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Hailir advances fluxapyroxad and bixafen projects to trial production in China

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Qingdao Hengning Biotechnology has completed construction and equipment commissioning for its SDHI fungicide projects, with stated annual capacities of 6,000 tonnes of fluxapyroxad and 3,000 tonnes of bixafen.

Chinese agrochemical manufacturer Hailir Pesticides and Chemicals Group has announced that two fungicide manufacturing projects at its wholly owned subsidiary, Qingdao Hengning Biotechnology, have entered the trial-production stage following completion of construction and equipment commissioning. The projects involve the production of fluxapyroxad and bixafen, two succinate dehydrogenase inhibitor (SDHI) fungicides widely used in crop disease management.

According to Hailir's stock exchange disclosure dated 18 November 2026, the facilities have completed their main construction work, equipment installation and commissioning. The trial-production plan has also passed expert review and been filed with the relevant regulatory authorities. The projects have stated annual production capacities of 6,000 tonnes of fluxapyroxad and 3,000 tonnes of bixafen.

Expanding domestic SDHI fungicide manufacturing

The transition to trial production represents a further milestone in Hailir's expansion of technical-grade pesticide manufacturing capacity in China. Fluxapyroxad, originally developed by BASF, is an SDHI fungicide used to control several economically important fungal diseases across agricultural crops.

Bixafen, developed by Bayer Crop Science, also belongs to the SDHI class and acts by inhibiting mitochondrial respiration in fungal pathogens. Both active ingredients are associated with crop protection programmes targeting diseases affecting cereals and other agricultural crops.

The Qingdao Hengning projects form part of Hailir's broader strategy to strengthen its technical-grade pesticide manufacturing capabilities and integrate the production of active ingredients with downstream crop protection formulations. The company expects the additional manufacturing capabilities to diversify its product portfolio and improve internal supply integration.

Projects progress beyond earlier expansion plans

Hailir had previously outlined plans to develop fluxapyroxad and bixafen manufacturing capacity at its Qingdao Hengning production base in Shandong Province. In 2026, the company advanced the projects through environmental approvals and plant development.

The latest announcement confirms that the facilities have moved beyond the construction and equipment installation phases and are ready for trial-production operations. This progress is expected to support the company's strategy of developing a broader portfolio of technical-grade fungicide ingredients. However, the transition does not represent the start of full-scale commercial production.

Commercial ramp-up remains subject to testing

Hailir cautioned that further time will be required before the projects achieve stable production and generate economic benefits. During the initial trial-production phase, the company will need to evaluate and improve equipment stability, production output and product quality. It also identified operational safety, market demand fluctuations and increasing industry competition as potential risks.

The new capacity comes as Chinese agrochemical manufacturers continue expanding their capabilities in established and off-patent crop protection active ingredients. For Hailir, successful completion of trial production would represent another step towards strengthening its domestic manufacturing position and increasing integration between technical-grade pesticide production and formulated products.