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BASF commissions new BioHub facility in Germany to accelerate biological crop protection portfolio

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BASF Agricultural Solutions has officially commissioned its new BioHub fermentation facility at its Ludwigshafen site, marking a significant expansion of the companyâ??s industrial biotechnology capabilities and reinforcing its long-term focus on biological and biotechnology-based crop protection solutions.

Built with an investment in the high double-digit million-euro range, the newly operational plant represents a strategic addition to BASFâ??s growing BioSolutions portfolio and reflects the accelerating global shift toward sustainable, integrated crop protection systems.

The facility will manufacture biological fungicides and seed treatment solutions using advanced fermentation processes, enabling the company to scale production of next-generation biological crop protection products while improving operational flexibility and supply chain resilience.

At the core of the BioHub is a fermentation platform that uses microorganisms to convert renewable raw materials such as glucose into biological active ingredients. The approach reflects the increasing convergence of industrial biotechnology and agricultural innovation, where biological processes are being deployed to develop lower-impact crop protection solutions suited to evolving regulatory and sustainability requirements.

Production of key biological actives has already commenced at the site, including the bacterium *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, which serves as the foundation for Serifel, BASFâ??s biological fungicide platform. The facility is also producing the primary building block for Inscalis, the companyâ??s novel insecticide based on the fungal strain *Penicillium coprobium*.

By internalising fermentation production, BASF aims to strengthen manufacturing control across its biological portfolio while increasing responsiveness to market demand and reducing dependence on external supply chains.

Commenting on the development, Melanie Bausen-Wiens, Member of the Management Board of BASF Agricultural Solutions responsible for Technology, described the commissioning as an important milestone in the companyâ??s industrial biotechnology strategy.

She noted that integrating fermentation production directly within BASFâ??s operational ecosystem creates a stronger bridge between scientific research and industrial-scale manufacturing, enabling faster adaptation and acceleration of biotechnological innovation pipelines.

The launch also comes amid continued expansion in the global biological crop protection market, as growers increasingly seek solutions that align with sustainable farming practices, regulatory transitions, and integrated pest management strategies.

Maximilian Becker, Member of the Management Board of BASF Agricultural Solutions responsible for Business, stated that the new fermentation platform provides BASF with a scalable and flexible production foundation capable of supporting the continued growth of its biological solutions portfolio.

He added that the facility would play a critical role in ensuring consistent and dependable product availability for customers globally as demand for biological crop protection solutions continues to expand.

The commissioning of the BioHub further strengthens Ludwigshafenâ??s role as one of BASFâ??s key global innovation and manufacturing centres, while underscoring the broader transformation underway within the crop protection industry â?? where biologicals, microbial technologies and industrial biotechnology are increasingly moving from niche applications into mainstream agricultural systems.

For BASF, the facility represents not only a manufacturing expansion, but also a strategic signal of how the future of crop protection is likely to evolve â?? combining biological science, industrial fermentation and sustainable agriculture into a more resilient and adaptive agricultural production framework.