AgroSpectrum ASIA
Envisaging Future | Updating Present

Zhongnong Zhichuang, Huazhong Agricultural University, and Hubei Hongshan Lab launch Â¥30 Million microbial pesticide innovation center

29 July 2026 | News

Strategic alliance targets annual registration of new biopesticides to advance green agriculture and ensure national food security



In a major push toward sustainable agricultural innovation, Shanghai-based Zhongnong Zhichuang Technology Co., Ltd. and its Wuhan subsidiary, Zhongnong Zhiwei Biotechnology, have signed a landmark cooperation agreement with Huazhong Agricultural University and Hubei Hongshan Laboratory. The strategic partnership formalizes the creation of the Institute for Microbial Pesticide Resource Discovery and New Product Development, supported by a initial 30 million yuan research budget aimed at scaling next-generation biopesticide technologies.

The newly established institute is designed as an end-to-end innovation engine to bridge the traditional gap between academic research and commercial deployment. Under the multi-party agreement, the entities will focus on three main operational pillars: building comprehensive microbial pesticide strain libraries, co-developing high-efficacy biological pest control products, and training specialized agricultural engineers. To ensure commercial traction, the program has established an explicit operational performance benchmark of securing at least one new biopesticide registration certificate each year.

Yang Renfeng, Chief Executive Officer of Zhongnong Zhichuang and Chairman of Zhongnong Zhiwei, described the venture as a foundational step in refining the company's long-term agricultural biotechnology roadmap. By connecting top-tier academic expertise with the companyâ??s contract research, development, and manufacturing organization (CRDMO) technical service platform, the collaborative framework aims to accelerate the translation of bench science into viable market products that directly enhance crop yields and soil health.

From the academic side, Zhang Yongjun, Vice President and Party Committee Member of Huazhong Agricultural University, underscored the strategic role microbial biopesticides play in safeguarding national food security and reducing chemical reliance in modern farming. Zhang outlined three key priorities for the institute: establishing clear technical milestones, facilitating two-way personnel mobility between research labs and industrial sites, and securing robust independent intellectual

property rights to build competitive, green agricultural clusters.

Moving forward, the consortium plans to continually scale R&D investments, pooling scientific talent and corporate resources to overcome technical bottlenecks in microbial strain discovery, formulation stability, and industrial synthesis. The project stands as a central component in China's broader drive toward green agricultural transformation and resilient food supply chains.