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Bioline and Biolevel forge strategic alliance to boost fertiliser efficiency for Kenyan farmers

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In an increasingly uncertain global agricultural landscape, where geopolitical tensions can ripple across food systems thousands of kilometres away, Bioline Agrosciences Africa and Biolevel have announced a strategic partnership aimed at helping Kenyan farmers extract greater value from every bag of fertiliser they apply.

The collaboration marks Biolevelâ??s official entry into the Kenyan market and signals a significant expansion of Biolineâ??s biological agriculture portfolio beyond crop protection into the rapidly growing field of biological crop nutrition.

The announcement comes at a critical moment for African agriculture. Recent disruptions and tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuzâ??a vital maritime corridor through which nearly one-third of global fertiliser trade passesâ??have once again underscored the vulnerability of fertiliser-dependent economies to external shocks. For Kenya, which relies heavily on imported fertilisers, such disruptions can quickly translate into rising production costs and increased pressure on farm profitability.

Against this backdrop, the two companies are positioning biological nutrient-efficiency technologies as a practical solution to one of agricultureâ??s most persistent challenges: producing more with less.

Under the agreement, Bioline Agrosciences Africa will distribute Biolevelâ??s portfolio of microbial crop nutrition products across Kenya, with plans to extend market access into East and Southern Africa. The partnership follows multiple seasons of local field evaluations that demonstrated consistent agronomic performance under Kenyan growing conditions.

â??Farmers today are under pressure from both rising input costs and growing climate uncertainty,â? said Barnaba Rotich, Head of Commercial for Africa and the Middle East at Bioline Agrosciences. â??With the addition of Biolevelâ??s microbial biofertilizers, we can now offer a more comprehensive integrated farm management approach that connects crop nutrition, soil health, and productivity outcomes.â?•

Fertiliser remains one of the largest input costs in modern agriculture, accounting for as much as 30â??50 per cent of total production expenses depending on the crop and farming system. While subsidy programmes have improved access across many regions, productivity gains have not always kept pace with increased fertiliser application.

Across key maize-producing regions, fertiliser use has steadily expanded over the past decade. Yet yields in many farming systems continue to remain below their full potential, with growers often applying larger quantities simply to sustain previous production levels.

Biolevelâ??s technology addresses this challenge from a different angle.

Rather than supplying additional nutrients, the companyâ??s microbial formulations enhance plantsâ?? ability to access and utilise nutrients already present in the soil or supplied through conventional fertilisers. Applied at the seed stage, beneficial microorganisms stimulate root development while promoting natural biological processes such as nutrient solubilisation and nitrogen fixation, improving nutrient uptake efficiency throughout the crop cycle.

According to field evaluations conducted under Kenyan conditions, the technology demonstrated the ability to reduce fertiliser requirements by 15â??30 per cent while maintaining expected yield performance. In several cases, yields improved despite lower fertiliser application rates.

For growers, the economic implications are significant. Improved nutrient-use efficiency not only reduces production costs but also helps insulate farm businesses from future fertiliser price volatility, creating greater flexibility to invest in seed quality, irrigation, mechanisation, or crop protection.

For Biolevel, the partnership represents a strategic step into one of Africaâ??s most important agricultural markets.

The alliance also reflects a broader transformation underway across global agriculture. Biological inputsâ??including microbial biofertilisers, biostimulants, and biological crop protection productsâ??have become among the fastest-growing segments of the agricultural input industry as farmers seek solutions that simultaneously improve profitability, sustainability, and resilience.

Increasingly, these technologies are being integrated alongside conventional fertilisers rather than positioned as replacements, creating hybrid production systems that optimise both biological and chemical inputs.

As supply-chain disruptions, energy-market volatility, and geopolitical tensions continue to reshape agricultural economics, the focus is shifting from simply increasing fertiliser availability to maximising fertiliser efficiency.

For Kenyan agriculture, where input costs remain a defining factor in farm profitability, that shift could prove transformative.

In an era where global events can influence the cost of a single bag of fertiliser before it reaches a farmerâ??s field, innovations that help crops make better use of available nutrients may become as important as the nutrients themselves. Through this partnership, Bioline and Biolevel are betting that the future of agricultural productivity will depend not only on how much farmers apply, but on how effectively every input performs.