AMVAC's liquid product iNvigorate Biological is now available for application for corn and soybeans (see 2BMonthly February 2022).

Company News

AMVAC has partnered with 3Bar Biologics to develop disposable packaging for liquid microbial SIMPAS-applied Solutions (SaS). This package will be plug-and-play compatible with the SIMPAS agricultural application system, enabling simultaneous application of SaS products from synthetic crop inputs in returnable/refillable SmartCartridge containers alongside biological inputs in disposable packaging on the same crop row. The new package will be fully trackable with Smart Tag technology and compatible with Ultimus, AMVAC's container/supply-chain traceability tool.

Seipasa has begun work on the construction of its new facilities inside its industrial complex in L'Alcúdia, Valencia, Spain. A 4 million Euro investment has been announced to equip the company with the facilities and technology required to launch its new product line, based on its Natural Technology model, onto the market. The new building will also house the company's new head offices. These facilities will give Seipasa an additional 4,400 m^2 of space. The building is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2023. This will be the third major extension to the company's facilities in three years.

Syngenta Canada Inc. has secured exclusive rights to distribute Azotic Technologies' nitrogen-fixing biological, Envita, in Canada. Envita is a liquid nitrogen-fixing biofertility product featuring a food-grade strain of the bacteria *Gluconacetobacter diazotrophicus*. When Envita is applied in-furrow or as a foliar treatment, the bacteria form a symbiotic relationship with the plant and ultimately grow with it over time. The bacteria begin fixing nitrogen from the air soon after an Envita application. Envita is registered for use on a wide range of crops, including but not limited to corn, canola, cereals, soybeans and potatoes. Envita will be available from Syngenta for the 2023 growing season.

US-based AgroShield has introduced two new biofungicides, Bacilifol and Larixifol. According to the company, when used together, the products improve soil quality, increase resistance to disease and enable greater nutrient uptake. Both products can be used as seed treatments and foliar sprays on all types of plants. Larixifol is more preventative while Bacilifol promotes faster leaf and root development, according to the company.

Vestaron announced the official closing of the Series C fundraising efforts at $82M as of May 12, 2022. Lead investors include Ordway Selections and Cavallo Ventures. Also, Argonautic Ventures, Fortistar, and Endeavor8 will participate. Vestaron welcomes returning investors: Novo Holdings, Northpond Ventures, CGC Ventures, iSelect and Syngenta Ventures. Vestaron provides growers with novel, effective peptide-based biopesticides.

Seipasa has presented its line of biostimulants and nutrition products for the Ecuadorian market. By taking this step, the company said it aims to reinforce its commercial strategy in the country with the launch of its Kynetic4, Bryosei, Seipafol Mix and Talsei products, among others.

As part of its expansion plan to meet growing opportunities in Latin America agriculture, SynTech is investing in a new analytical laboratory in Piracicaba, São Paulo State, Brazil. When completed, the new facility will occupy 1,000 m^2, and will also serve as SynTech Brazil's new headquarters, accommodating administrative and finance activities. The new facility's go-live date is planned for the first quarter of 2023.

Amoéba announced that AGES (Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit1), Austria's regulatory agency, has recommended its approval for the active substance "lysate of *Willaertia magna* C2c Maky." According to the company, the amoeba lysate provided up to 77 percent protection to grapevine bunches in the with direct fungicidal activity against *Plasmopara viticola*, grape downy mildew.

BASF has announced its 10-year outlook on agricultural innovations that support food security for future generations, while minimizing the impact of farming on the climate and the environment. The company works to improve agricultural outcomes in major crops such as wheat, canola, soybean, corn, cotton, rice, and high-valued minor crops such as fruits and vegetables. Within these major crops, BASF stated it plans to continue innovation through its pipeline of seeds and traits, seed treatment, biological and chemical crop protection, and digital farming solutions. For innovation pipeline launches over the next 10 years, BASF estimates a peak sales potential of more than €7.5 billion.

BioPhero has closed and supplied its first commercial sale – a significant quantity of its first pheromone product, Fermate Rice. "For BioPhero this is an important milestone in our transformation from startup to established biotech company," said BioPhero chief executive officer Kristian Ebbensgaard. By using a yeast fermentation process similar to beer brewing, BioPhero said it can mass-produce bio-based pheromones from renewable raw materials at a price that makes them available for use in large-scale row crops. Founded in 2016, BioPhero was a spin-out from the Technical University of Denmark. Fermate is targeted at certain rice stem borers. The product's main pheromone component is Z11-16 aldehyde. The principle behind BioPhero's product is similar to other mating disruptors: "If we spray insect pheromones in a field, the male thinks it smells like females everywhere, preventing him from locating the actual female – their mating is disrupted. No mating means no eggs and no plant-eating larvae," states the company's website.

Eden Research is in the final stages of a process that should result in its three active ingredients – eugenol, geraniol and thymol – and two formulated products – Mevalone and Cedroz – receiving authorization in the US in 2022. The US EPA granted Eden's plastic-free, microencapsulation technology Sustaine an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues in pesticide formulations in pre-harvest applications to crops. Meanwhile, the company stated Eden's partner in Italy, Sipcam Oxon, had been granted a line extension for biofungicide Mevalone. It can now be used against two new fungal pathogens, adding new crop types such as berry fruits, tomato, watermelon, salad leaves, herbs, aubergines, cucumbers and peppers to the label.

Black Bird Biotech, Inc., manufacturer of plant-based MiteXstream biopesticide, reported it has