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UPM launches new biostimulant product range as a long-term solution for sustainable agriculture

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UPM Solargoâ?¢Â biostimulants are a highly innovative solution for sustainable agriculture providing scientifically proven benefits for a broad range of crops cultivated in fields and greenhouses with a significantly optimized environmental footprint compared to incumbent fossils-based products. TheyÂ aid plant growth by improving the quality of soil microbiome and by increasing water retention.

Unlike traditional fertilizers, UPM Solargoâ?¢Â biostimulants do not directly provide nutrients to the plant. Instead, they increase nutrient absorption, utilization efficiency and stress tolerance of the plant. In long term testing, UPM Solargoâ?¢Â products have shown to increase crop yield and quality. More importantly, UPM Solargoâ?¢Â has the potential to help significantly reduce demand for classical fertilizers based on nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (NPK), the production and use of which is held responsible for up to 80% of CO_2-emissions in crop production[1].

â?³The launch of UPM Solargoâ?¢Â marks the successful end of many years of research and development. By bringing this family of novel, bio-based plant stimulants to market, we establish yet another, entirely new category of high value sustainable chemicals and live up to our commitment to pioneer sustainable chemistryâ?³ says Christian HÃ¼bsch, Director Sales & Marketing Biochemicals at UPM.

â?³The reduction of CO_2Â emissions across industries can only work if we scale the replacement of materials and chemicals which are based on fossil raw materials â?? across sectors. The agricultural sector is particularly important in that respect, as the effect of bio-based, sustainable products such as UPM Solargoâ?¢Â goes beyond climate change mitigation. It also supports increasingly important sustainability goals for the agricultural sector by improving soil health, soil productivity and biodiversity thereby effectively mitigating the negative effects of traditional fertilizers, mainly nitrification, erosion and

disturbance in soil microbiota,â?³" HÃ¼bsch adds.

UPM Solargoâ?¢Â biostimulants are a natural product containing plant-based polyphenols from renewable sources. They are derived from lignin, a bio-based, non-toxic raw material that can help to significantly reduce our dependency on fossil raw materials in a variety of applications. Test marketing has been finalized with great success in main European markets and the process of rolling out UPM Solargoâ?¢ at full industrial scale has started.

UPM is committed to creating a future beyond fossils by bringing more environmentally friendly materials, such as UPMâ??s sustainable lignin solutions, to the market. UPM Biochemicals is part of a broader growth area, UPM Biorefining, focused on scaling refineries producing a variety of renewable fuels and chemicals made from sustainable biomass.