knowledge and value research, so that it can become tangible for society." He has shown his desire to *"progress together in such important areas as agriculture, food, the environment and other cross-cutting issues, in order to anticipate future problems with a global and multisectoral vision".*

This union with the leading Spanish research organization will promote the advancement of Fertinagro Biotech in the circular bioeconomy with the aim of giving more added value to its customers and society, through research and development to achieve a more sustainable economy.

For his part, the deputy general director of Fertinagro Biotech, Sergio Atares, has highlighted the importance of this alliance to promote R & D carried out by the group. *"All the knowledge that the CSIC treasures, characterized by its transversality and its global vision, will be very enriching to*

continue advancing in circular bioeconomy through our indispensable R & D area".

This collaboration will materialize with specific agreements with some of the 122 institutes attached to the Higher Council of Scientific Research with its more than 11,024 researchers and technical and support staff, who last year handled 3,476 research projects with a budget of 654 million euros .

They will also collaborate in reciprocal counseling and the exchange of information in matters of promotion, development and monitoring of scientific activities through the preparation of reports, working groups, etc. They may also cooperate in training programs for research and technical personnel or in the organization of activities for scientific and technological dissemination to society.

To facilitate and guarantee the proper development of the agreement, a commission will be formed that will be responsible for compliance and monitoring of the different activities. At the same time, it will be in charge of proposing the different possibilities of collaboration in scientific-technological subjects of common interest, selecting and deciding the specific subjects and activities to be carried out, etc.

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