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Rainbow Crops secures â?¬9.7 Mn to accelerate AI-powered crop innovation

17 June 2026 | News

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Rainbow Crops, a biotechnology company focused on advancing crop improvement through artificial intelligence and multiplex genome editing, has raised â?¬9.7 million in an oversubscribed seed funding round, marking a significant endorsement of emerging technologies aimed at transforming global plant breeding.

The investment was led by Italian venture capital firm LIFTT and its investment vehicle LIFTT EuroInvest, with participation from existing backers including Agri Investment Fund (AIF), PINC, and VIB. New investors joining the round include Corteva, through its Corteva Catalyst investment platform, and Maia Ventures. The financing follows a recent $7 million grant awarded to the company by the Gates Foundation, further strengthening Rainbow Cropsâ?? growth trajectory.

The fresh capital will be deployed to expand the companyâ??s proprietary Trait Foundry platform, enhance its AI-driven genome engineering capabilities, broaden applications across multiple crop species, and scale scientific and technical teams. The move comes as agricultural systems worldwide confront mounting pressure from climate volatility, resource constraints, and the growing demand for more resilient and productive crop varieties.

Reimagining Crop Breeding Through AI and Genome Engineering

Traditional breeding has delivered substantial gains in agricultural productivity over the decades, but developing complex traits such as yield enhancement, stress tolerance, and climate resilience remains a lengthy and resource-intensive process. Rainbow Crops is seeking to compress that timeline through a technology stack that combines artificial intelligence, multiplex genome editing, precision breeding, and automated phenotyping.

Its platform is designed to identify and engineer combinations of genetic variants associated with complex agronomic traits, enabling breeders to explore multi-gene architectures at a scale previously difficult to achieve. By integrating genome editing directly into breeding workflows, the company aims to generate more predictable outcomes while accelerating the development of improved crop varieties.

Proof-of-concept trials have already been demonstrated in corn, providing early validation for the platformâ??s commercial potential.

Investor Confidence Reflects Growing Interest in Agricultural Biotechnology

The funding round underscores increasing investor appetite for technologies capable of addressing the dual challenge of improving productivity while strengthening resilience against climate-related disruptions.

Investors cited Rainbow Cropsâ?? ability to combine artificial intelligence with advanced genome engineering, supported by field validation, proprietary datasets, and growing engagement with major seed companies. Access to scientific expertise and research infrastructure through Belgiumâ??s VIB ecosystem further strengthened the companyâ??s investment case.

Positioning for the Next Phase of Growth

With regulatory environments in several markets becoming more receptive to gene-editing technologies, companies capable of delivering faster and more precise crop improvement solutions are attracting heightened attention across the agricultural innovation landscape.

Rainbow Crops now aims to transition from early-stage validation to broader platform deployment, building partnerships across the global seed industry while expanding its portfolio of climate-resilient and high-performing crop traits.

As agriculture increasingly turns to biotechnology and data-driven innovation to secure future food production, the latest funding round positions Rainbow Crops among a new generation of companies seeking to redefine how crops are developed in an era of mounting environmental and economic uncertainty.