



BioConsortia raises \$15 million to scale microbial crop technologies globally

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The funding will support commercial launches, manufacturing expansion and regulatory capabilities for its nitrogen-fixing seed treatment Always N and biostimulant Zaffre



US-based agricultural biotechnology company BioConsortia has raised \$15 million in equity financing to accelerate the commercialisation and global expansion of its microbial crop technologies, including its nitrogen-fixing seed treatment Always N and biostimulant Zaffre.

The investment comes from an entity affiliated with John Pasquesi, managing member of existing investor Otter Capital. The funding will support commercial launches and strengthen the manufacturing, regulatory and commercial infrastructure required to scale the company's products across international markets.

BioConsortia is positioning microbial technologies as tools to improve crop performance and reduce dependence on conventional agricultural inputs. Its portfolio spans biostimulants, biofertilisers and biological crop-protection products, targeting growing demand for more resource-efficient farming systems.

"Always N is gaining momentum in New Zealand and beyond, while Zaffre biostimulant is progressing towards launch," said Marcus Meadows-Smith, CEO of BioConsortia. He said the investment would help the company expand its capabilities and accelerate commercial growth.

Nitrogen fixation and crop establishment

Always N is designed to help crops fix nitrogen biologically, potentially reducing reliance on synthetic nitrogen fertilisers. The company offers wild-type and gene-edited versions to accommodate differing regulatory requirements across markets. Its formulation and seed-treatment compatibility are intended to support integration into industrial seed-treatment operations.

New Zealand has emerged as an important market for the technology. According to BioConsortia, adoption of Always N seed treatment through its partner H&T rose from approximately 5 per cent in 2024 to 50 per cent in 2025, with adoption projected

to reach around 80 per cent in 2026. These figures represent company-reported adoption estimates.

The product is also expanding commercially across the Americas, the European Union, Asia and Australia. In the Americas, BioConsortia has a commercial partnership with fertiliser producer The Mosaic Company. Its second lead product, Zaffre, is a biostimulant intended to improve crop emergence, stand establishment and yield, including under temperature stress. BioConsortia reports an average yield gain of 4.4 bushels per acre across three seasons of corn trials.

Expanding the biologicals pipeline

Beyond its lead products, BioConsortia is advancing a foliar biofungicide through Nichino in selected markets. Its pipeline also includes seed-treatment biofungicides, bionematicides and bioinsecticides, which are progressing through expanded partner trials globally.

The new capital is expected to support the transition of these technologies from development towards broader commercial deployment. Manufacturing capacity, regulatory approvals and distribution partnerships will be critical to translating product performance into sustained market adoption. John Pasquesi said the company had made progress in translating its research into products backed by its patent portfolio and offering commercial potential.

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