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SUBSTRATES FOR
HORTICULTURE**

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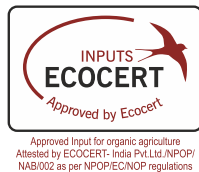
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ALMARAI LAUNCHES THE 2026 CYCLE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST AWARD FOR FOOD SECURITY RESEARCH IN DRYLAND REGIONS

The 2026 cycle of the Almarai Prize, international track of the Almarai Prize for Scientific Creativity, has officially opened, calling on leading research institutions, distinguished scientists, and global experts to nominate pioneering research that advances food security in the world's driest regions.

The prize reflects Saudi Arabia's expanding commitment to scientific innovation and to advancing solutions that tackle food security challenges in the world's dryland regions. Almarai - a regional leader in food and agriculture - has long invested in scientific progress, sustainable farming,

and long term food system resilience. As one of the world's largest vertically integrated food companies, Almarai continues to place research and innovation at the center of its strategy, recognizing them as essential drivers of global food security.

Recognized as the world's largest award dedicated to food security research in dryland environments, the prize reflects a partnership between Almarai and King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) that has spanned more than 20 years. It honors scientists and research institutions whose work delivers measurable impact and

advances global knowledge on food security in arid and semi arid regions.

The Almarai Prize follows a distinctive nomination model: individuals cannot nominate themselves. Instead, nominations must come from qualified PhD level experts, while research organizations may nominate exceptional work carried out by their teams. This model reinforces the integrity and global standing of the award. The total prize value of USD 500,000 is granted to one winning research project or institution.

Nominations are open until 21 August 2026.



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Peat Moss and Peat Substrates for the professional horticulture

For more than 100 years the Floragard Vertriebs-GmbH in Oldenburg has successfully been developing, producing and distributing products for the professional horticulture. Since then we let this knowledge flow into our hobby potting soils. Because of that we nowadays refer to innovative premium recipes with a high standard from which the trade and hobby gardeners benefit equally. Regardless of whether indoors or outdoors, in a bed, on the balcony, in

the greenhouse or in a winter garden, whether magnificent blossoms or delicious harvest of vegetables and herbs – when using Floragard you will always find the ideal base for your project.

Floragard employees are horticultural professionals and put all their knowledge at the service of their clients. Our know-how is fully at the service of your growth company thanks to the Premium substrates from Floragard.



Our professional customers demand high-quality service and reliable product quality at the highest level. Among others, the consistent high quality is monitored by the Gütegemeinschaft Substrate für Pflanzen e. V. (Quality Assurance Association Growing Media for Plant Cultivation). The umbrella organisation is the RAL Deutsche Institut für Gütesicherung und Kennzeichnung (German Institute for Quality Assurance and Certification e. V.). Here the institute intensively investigates substrates for plants and continually studies the substrates' chemical, physical and biological properties. A company is only awarded the RAL seal of approval subsequent to the successfully concluded approval procedure, and following this, it is constantly monitored.

In this regard, the quality assurance does not only include the quality control of the finished substrates, but also continually inspects the basic materials and additives received. The consistent high quality provides a foundation for crop safety and the commercial success of your company – secured by Floragard and the Gütegemeinschaft Substrate für Pflanzen e. V. (Quality Assurance Association Growing Media for Plant Cultivation) under the umbrella of the RAL.

Our high-grade range of substrates satisfies virtually every customer's needs. In the meantime, however, the requirements and technical circumstances of numerous crops are frequently just as special and unique as the great variety found in the horticultural industry. For this reason, Floragard offers mutual cooperation with our substrate field experts and the Technical Department of Horticulture. The purpose is to work on crops, growing methods, technical equipment and climatic conditions of the horticultural business and to develop individually tailored special substrates. To determine the optimal recipe for your substrates with regard to the composition, structure, fertilization and pH-value, there are numerous possibilities.

Our products

Peat mixture for propagation: Of German origin:

- **Floradur® Seed S:** with good water retention capacity, it is a special blend of white and black peat with a superfine structure for vegetable seedling trays.
- **Floradur® B Cutting:** special mixture of white, black peat and perlite with a superfine structure for universal sticking, with high aeration capacity; also for sowing.

- **Floradur® A Block:** special mixture of black and white peat with a fine structure for pressed vegetable clods

Of Baltic origin:

- **Florabalt® Seed 2:** special mixture of white and black peat with a fine structure and water retention capacity; ideal for summer cuttings.
- **Florabalt® Seed SB:** special mixture of white and black peat with a superfine struc-

ture for vegetable seedling trays with a high-water retention capacity

- **Florabalt® B Cutting:** special mixture of white, black and perlite peat with a superfine structure for universal transplanting with a high air retention capacity, also suitable for sowing
- **Florabalt® A Block:** a special mixture of black and white peat with a fine structure for pressed vegetable clods



Note: we have more than 4,000 compositions in our database, which illustrate the long experience of Floragard experts and the need to offer customers the most suitable solution for their particular case. Our goal is to develop a perfect product adapted to the particular requirements of our customer.

Peat moss potting substrate for horticultural production

Of German origin

- **Floradur® B Pot Medium:** Germain potting substrate for small pots starting at from 7 to 9 cm; for bedding and balcony plants
- **Floradur® B Pot Medium Coarse:** Germain potting substrate for medium-size pots of approx. 8 - 11 cm; for bedding and balcony plants
- **Floradur® B Pot Coarse:** Germain potting substrate for large pots starting at approx. 12 cm; for bedding and balcony plants, for plants sensitive to salinity.

Of Baltic origin

- **Florabalt® B Pot Medium Coarse:** Baltic potting substrate for medium-sized pots of approx. 8 - 11 cm
- **Florabalt® B Pot Coarse:** Baltic potting substrate for large pots starting at approx. 12 cm; for bedding and balcony plants, for plants sensitive to salinity

Note: it is possible to add to these products perlite, clay or other preferred minerals. There are also mixes available for potting specific crops.

Potting mixtures for perennials and plants in nursery containers.

Of German origin

- **Floradur® Pot Container:** special mixture for cover plants, shrubs and conifers: pots > 3 L
- **Floradur® Pot Perennial:** special mixture for perennial plants in pot; for spring and summer repotting (Pots > 12 cm).

Of Baltic origin:

- **Florabalt® Pot Container:** Special mix for container based on Baltic blonde peat for nurseries.
- **Florabalt® Pot Anthurium:** special mixture for Anthurium repotting
- **Florabalt® Pot Bromeliad:** special mixture for Bromeliads repotting

Note: it is possible to add to these products perlite, clay or other preferred minerals. They are also available mixtures for potting specific crops. Our goal is to develop a perfect product adapted to the particular requirements of our customer.

Mixtures suitable for organic farming of German origin:

Seedling / transplanting

- **Floradur® Block Bio:** special mixture for pressed clods and for growing seedlings
- **Floradur® Pot Herbs Bio:** special mixture for growing aromatic potted plants, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and other potted vegetables (7-13 cm buckets).

Potting / Container

- **Floradur® Pot Bio:** special mixture for horticultural plants and perennials in pots; for repotting in pots or buckets of 7-13 cm.
- **Floradur® pot Container Bio:** special mixture for horticultural plants for repotting in 12-14 cm pots. (Pots > 14 cm)

Peat mixture for the cultivation of small fruits:

Strawberries and raspberries

- **Floradur® B Cutting:** special mixture of white, black peat and perlite, with a superfine structure, for universal transplanting with a high air retention capacity, also suitable for sowing
- **Floradur® Pot Medium-Coarse Berries:** special mixture of white, black peat and

perlite for medium coarse potting, pots 8-13 cm

- **Floradur® Pot Coarse Berries:** Potting peat substrate for containers, boxes and ridge planting.
- **Floradur® Pot Container Berries:** extra coarse-fibrous peat substrates for containers, boxes and ridge planting

Blueberries

- **Floradur® Pot Blueberries:** Potting peat moss substrate for containers > 1L
- **Floradur® Pot Container Blueberries:** Extra coarse-fibrous peat moss substrate for large containers > 3L

Peat specialties

- **Hansatorf® 0-40 mm:** Baltic Blond Peat for soil improvement and growing on teens.
- **Florabalt® 0-5 mm:** finely sieved blonde peat of Baltic origin for the manufacture of fine growing substrate and pot
- **Florabalt® 0-7 mm:** finely sieved blonde peat of Baltic origin for the manufacture of fine growing substrate and pot
- **Florabalt® 7-20 mm:** medium-sieved Baltic blond peat for medium-sized and pot substrate
- **Florabalt® 10-20 mm:** medium-sieved Baltic blond peat for medium-sized and pot substrate
- **Florabalt® 10-30 mm:** coarsely sifted blond peat of Baltic origin for the manufacture of coarse structure growing substrate and pot
- **Florabalt® 20-40 mm:** coarsely sifted blond peat of Baltic origin for the manufacture of coarse structure growing substrate and pot

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THE SAUDI INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT GROUP AND UNIBIO TO BUILD THE WORLD'S LARGEST SINGLE-CELL PROTEIN PLANT IN SAUDI ARABIA

The Saudi Industrial Investment Group ("SIIG"), a prominent investor/operator in the chemical industry in Saudi Arabia, and Unibio International PLC ("Unibio"), a leading biofermentation company, will build the world's largest single-cell protein plant in Saudi Arabia in an 80:20 (SIIG:Unibio) joint venture to feed the world's

growing population and improve food security.

Unibio welcomed SIIG as an investor in 2023. Since then, the partners have made significant progress preparing to build the world's largest single-cell protein plant in Saudi Arabia based on Unibio's patented vertical loop bioreactor technology. With its abundance of natural gas,

Saudi Arabia is an ideal location to use Unibio's unique fermentation technology to produce single-cell protein – Uniprotein® - with natural gas as feedstock. As part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia is looking to diversify its economy and create dynamic opportunities for its citizens through education, entrepreneurship and innovation. Unibio's transformational technology and SIIG's strategic aspirations mark a significant milestone by bringing the most sophisticated industrial fermentation to the Kingdom.

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LEADING FROZEN POTATO SUPPLIER MAF GATEWAYS SIGNS FULL END-TO-END PROCESSING LINE WITH FPS FOOD PROCESS SOLUTIONS

FPS Food Process Solutions ("FPS"), a global leader in turn-key food processing technology, has secured an order from MAF Gateways, a leading distributor of frozen French fries, to deliver a complete end-to-end potato processing line for both local and international export markets.

The system will cover the full production process—from raw receiving and peeling to pulsed electric field treatment, blanching, cutting, drying, frying, freezing, grading, and packaging. FPS will partner closely with MAF Gateways throughout the project lifecycle, including design, utilities planning, manufacturing, and installation. Finished products will be marketed under the Beit Al Gomla brand.

ADAFSA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY THROUGH PLANT PROTECTION

Marking the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) 2026, observed annually on 12 May and held this year under the theme “Plant Biosecurity for Food Security”, the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) has reaffirmed its firm commitment to safeguarding plant health and enhancing the sustainability of the agricultural sector in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. This is delivered through an integrated system of programmes and initiatives based on the latest technologies and global best practices in combating plant pests and diseases—particularly those affecting date palms, which remain among the most significant challenges impacting agricultural productivity and

date quality.

ADAFSA noted that this year’s theme highlights biosecurity as the first line of defence in protecting food systems, emphasising that safeguarding plant health today represents a proactive step towards ensuring sustainable agriculture and improving productivity.

In line with the “One Health” approach, the Authority has implemented a comprehensive programme for the early detection of agricultural pests and diseases. The programme is supported by advanced monitoring, early warning, and risk assessment systems, alongside the enhancement of inspection and agricultural extension teams, strengthening the resilience of local production

against climatic and biological challenges.

ADAFSA also implements a comprehensive palm pest management programme, considered among the most advanced and effective in the region. The programme aims to protect date palm trees and enhance their productivity through an integrated framework combining early detection, sustainable control measures, and precise technical interventions. It is based on integrated pest management (IPM) practices, including pheromone trapping, chemical and organic therapeutic injections, and comprehensive field surveys, in addition to the removal of dead and severely infested palm trees to eliminate sources of infection.

Berlin 3|4|5 Feb 2027

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DP WORLD & AL DAHRA PARTNER TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY AND BUILD GCC AGRI-LOGISTICS

DP World and Al Dahra Holding, a multinational agribusiness headquartered in Abu Dhabi, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to explore strategic opportunities aimed at strengthening food security and advancing agri-logistics capabilities across the GCC and globally.

The partnership aligns with broader regional efforts to enhance food security and build more resilient and integrated supply chains across the GCC. With the UAE importing approximately 85–90% of its food, there is a clear need for resilient supply chains to support long-term food security.

The agreement sets out a framework for collaboration on

the development of end-to-end supply chain solutions for the efficient movement, storage, and distribution of food and agricultural commodities, leveraging DP World's global logistics infrastructure and Al Dahra's expertise in agricultural production, sourcing, and procurement.

This includes the potential for dedicated logistics and port infrastructure to import, store, process, and distribute food commodities across the GCC, and cold chain and warehousing solutions for perishable goods such as fresh produce, grains, and processed foods. It will also explore joint investments in logistics facilities, free zone operations, and agri-food

processing hubs, particularly within Abu Dhabi and the wider GCC region.

DP World and Al Dahra will also explore opportunities to expand and optimise global sourcing corridors across Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Americas. In addition, the partners will explore technology-driven supply chain solutions, including digital platforms, traceability systems, and smart logistics tools, to enhance efficiency, transparency, and supply-chain resilience.

The collaboration will also support closer alignment on regulatory frameworks, including food safety standards and customs processes, to facilitate smoother cross-border trade.

AVIAGEN ANADOLU SHOWCASES THE FUTURE OF POULTRY PRODUCTION AT 9TH TECHNICAL SEMINAR

Aviagen® Anadolu successful hosted its ninth technical seminar in Belek, Antalya, Türkiye, from 28–29 April, bringing together poultry professionals, industry experts and customers from across Türkiye for 1.5 days of knowledge sharing, innovation and collaboration.

The seminar featured a comprehensive program focused on broiler and breeder management, flock performance, hatchery

technologies, disease prevention, nutrition and emerging industry trends. Participants benefited from presentations delivered by Aviagen specialists and international guest speakers, who shared practical insights and the latest developments shaping the poultry sector.

Discussions throughout the event emphasized improving production efficiency, bird health, meat quality and sustainability across poultry

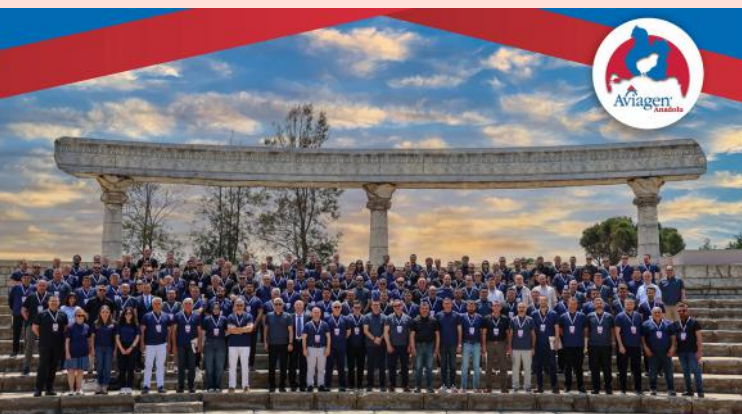
operations. The Aviagen Anadolu team also highlighted the importance of continued education and collaboration in supporting customers and advancing poultry production standards throughout the region.

The seminar also

provided an opportunity for attendees to strengthen professional relationships and exchange experiences during networking sessions, panel discussions and the gala dinner.

The closing session included an interactive panel discussion, giving customers the opportunity to engage directly with presenters and ask questions related to the topics covered throughout the seminar. The event concluded with a group photo and a special Club awards presentation recognizing outstanding customer performance with Ross flocks.

During the awards ceremony, the Aviagen Anadolu team honored the top three Club award winners with certificates and awards in recognition of their exceptional production results. The Clubs celebrate customers who demonstrate outstanding dedication, management excellence and performance achievements with their Ross flocks.



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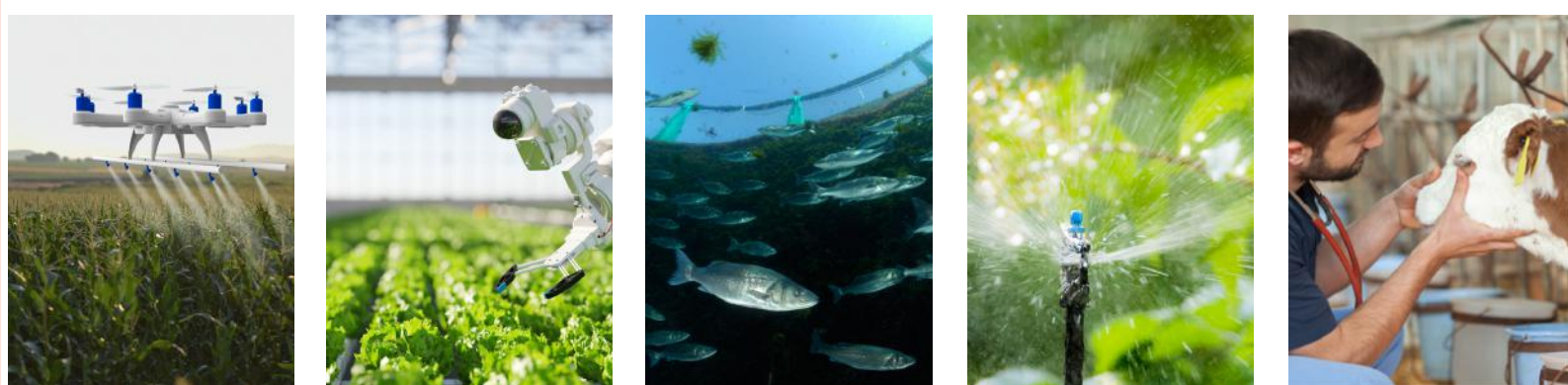
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EGROBOTS LAUNCHES A REGIONAL FIRST IN AUTONOMOUS HARVESTING ROBOT

Egrobots, a leading specialist in DeepTech and intelligent robotics, has officially announced the launch of the first autonomous agricultural harvesting robot fully developed by Egyptian engineers. This milestone represents a pioneering step for both Egypt and the Arab region, showcasing the advanced capabilities of Egyptian firms in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, autonomous systems, and deep technology.

The new robot introduces a paradigm shift in the concept of agricultural automation and smart farming, as it was built using sophisticated computer vision, AI, and autonomous navigation systems. These technologies enable the robot to

identify ripe crops, determine the most efficient paths within farms, and execute harvesting tasks with high precision and minimal human intervention.

This innovation arrives amidst an accelerating global trend toward autonomous agriculture, a field that relies on real-time data analysis and instantaneous decision-making to enhance production efficiency, reduce waste, and optimize overall operational quality. The robot features a flexible and scalable design that can be equipped with up to four robotic arms operating simultaneously.

This configuration allows it to achieve a productivity rate of approximately 160 kilograms per hour, with the added advantage

of operating continuously 24/7. Such capabilities are essential for addressing the persistent challenges of seasonal labor shortages and the rising operational costs currently facing the agricultural sector.

The project is widely regarded as a new model for the ability of Egyptian startups to transition from merely utilizing AI applications to developing comprehensive DeepTech solutions designed and manufactured locally. Eng. Akhlad Al-Abhar, Co-founder and CEO of Egrobots, emphasized that this launch is a significant move toward a future where intelligent systems become a core part of the region's agricultural infrastructure.

DE HEUS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF CJ FEED & CARE, MARKING A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION IN ASIA

This strategic step marks a significant milestone in De Heus' long-term growth strategy and underscores the company's ongoing commitment to supporting farmers across Asia. The acquisition strengthens De Heus' presence in Vietnam, Indonesia, and Cambodia, key markets within its existing portfolio, while also providing entry into two new strategically important markets: Korea and the Philippines. In total, the transaction comprises 17 feed mills and numerous livestock operations across the region.

Real progress starts where it matters most: on the farm. By combining De Heus and CJ Feed & Care's deep local expertise, our teams are better equipped than ever to help local farmers professionalize their operations, improve performance, and increase profitability. We strongly value our

longstanding relationships with every farmer, distributor, and investment partner, and are fully committed to share our best products, services, knowledge, and practices with them. Moreover, we are particularly grateful for the ongoing support of the national governments of our host countries in our efforts to grow and develop the animal husbandry sector in these markets.

To further empower farmers, De Heus plays an active role in connecting partners across the animal protein value chain.

In close collaboration with our strategic partners, we will continue to help our customers obtain access to the best quality genetics inputs by increasing

investments in swine and poultry great-grandparent, grandparent, and parent stock farms across Asia. By doing so, we aim to improve productivity and efficiency levels for our customers while also increasing the overall competitiveness of the livestock industries in the markets where we are active. World-class genetics quality, combined with our high-quality feed products and nutritional, husbandry, and veterinary support services, will help farmers, our customers, achieve sustainable and economic success.



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GROWTECH EXPANDS TO EUROPE: GROWTECH EUROPE TO BE HELD IN CO-LOCATION WITH MACFRUT IN 2027

Growtech, the global meeting point for the greenhouse and agricultural technologies sector, is taking the next step in its international growth journey by expanding into Europe. Growtech Europe will be held in Italy in 20-22 April 2027, in co-location with Macfrut.

Building on its international success in Antalya, and its growing presence in the Middle East and Africa, Growtech continues to expand its global footprint. The launch of Growtech Europe represents a strong entry into the European market, bringing together agricultural ecosystems from different regions and creating new opportunities for international trade and collaboration.

Growtech Europe will bring

together greenhouse technologies, irrigation systems, crop production solutions, and agri-innovation under one focused B2B platform in Italy.

Positioned at the intersection of innovation, sourcing, and market expansion, the event is designed to foster new partnerships and unlock new commercial opportunities for industry professionals.

Growtech Europe aims to go beyond the traditional exhibition format. Through its strategic partnership with Macfrut, the event will bring together pre-harvest and post-harvest processes on a single platform, offering a broader and more integrated industry experience.

Co-located with Macfrut—one of Europe's leading events for

the fruit and vegetable supply chain—Growtech Europe will unite greenhouse technologies, agricultural innovations, and agri-business solutions under one roof. This strong synergy will enable exhibitors and visitors to access the entire agricultural value chain, from production technologies to fresh produce markets.

Taking place in Italy, a strategic gateway to the European agricultural market, Growtech Europe aims to attract a highly qualified audience, including producers, distributors, importers, and technology providers. The event will respond to the evolving needs of the global agriculture sector, with a strong focus on innovation, sustainability, and business-driven solutions.

58 BREEDING COMPANIES SHOW THEIR NOVELTIES FROM 9-12 JUNE 2026 AT FLOWERTRIALS

FlowerTrials® will beat again across 27 locations in the Netherlands and Germany, as it is getting ready to open its doors — a vital destination for professionals seeking cutting-edge plant varieties, new market concepts and international collaboration.

Welcoming 5,000 visitors from more than 90 countries last year,

FlowerTrials® continues to see growing international interest, reinforcing its role in bringing together industry professionals from across the globe. No fewer than 58 ornamental plant breeders will be exhibiting their novelties in week 24, making it one of the key events of the year to discover industry-wide trends and breeding innovations before they hit the market.

Breeders can compare new genetics at the time of the year when plants look their best, growers receive first-hand advice and insights into cultivation techniques, and retailers can discover in what direction the industry is heading while finding inspiration in market-ready retail concepts.

To make the most of FlowerTrials® 2026, visitors are encouraged to register in advance at flowertrials.com and start planning the week using the route planner to create the most efficient journey. The 58 exhibitors join forces at 27 cluster locations in three regions in the Netherlands and Germany to facilitate travel and enable visitors to see as many plants as possible in just a few days.



BASF AGRICULTURAL SOLUTIONS COMMISSIONS NEW FERMENTATION PLANT FOR CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS

BASF Agricultural Solutions has successfully commissioned its BioHub, a new fermentation plant for biological and biotechnology-based crop protection products, at the Ludwigshafen site. With an investment in the high double-digit million-euro range, BASF is strengthening its portfolio of biological innovations. The products manufactured at the plant include biological fungicides and biological seed treatment, giving farmers access to innovative solutions that support sustainable, integrated crop protection programs.

The BioHub uses microorganisms to convert renewable raw materials such as glucose into the desired products – a process known as

fermentation. The production of key biological active ingredients successfully began this year, including the bacterium *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, which forms the basis of the biological fungicide Serifel®, and the main building block of Inscalis®, a novel insecticide based on the fungal strain *Penicillium coprobium*. Bringing this production process in-house strengthens BASF's execution excellence, increases flexibility, and enhances the resilience of supply chains.

"The successful commissioning of the BioHub marks an important step forward in Industrial Biotechnology for BASF Agricultural Solutions," said Dr. Melanie Bausen-Wiens, Member of the Management

Board of Agricultural Solutions, in charge of Technology. "By bringing fermentation production in-house, we directly link our expertise in research with industrial-scale manufacturing, allowing us to accelerate and adapt biotechnological innovations."

"The global market for biological crop protection solutions continues to grow steadily," said Maximilian Becker, Member of the Management Board of Agricultural Solutions, in charge of Business. "With this new fermentation plant, we have established a scalable and flexible platform that enables us to strengthen our BioSolutions portfolio while ensuring a consistent and dependable supply for our customers."

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TRADE BUYERS ONLY

AGROPLANTAE, INC. TO ACQUIRE KEMIN INDUSTRIES' PORTFOLIO OF CROP TECHNOLOGIES PRODUCTS

AgroPlantae, which serves the plant nutrition specialties industry with innovative, sustainable solutions to help crops overcome biotic and abiotic challenges and to restore soil and plant vitality to ensure high crop yields, has acquired the product portfolio of Kemin Crop Technologies, which provides growers with premium botanical-based biopesticides, plant nutrition, and soil health solutions designed for specialty crops, greenhouse production, and real-world agronomic challenges.

AgroPlantae President and CEO Angelo Paolucci founded the company in 2009 to address the real struggles of farmers worldwide who were

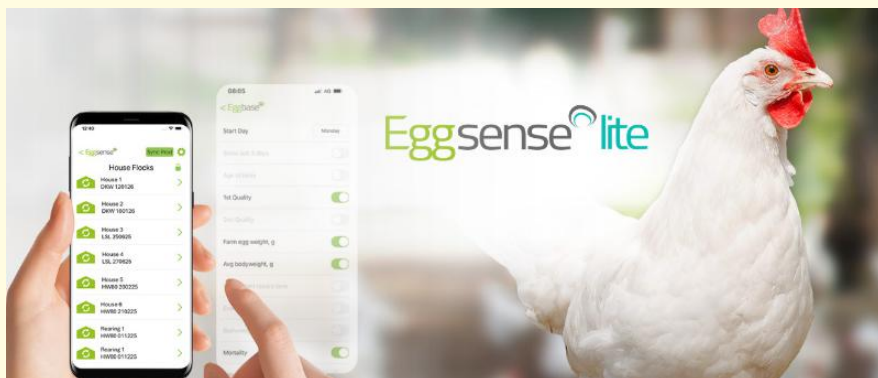
facing poor soil and climate conditions. Since its founding 17 years ago, AgroPlantae has demonstrated its commitment to research and innovation and established itself as a partner to growers, working with them to anticipate and overcome the plant growth stressors impacting their crops' genetic potential.

"Kemin's crop technologies products that harness the power of plants and the company's long history of science-backed innovations to protect the health and safety of the global food supply chain are an ideal addition to the AgroPlantae line of products," said Paolucci. "At AgroPlantae, we operate on the idea of 'nature with the intelligence of

science,' and Kemin Crop Technologies' variety of high-quality solutions rooted in research align perfectly with our efforts to address plant problems from the soil to harvest."

AgroPlantae will absorb the complete suite of Kemin Crop Technologies products—TetraCURB™ MAX, AliiCURB™ MAX, PathoCURB™, RevoCURB™, Romivex™ DIP, OmniCURB™, Valena™, and Valena™ FLOW—as part of the transaction. To ensure continuity and maintain the highest level of support for customers, Kemin Crop Technologies' sales managers will also become part of AgroPlantae while remaining in their current territories in service to current customers.

INTRODUCING EGGSENSE LITE: A NEW TOOL TO UNLOCK THE POWER OF FARM DATA



Hendrix Genetics is proud to introduce Eggsense Lite, a modern, mobile friendly application that makes daily flock data recording simpler, faster, and more accessible for poultry operations around the world. Developed in close partnership with Eggbase, Eggsense Lite represents the natural next step as PRIMA is phased out. Together, Eggbase and Hendrix Genetics are bringing producers a more intuitive,

future ready entry point into digital flock management for commercial layers, broilers, parent stock, and rearing farms.

Eggsense Lite is the lightweight version of the full Eggsense platform and is already available in an increasing number of languages. Designed for ease of use, it gives producers a practical first step into digital record keeping without complexity or unnecessary features.

Whether on the farm, in the barn, or on the move, users can capture and review the essential metrics that matter most for flock health and performance.

Built for real farm workflows

With Eggsense Lite, producers can easily record and track the five core indicators:

- Daily eggs collected
- Egg weight
- Bodyweight
- Mortality
- Feed consumption

The app works offline, storing entries locally until an internet connection becomes available. This ensures data is never lost, an important advantage in agricultural environments where connectivity may vary.

All input fields are fully customisable and organised in a clean, intuitive menu, keeping daily data entry fast and simple.



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THAILAND AND UAE RELATIONS SET FOR MAJOR EXPANSION IN TRADE, TOURISM, INNOVATION, AND INVESTMENT IN 2026

Thailand and the UAE are entering a new phase of strategic cooperation in 2026, with bilateral trade, tourism, technology, and investment partnerships expected to witness significant growth, according to H.E. Bolbongse Vangphaen, Ambassador of Thailand to the UAE.

“Our bilateral trade volume has reached approximately US\$20–25 billion, reflecting an annual growth rate of around 8–12 percent,” Ambassador Vangphaen stated. “This demonstrates the strong commitment from both countries to further strengthen cooperation, especially in the economic and investment sectors,” he added.

The Ambassador emphasized

that Thailand and the UAE share aligned strategic priorities in renewable energy, smart agriculture, food security, wellness, hospitality, and advanced technologies — sectors that are becoming increasingly important to both nations’ long-term economic visions.

Thailand, globally recognized for its agricultural production and food processing expertise, is seeking to deepen collaboration with the UAE to support regional food security initiatives and sustainable supply chains. “Renewable energy and smart agriculture are high on our agenda. Thailand has significant strengths in food production, the halal industry, wellness, and hospitality that we believe

can contribute meaningfully to deeper bilateral cooperation,” he said.

Ambassador Vangphaen also revealed that Thailand is actively positioning itself as a regional hub for innovation, advanced industries, and high-value technologies, creating new opportunities for UAE investors in digital infrastructure and emerging sectors. Among the major investments highlighted was the planned data center project by DAMAC Group in Thailand, with the first phase of the project expected to become operational by the end of this year. “This is exactly the type of investment that supports Thailand’s future-focused economic strategy,” Ambassador Vangphaen noted.



INTERKO ACCELERATES RIPENING DIGITALISATION

Interko, the global leader for the design, manufacture, and installation of state-of-the-art fresh fruit ripening rooms, is pushing ahead with digital transformation by integrating advanced data processing and soon artificial intelligence (AI) across its next-generation ripening solutions.

The bold move is reshaping global fruit ripening; giving operators greater control, better decision-making, and systematic performance improvement as they prepare for an AI-assisted future. Above all, the ability to proactively manage the ripening process is delivering enhanced precision, adaptability, and cost efficiency.

Digital transformation

represents the latest innovative step in the Dutch company’s development of smart technologies, enabling fruit ripeners to better adapt to a rapidly changing world market.

Chris Maat, Managing Director/Partner at Interko, explains: “Ripening has become a data-driven, digitally-managed process rather than a traditional experience-based craft. Through digitalisation, our customers can optimise fruit quality, achieve specific ripeness levels, reduce energy costs, and gain the crucial insights needed to operate more precisely and proactively – using data to go well beyond daily room management.”

MUNTERS LAUNCHES SPERIA, A COMMERCIAL BRAND FOR ITS FOODTECH BUSINESS

Munters launches Speria, a new commercial brand for its FoodTech business area. Speria brings together FoodTech's technologies, software, and services into one connected offering, strengthening its capabilities as a global end-to-end technology and services partner across the food supply chain.

"Speria represents the next phase of FoodTech's transformation journey, where Munters has developed a business focused on digital solutions," says Klas Forsström, President and CEO of Munters. "This enables us to capture a substantial growth opportunity. With our installed base, deep industry expertise and long-standing relationships with producers and integrators, Speria is uniquely positioned to

spearhead the continued digitalization of the food industry, helping our customers operate with greater efficiency, predictability and resilience."

The global food system is under increasing pressure from rising costs, labor shortages, and fragmented operations, while remaining one of the least digitalized industries. At the same time, advances in technology, including AI-driven analytics, are accelerating and scaling the automation of food systems, enabling connected operations across farm and supply chain.

Speria builds on Munters' role inside mission-critical operations, where controllers, sensors, and gateways run and monitor farm-level operations, capturing real-time data directly from operations.

This data is sent to optimization software and expert services that plan and coordinate operations across the supply chain. Together, these capabilities connect planning, execution, and performance, turning fragmented data into clear, prioritized guidance and impact.

"In practice, this helps our customers anticipate disruptions earlier, improve consistency across operations, and deliver better production and business results," says Pia Brantgärde Linder, President of FoodTech and Group Vice President of Munters. "By connecting these capabilities across farm and supply chain, we enable producers and integrators to improve feed conversion, reduce waste and emissions, and support better animal health and welfare."



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JOHN DEERE MARKS 25 YEARS OF AUTOMATED GUIDANCE – FROM FIRST IN-CAB TRACKING TO CONNECTED FARMING



John Deere is celebrating 25 years of automated guidance, reflecting on the rapid evolution of precision agriculture technologies from early parallel tracking to today's highly accurate, repeatable and connected field operations. The journey began in 2001 with the launch of the first StarFire™ receiver and GreenStar™

display, which introduced visual guidance to help operators steer more precisely and consistently.

The debut of StarFire™ and GreenStar™ in 2001 marked a turning point: for the first time, the in-cab display could show whether an operator should steer left or

right, supporting parallel tracking and improving pass-to-pass precision. A major next step followed in 2002 with the launch of AutoTrac™, enabling GPS-assisted automatic steering that could keep machines on track independently – initially with 30cm accuracy.

By 2004, John Deere introduced AutoTrac™ with

RTK, pushing guidance accuracy to ± 2.5 cm. This made it possible for tractors and combines to follow the same tracks reliably over multiple seasons – an advantage for operations where repeatability matters, including row-crop production, hoeing and soil-friendly field traffic strategies.

Automated guidance has continued to advance beyond steering. In 2020, John Deere launched AutoPath™ Rows, designed to record the actual driven tracks of each row unit and enable precise repetition. Most recently, since 2024, AutoPath™ Boundaries has enabled the automatic calculation and creation of optimised paths for the entire field based on its boundaries – either from the in-cab display or via the John Deere Operation Center™ – including the headland.

KOPPERT LAUNCHES TIMING EXPERT: A SMART DECISION-SUPPORT TOOL FOR BIOLOGICAL CROP PROTECTION

Koppert introduces Timing Expert, an innovative new feature within the Koppert One app that helps growers determine the optimal timing for foliar applications of beneficial nematodes in outdoor crops.

Biological crop protection is a proven strategy in sustainable agriculture. However, application timing remains a critical factor for success. Beneficial nematodes (entomopathogenic nematodes) are highly effective natural enemies of pests, but their performance depends heavily on environmental conditions such as temperature, humidity, solar radiation, rainfall, and wind.

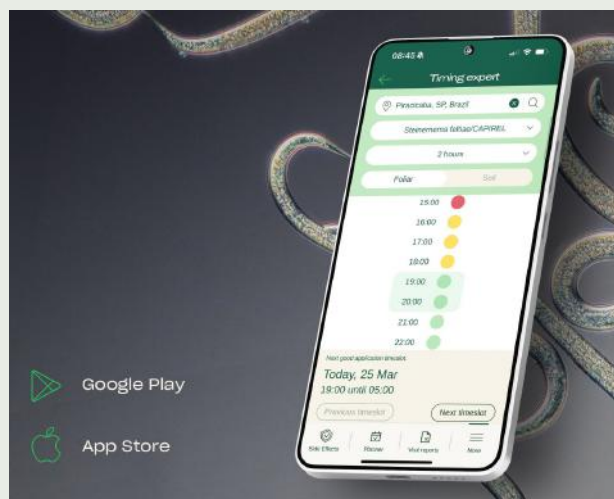
Timing Expert addresses this challenge by combining Koppert's biological expertise with real-time

and forecasted weather data. Using geolocation, the tool identifies the best foliar application windows for beneficial nematodes.

Growers receive the output in a clear format: ratings ranging from 'Poor' to 'Excellent', enabling them to instantly assess if conditions are suitable for foliar treatment.

"With Timing Expert, we combine our biological expertise with digital intelligence to turn data into practical, field-ready advice, wherever you are. It helps growers, consultants, and field researchers identify the

optimal moment for foliar nematode applications, improving performance and delivering more consistent results in the field," says Cyrille Verdun, Global Product Portfolio Manager - Micro.



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GreenTech Amsterdam will take place from Tuesday 9 to Thursday 11 June at RAI Amsterdam. The international horticulture trade show is expected to welcome more than 12,000 visitors and 560 exhibitors from around the world. Over three days, industry professionals will come together to exchange knowledge and discuss key topics shaping such as climate resilient & sustainable growing, automation, robotics but also AI & cybersecurity.

GreenTech's 2026 theme, 'PURE', focuses on clarity and purpose in crop production. It highlights the role of skilled professionals working responsibly in controlled growing environments. The emphasis is on consistency, transparency and trust, alongside the move towards chemical free cultivation. Through 'PURE', the show examines what is driving innovation in horticulture, presenting insights, trends and technologies that are

shaping the future of the sector.

What visitors can expect

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from industry leaders, participate in discussions, and network with professionals dedicated to horticulture. The latest trends and innovations can be explored at various stages of the knowledge programme, such as: Vision Stage, Data & Tech Stage, Crops/VF Stage, Medicinal Plants Stage and Insight Stage.

Side events

- Tuesday 9 June: 'GreenTech Innovation Awards 2026'.

The winners in the categories Innovation and Concept will be announced during the official opening.

- Wednesday 10 June: 8.30-11.00AM: 'Power Day': 'Exploring the unknowns of plant growth'. Even experienced growers face uncertainty. This event examines how emerging technologies uncover new insights and open

GREENTECH AMSTERDAM 2026: FOCUS ON PURE





up new questions, shifting the long-term focus from yield alone to quality, flavour, bioactive compounds, and value added innovation.

- **NL Pavilion:** The central entry point for international visitors, where global challenges meet Dutch solutions. It connects international delegations with Dutch companies, showcases innovative start-ups, and provides insight into the integrated Dutch Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) ecosystem. It is coordinated by AVAG in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), Municipality of Westland, Dutch Greenhouse Delta, World Horti Center and GreenTech.

Worlds

New this year, GreenTech introduces two thematic worlds on the show floor. Designed to help visitors navigate the exhibition more

easily, the worlds aim to encourage deeper engagement and support stronger partnerships, knowledge sessions and after-talks.

- **Green World: 'The future of what we grow and how we grow it'**
This world brings together innovative crops, alternative production methods and the connection between horticulture and health. Topics include: Specialty varieties like cannabis, strawberries and leafy greens, nutrient rich crops and chemical free growing solutions. But also the Green hub which is all about algae.

• Tech World: 'Where digital innovation transforms horticulture'

In this world practical applications can be explored of AI, robotics, sensors, and data driven cultivation. The Robotics & AI Lab will showcase the latest robots, and visitors can join after-talks to meet like-minded horticulture professionals.

Innovation & Insight

Visitors can explore the Innovation & Insight Zone on the show floor, featuring the Innovation Awards nominees, newest Innovations and check out knowledge sessions at the Insight Stage.





TUTTOFOOD 2026: RECORD-BREAKING FAIR WITH +30% ATTENDANCE

*With its second edition organized by Fiere di Parma, TUTTOFOOD consolidates its position as a dynamic hub for global exchange, further driving exports, revenue, and international business relations. **Gulf Agriculture magazine Editor Jessie Jorge** was invited to attend and cover the exhibition, which concluded with record-breaking attendance and highlighted strong global demand for innovative, high-quality food products and international business collaboration.*

TUTTOFOOD 2026 closed with record-breaking numbers, registering 123,000 attendees over four days, including 27,000 international visitors, representing a 30% increase

compared to the 2025 edition. The participation of such a large number of professional operators—including industry, distribution, foodservice, importers, and buyers—demonstrates the fair's ability,

organized for the second year by Fiere di Parma, to convert global demand for high-quality food into commercial relationships, market access, and business development. At the same time, it confirms TUTTOFOOD's

growing role as a key international economic platform for the food & beverage sector.

This successful outcome stems from a strategic partnership between Fiere di Parma and Fiera Milano, with international support from Koelnmesse, organizer of the world's largest food trade fair, Anuga in Cologne. TUTTOFOOD 2026 edition covered 10 pavilions, totalling 82,000 square meters of fully booked exhibition space (+15%), hosted 5,000 brands (+20%, approximately 30% of which from abroad), and welcomed 4,000 top international buyers.

Antonio Cellie, CEO of Fiere di Parma, said: "The figures and the unanimously positive feedback from exhibitors, buyers, visitors, and regular attendees of historic global food fairs confirm it: we have filled a space that was still unexpectedly open, creating a completely new international event for the agri-food sector. This event fully reflects Italian know-how in trade fair organization, offering a platform for exhibitors from around the world to connect with international markets, within a fully integrated business ecosystem".

"Today, trade fairs are no longer just product showcases" Cellie added "They are business hubs

where companies assess international demand, develop markets, build commercial relationships, and turn opportunities into tangible economic results. The growth in attendance shows that companies and operators are seeking physical, qualified spaces to navigate a global market that is increasingly fragmented, selective, and competitive."

Attendance growth is particularly significant given the current context of geopolitical tensions, tariffs, energy cost pressures, commodity volatility, and the restructuring of global supply chains.

Buyers from the USA, Latin America, Asia, the Gulf, and European countries such as France, recognize the high reputation of Made in Italy, thanks to the undeniable quality of raw materials, authenticity, production reliability, distinctive offerings, and the gastronomic and cultural value it carries. One European buyer highlighted that approximately 70% of their restaurant business revolves around Italian products, demonstrating that Italian cuisine has become a structural element of the international foodservice offering. Key Italian categories such as olive oil, balsamic vinegar, flour,

pasta, biscuits, and chocolate are considered irreplaceable in many markets. For operators such as Cencosud (Latin America) and City Super Group (Hong Kong), Italy represents the main European sourcing market for food products.

An interesting aspect is that Italian food is perceived not only as classic or traditional but also as innovative, capable of experimenting and creating new culinary recipes, anticipating trends.

In terms of innovation, Ben Costantini from Sesamers, a French company that brought startups from seven countries to the fair, specialized in software platforms, functional beverages, artisan sauces, and processing machinery, said, "TUTTOFOOD is not just a place to sell today's products; it is where the next generation of food innovators finds their market."

At the close of TUTTOFOOD, Banco Alimentare Lombardia collected approximately 25 tons of food from over 600 companies that generously donated surplus products, distributing them to more than 1,000 local partner organizations (canteens, reception centers, family homes, etc.), benefiting over 200,000 people in need.



GROWING A GREENER TOMORROW: HOW GROWINBAG™ SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE IN THE GULF'S TOUGHEST CLIMATE

As the Gulf region accelerates its greening agenda — Saudi Arabia's pledge to plant 10 billion trees under the Saudi Green Initiative, the UAE's commitment to plant 100 million mangroves by 2030, and large-scale landscape investments across NEOM, Diriyah, and the Red Sea Project — the question facing nurseries, landscapers, and developers is no longer just what we plant, but how we grow it. In a region where every drop of water carries a cost and every degree of summer heat tests a plant's survival, the container itself has become a sustainability decision.

At Growinnovate, we've spent over 20 years answering that question. Our family-owned company introduced the first commercial grow bags into the Middle East, and today our GrowinBag™ system is helping growers around the world produce healthier plants while using fewer resources. As Gulf horticulture scales up to meet national greening goals, we believe the GrowinBag™ approach is uniquely suited to the region's climate, ambitions, and sustainability standards.

Built for the Harshest Climates on Earth

GrowinBag™ is engineered for extremes. Our bags have been field-tested from the sub-zero temperatures of Europe winters to the punishing heat of the Australian climate — the closest analog to summer conditions across Saudi Arabia, the UAE,

Oman, and Qatar. Every component, **including the sewing thread and handle stitching, is UV-stabilized** to resist breakdown under prolonged sun exposure. Made from top-quality prime virgin materials and subject to strict quality controls, each bag is built to last through full production cycles in conditions that would compromise lesser containers.

For Gulf nurseries operating outdoors year-round, this durability isn't a luxury — it's the difference between replacing containers every season and

producing premium plants efficiently for years.

Water Savings That Matter in an Arid Region

Water scarcity is the defining agricultural challenge of the Gulf. Planting in GrowinBags™ saves water — and the bags are fully compatible with drip systems, overhead irrigation, and hydroponic flood trays, allowing growers to integrate them seamlessly into precision irrigation setups.

The science behind the savings

**Growing
a greener
tomorrow
starts from
the roots up.**





integrity, nurseries reduce both their waste stream and their replacement costs.

It's a quiet shift, but at the scale of national greening programs, it adds up to a meaningful reduction in horticultural plastic.

Healthier Roots, Higher Survival, Stronger Returns

Sustainability and commercial performance aren't in conflict — they reinforce each other. GrowinBag™ delivers:

- **Healthy roots without spiraling**, producing transplant-ready plants
- **Direct control of soil and plant health**, with substrates kept free from ground contaminants
- **Easy handling and transport** thanks to a round bottom design and heavy-duty handles, suitable for forklift and crane lifting of large specimens
- **Increased return on investment** through lower mortality, faster establishment, and reduced re-potting labor

For landscape contractors supplying the Gulf's mega-developments, this means fewer dead trees on handover and more uniform, field-ready stock at delivery.

Growing a Greener Tomorrow, Together

The Gulf's transformation into a greener region is one of the most ambitious landscape projects in the world. Achieving it sustainably will require every link in the supply chain — from substrate to container to specification — to do its part. GrowinBag™ is proud to be that container: tested in extremes, gentle on water, kind to the soil, and built to perform.

Our bags can also be customized to any size or shape, and branded with your company logo — supporting nurseries and landscape suppliers across the region in building their own identity within the broader sustainability story.

lies in the design of the bag. Our GrowinBags™ are manufactured with **additional side drainage holes that assist in air root pruning**, while our **light-penetrating fabric prevents root circling** within the grow bag. Instead of spiraling at the container wall and wasting energy, roots develop a dense, fibrous architecture that absorbs water and nutrients far more efficiently. The result is a plant that requires less irrigation input for healthier output. In a region where every liter matters, that efficiency compounds across thousands of trees on a single landscape project.

A Climate-Smart, Recyclable Alternative to Plastic Pots

Traditional rigid plastic pots fail predictably in the Gulf: they crack under UV exposure, become brittle in summer, and produce mountains of nursery waste. GrowinBag™ is a climate-smart product designed for circularity — heavy-duty, long-lasting, and recyclable at end of life. Substrates inside the bag can also be **controlled and kept free from ground contaminants**, supporting cleaner, more predictable production. By replacing single-season plastic with a container engineered for multi-cycle durability and substrate



D.P.D.LTD REVOLUTIONIZES DATE PALM PRODUCTION WITH ADVANCED BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GLOBAL REACH

"Each part of our production process from raw chemical to final plant is accurately recorded and governed by our standard operating procedures with regard to quality, reproducibility and traceability."

D.P.D. Ltd (Date Palm Developments) is the market leader for production of Date Palm plants by tissue culture. Pioneers in the field, DPD has nearly 40 years' experience in the production of high quality, disease-free, true-to-type micro-propagated Date Palm plants. We produce the highest quality Date Palms available on the market today, and have so far supplied over 3 million plants to 40 countries all across the Date growing world. Production takes place in our high technology, state of the art laboratories and greenhouses near Glastonbury,

in Somerset, U.K.

We carry out rigorous screening using the latest biotechnology methods to check for all possible disease-causing agents at the UK Government's Central Science Laboratories (FERA) in York. All of our production clones are DNA fingerprinted to certify the variety using the latest PCR-based AFLP technique at Eurofins Scientific Analytics, world leading independent laboratory and testing service in France. Variety is confirmed by comparison against externally verified records of each individual fingerprint

with that obtained from a known reference tree of proven variety and known location, as well as our own large AFLP-based DNA-fingerprint database of varieties and clones.

Each part of our production process from raw chemical to final plant is accurately recorded and governed by our standard operating procedures with regard to quality, reproducibility and traceability. All plants are fully traceable throughout the laboratory and greenhouse production stages. This gives us the essential mechanism for control, monitoring and management of



the production process.

We can arrange worldwide delivery by air-freight, with all shipments being accompanied by full shipping documentation. Prior to despatch all plants are carefully prepared and inspected by the UK's plant health authorities for a UK Phytosanitary Certificate, confirming their disease-free status and ensuring compliance with individual countries importing regulations.

We are able to offer year-round availability of a range of elite varieties, and have an established history of supplying to a wide range of customers, including Nurseries, Distributors, FAO programmes, various Ministry of Agriculture and individual projects. DPD is part of the Atul group of companies.

For more information, visit
www.datepalm.co.uk

May-June 2026



AGRICONTROL BY TERMOTECNICA PERICOLI LAUNCHES X-3TRH: ONE CONTROLLER, THREE SMART CONTACTS, INFINITE CONFIGURATIONS

The new thermostat/humidistat combining temperature and humidity control will be officially launched at GREENTECH 2026 – Stand 1.454

Agricontrol by Termotecnica Pericoli, with 45 years of experience in greenhouse climate control and agricultural automation, presents the **X-3TRH**: a digital thermostat/humidistat featuring three independent smart contacts, each individually programmable to manage temperature, humidity, or both simultaneously. A single device that replaces multiple single-function controllers, **reducing installation complexity and improving operational precision.**

From complexity to control: what X-3TRH solves

In greenhouses and livestock facilities, climate management requires simultaneous control of multiple parameters across different zones and devices: heating, cooling, ventilation,



New X-3TRH

One Device.
Endless configurations.



humidity regulation, and alarm systems. Traditional single-function controllers force operators to manage separate devices for each function, increasing wiring complexity, maintenance costs, and the risk of configuration errors.

X-3TRH consolidates this complexity into a single unit. Each of its three independent relays can be configured as a thermostat, a humidistat, or both, independently from the others, with two intervention thresholds (low and high) and adjustable differential per contact. The S3 contact features a NO/NC changeover relay, making it directly compatible with alarm systems and third-party devices without additional adapters.

Built for the real world

The X-3TRH was engineered around the actual conditions of

greenhouse and livestock environments:

- **IP55 protection:** resistant to dust and water jets, performing reliably in humid, chemically aggressive environments.
- **Gloves-ready physical buttons:** operable by any worker, with or without protective gear, without requiring touchscreens or digital interfaces.
- **Combined temperature + humidity probe** (SHT85 sensor, included) with $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ / $\pm 2\%$ RH accuracy, installable up to 100 metres from the control unit, ideal for large-span structures.
- **Easy programming language,** designed for operators without technical backgrounds. No IT expertise required.

- Supply: 230 Vac, 50/60 Hz. Outputs: 3 x 2A @ 250 Vac. CE certified, Made in Italy, 1-year warranty.

The multi-contact advantage over single-stage controllers

Unlike conventional single-stage thermostats or humidistats limited to one output and one function, X-3TRH delivers three independent outputs, each configurable as thermostat and/or humidistat with infinite threshold combinations. The integrated combined probe replaces the need for separate sensing devices, while the extended 100 m cable reach eliminates the need for additional signal transmitters in large facilities. The result: lower total installation cost, simpler maintenance, and greater operational flexibility.

A new chapter for a 45-year heritage

X-3TRH is the first product developed under the new structure of **Agricontrol** as

part of the Termotecnica

Pericoli ecosystem. Founded in Albenga (Italy), Agricontrol has built its reputation over four decades on three principles:

- long-term reliability with no planned obsolescence,
- genuine customisation versus universal one-size-fits-all solutions,
- hands-on post-sales technical support directly to end users.

The integration into Termotecnica Pericoli - a leading Italian manufacturer of industrial ventilation and climate control systems with an established international distribution network - opens Agricontrol's solutions to new markets, including the livestock and poultry sectors, while maintaining the direct, application-specific approach that defines the brand.

Meet us at Greentech Amsterdam 2026

X-3TRH will be on display at Greentech Amsterdam 2026 (9–11 June, RAI Amsterdam), alongside the full Agricontrol product range for greenhouse climate control, computerised fertigation, and remote supervision. Visit us at **Stand 1.454** to see the product live and speak with our technical team.

About Agricontrol by Termotecnica Pericoli

Agricontrol is a specialist brand in greenhouse climate control and agricultural automation with 45 years of operational experience. Since its acquisition by Termotecnica Pericoli, Agricontrol operates as a dedicated product line within the group, combining its field-proven expertise in horticultural automation with Termotecnica Pericoli's industrial manufacturing capabilities and international commercial reach. Products are developed and assembled in Italy.





TURN SUNSHINE INTO SYNERGY AND UNLOCK HIGHER YIELDS YEAR-ROUND

How LED intercanopy lighting complements high radiation and transforms greenhouse production

Optimizing greenhouse production with LED intercanopy lighting has become increasingly relevant, especially in environments characterized by high natural sunlight or strong supplemental toplighting. High-wire crops such as tomatoes often experience a rapid decrease in light levels toward the lower parts of the canopy. When abundant light is supplied from above, either naturally or through toplighting, further increasing upper illumination does not always yield additional

benefits. This can result in saturation of the upper leaves while deeper layers receive insufficient light. The challenge is further amplified in lower greenhouse structures, where the proximity between fixtures and crops restricts the effectiveness of toplighting in penetrating the canopy and distributing light uniformly. Consequently, exclusive reliance on toplighting can lead to uneven plant development and reduced yield.

Philips LED interlighting addresses this issue by delivering light directly to the

lower and middle sections of the crop canopy. This targeted approach ensures that all leaves, including those in shaded areas, receive adequate light for optimal growth, regardless of the intensity of sunlight or toplighting. Rather than expending energy on already saturated upper leaves, interlighting enhances conditions where they matter most for photosynthesis and plant health.

Adoption trends among growers

Growers in sun-rich regions are

increasingly integrating LED intercanopy lighting to address the dual challenge of maximizing yield while avoiding crop overheating and upper-canopy saturation. This approach ensures uniform light distribution, increased plant biomass, and a balanced relationship between vegetative growth and fruit production. Its adaptability to various greenhouse structures and crop types makes it a valuable investment for those seeking high-quality produce and consistent output throughout the year.

Evidence from commercial greenhouses

Greenhouses in regions with benefit from abundant sunlight such as Mexico and certain parts in China, frequently encounter issues related to excessive heat or light at the upper canopy. LED intercanopy lighting mitigates these challenges by providing targeted illumination without increasing heat load, thereby enabling optimal use of natural and supplemental light sources. This technology has demonstrated notable results in countries like Japan, where tomato growers observed a 1.4% yield increase for each 1% of additional interlighting, with some reporting up to 25% higher yields compared to greenhouses lacking supplemental lighting.

Since its initial adoption in 2013, more than 20 Japanese tomato growers have implemented Philips GreenPower interlighting, attracted by its potential for increased yields.

Growers employing single or double lines of interlighting at intensities of 55 or 110 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ have recorded substantial improvements in crop performance. The optimal photoperiod was identified as a maximum of 18 hours, extending LED usage from midnight until sunset. These strategies facilitate earlier achievement of optimal stem density and enhanced winter production, primarily due to more robust plant development.

The trend towards higher light intensities

A recent trial with high-wire cucumber and tomato found that increasing light intensity by adding intraconapy lighting to sunlight or toplighting, improved crop performance and yields by up to 24%. The trial clearly demonstrates that distributing light throughout the crop really pays off. The benefits of this approach become even more significant as the total amount of light increases. At higher light intensity (375 μmol), replacing part of the toplighting with intracanopy lighting led to an additional yield increase of 20–24%, compared to 10–12% at lower light intensity (250 μmol). This shows that smartly distributing light within the crop, especially under intense lighting, delivers a clear improvement in both yield and crop balance.

Summary of the benefits of LED intercanopy lighting

- Yield Enhancement Supported

by Data: Each 1% increase in supplemental LED light may correspond to a 1+% rise in fruit yield, offering measurable improvements in profitability.

- Improved Produce Quality: The deep red and blue wavelengths used in LED systems are selected to optimize photosynthesis and energy efficiency. This results in robust plants and fruit that consistently meet high quality standards.

- Flexible Cultivation

Management: In case a grower is not using supplemental lighting at the moment, LED interlighting allows for greater control over crop and climate conditions. This flexibility facilitates timely adjustments to cultivation schedules and supports consistent quality and yield throughout the year.

In short, LED intercanopy lighting represents a significant advancement in greenhouse cultivation. By improving light distribution within the crop canopy, it supports uniform plant development and higher yields, particularly in challenging high-radiation environments. As the technology continues to evolve, it offers growers a practical solution for optimizing production and maintaining competitive standards in the industry. By bringing light deeper into the canopy, overall production improves compared to using toplighting alone, under both moderate and high radiation levels.





NRTC HOLDING GROUP AND DAVA AGRICULTURAL FORGE STRATEGIC GCC AGRI-FOOD ALLIANCE AMID USD 27B REGIONAL MARKET GROWTH

NRTC Holding Group has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Saudi Arabia's DAVA Agricultural to strengthen regional agricultural collaboration, sustainable fresh produce trade, and food security initiatives across the GCC.

The MoU signing ceremony was held in the presence of senior leadership representatives from both organisations. DAVA Agricultural senior management including Mr. Faisal Al Battal, CEO, and Mr. Wissam Abdul Samad, Deputy CEO, were represented by Mr. Mohamed Kafafy, Export Manager, and Mr. Osama Nasser, Head of Public Relations.

Under the agreement, both organisations will explore collaboration across fresh produce sourcing, agricultural trade, supply chain optimisation, sustainability initiatives, and future agri-food development projects.

The partnership comes at a pivotal time for the regional agri-food sector, as GCC fresh produce demand accelerates toward a market opportunity estimated to

exceed USD 27 billion.

Against this backdrop, NRTC Holding Group continues to strengthen its position as one of the region's leading integrated agri-food businesses, operating one of the GCC's largest fresh produce supply networks. The Group handles approximately 1 million tonnes of fresh produce annually through a global sourcing network spanning 55 trading partners, supported by more than 500 cold-chain vehicles, a workforce of over 1,000 employees, and export operations across key GCC markets.

With more than five decades of market presence, NRTC Holding Group has built an integrated ecosystem spanning sourcing, farming, processing, cold chain logistics, distribution, retail, HORECA, wholesale, and eCommerce across the Middle East. Its regional sourcing capabilities, advanced cold-chain infrastructure, and established export footprint continue to position the Group as a key enabler of food distribution and supply chain resilience across the GCC.

Headquartered in Al-Kharj, DAVA Agricultural is recognised as one of the largest advanced agricultural investments in Saudi Arabia and among the Middle East's largest glass greenhouse projects. The company currently operates 107 hectares of high-tech hydroponic greenhouses producing approximately 170 tons of premium vegetables daily, including tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, lettuce, and herbs.

Recognised as one of the largest specialised hydroponic investments in Saudi Arabia and among the region's significant glass greenhouse developments, DAVA combines advanced Dutch greenhouse technologies, water-efficient growing systems, and internationally aligned agricultural practices to deliver high-quality produce throughout the year. The company's production capabilities exceed 170 tonnes daily, supported by GlobalG.A.P.-certified operations and a strong focus on food safety, sustainability, and agricultural innovation aligned with Saudi Vision 2030.

CHINA STRENGTHENS PESTICIDE PRACTICES TO MEET EXPORT STANDARDS

With temperatures rising across China, a wide range of agricultural products are coming into season. In response, Onedayone Group has deployed its quality management team to production areas, providing on-site support to farmers on pesticide practices and field records to improve traceability and help ensure more stable incomes.

Amid ongoing market fluctuations, farmers reliant on cultivation continue to face income uncertainty. While some are willing to improve product quality, gaps in pesticide practices remain due to local constraints and limited access to information. Through guidance and communication, farmers are gradually optimizing input use, reducing unnecessary applications, and lowering environmental impact.

Such guidance at the production level is also helping

to strengthen the compliance of Chinese agricultural exports. Yao Changfeng, General Manager of Onedayone Group China, noted that many developed markets impose strict pesticide residue requirements. "The EU, one of our key export markets, operates one of the world's strictest MRL systems," he said. In practice, non-compliant results can raise concerns over product consistency and reliability, potentially affecting order execution.

As awareness of food safety and environmental protection continues to grow, China has in recent years reduced pesticide use and strengthen residue testing standards. Industry data show that pesticide use in crop farming has declined for eight consecutive years through 2024. According to FAO data, pesticide use in China stood at 1.78 kg per hectare in 2023, placing it at a relatively low

level globally.

"For exporters, pesticide residue testing is a critical market access requirement. Managing inputs at the production stage not only improves product quality, but also reduces risks during customs clearance," said Yao.

He added that close cooperation with growers and the sharing of cultivation practices are essential for long-term sustainable development. "The team has already implemented guidance in ginger producing areas and plans to expand it to kumquat regions. Standardizing pesticide use from the early stages of the season is a key foundation for meeting residue standards at the export stage."

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Maggiapeng@onedayonegroup.com

NEW TOMATO FARM IN AL AIN TO PRODUCE 150,000 KGS OF FRESH TOMATOES ANNUALLY

Smart farming technology boosts yields while reducing water use by up to 90%.



At a time when global supply chains remain vulnerable, the UAE continues to lead by example in strengthening its focus on local food production, in line with its long-term vision for food security and self-sufficiency. Supporting this national priority, a new high-



tech tomato farm has been launched by UNS Vertical Farms in Al Ain, further reinforcing the country's push towards sustainable, homegrown agriculture.

Developed by UNS Vertical Farms, part of the UAE-based Speedex Group, the newly opened 10,000-square-metre facility is designed to produce approximately 150,000 kilograms of fresh tomatoes annually, contributing to a more consistent supply of locally grown produce. The initiative reflects a broader shift towards resilient, high-quality agricultural solutions that ensure freshness, flavour, and year-round availability, while catering to evolving demand across both households and the HORECA sector.

As countries increasingly focus on strengthening food resilience and local production, this launch aligns with the UAE's strategic objectives. UNS Vertical Farms proudly

supports UAE'S strategic objectives by employing advanced controlled-environment agriculture (CEA) technologies, combining hydroponics with IoT, AI, and data-driven systems to create a highly efficient, sustainable, and precision-controlled farming environment. Advanced



sensors continuously monitor temperature, humidity, CO₂ levels, lighting, and nutrient delivery, while centralized control systems integrate climate control, irrigation cycles, airflow, and

evaporative cooling into a single automated platform. This fully integrated approach ensures every variable is finely tuned to maximize efficiency, improve yields, minimize waste, and deliver consistently high-quality produce to the nation.

The farm cultivates a carefully curated selection of premium tomato varieties, including cherry and bunch tomatoes, all of which are non-GMO and free from pesticides and herbicides.

Unlike imported produce, which is often optimized for long-distance transit, UNS Farms focuses on delivering superior taste, quality, and freshness tailored to the needs of UAE consumers. A key differentiator is its direct-to-consumer (D2C) model, allowing customers to order fresh produce via www.unsfarms.com. Its efficient supply chain ensures that produce reaches shelves and customers—including retail and HORECA channels—within 24 to 48 hours of harvest, preserving freshness and minimizing waste.

"Developed by UNS Vertical Farms, part of the UAE-based Speedex Group, the newly opened 10,000-square-metre facility is designed to produce approximately 150,000 kilograms of fresh tomatoes annually, contributing to a more consistent supply of locally grown produce."



FARMERS ACROSS EUROPE TAKE A STRATEGIC TURN IN MACHINERY BUYING

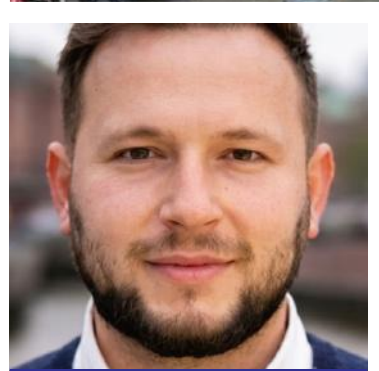
From combines and balers to ploughs, farmers are rethinking how and when they invest in used machinery.

There is a moment, just before spring takes hold, when farms across Europe shift from quiet to kinetic. Fields are prepared, plans are set in motion and machinery – perhaps the most critical tools in modern agriculture – comes sharply into focus.

For many farmers, this is no longer a reactive purchase cycle, but a deliberate one. Used machinery is increasingly seen as a practical alternative to buying new, offering access to high-performance equipment without the significant capital outlay required for brand-new models, particularly when machinery may only be needed intensively during specific periods of the year.

As Forgest Potka, Head of Agricultural Machinery Sales EMEA at Ritchie Bros., explains, the rhythm of machinery buying is closely tied to both seasonality and financial timing. Arable farmers typically sell their crops through the winter months, securing stronger prices and, crucially, liquidity. By early spring, they are in a position to reinvest. It creates a narrow but intense window of decision-making – one where preparation meets purchasing power.

“We’re seeing farmers approach machinery buying far more strategically,” says Potka. “It’s no longer about reacting to an urgent need – it’s about planning for performance and return.”



Forgest Potka

The key performance card

Historically, used machinery purchases often carried an element of compromise. Price played a dominant role and – given that farmers used to buy machines close to home – decisions could be driven as much by availability as by suitability. That dynamic is shifting.

Historically, sourcing used machinery was a local exercise. Farmers would buy from neighbours, through word of mouth, or from trusted agricultural dealers within their





locality. Today, that radius has expanded dramatically. Online platforms have opened up access to a far broader pool of equipment, allowing farmers to compare machines nationwide and even across borders – and buy with greater confidence.

For Ritchie Bros., one of the world's largest equipment auctioneers, this shift has translated into significant growth in its agricultural segment in recent years. At a recent auction in Meppen, Germany, 4,026 bidders from 56 countries took part, with international participants accounting for almost half (46%) of total bidders, while 778 buyers secured equipment and 38% of purchases came from outside Germany – underlining both the scale of demand and the increasing willingness of farmers to buy remotely.

"Farmers are no longer limited by geography," Potka explains. "They're willing to look further afield to find the right machine, in the right condition, at the right time."

Today's farmers are increasingly focused on quality, condition and output. Potka points to a recent Meppen auction example: two near-identical potato harvesters, same model and year, achieved vastly different results – €76,000 for a well-maintained machine versus €28,000

for a scruffy counterpart. The lesson is clear. The market is no longer forgiving of neglect.

This reflects a broader evolution in mindset. Farmers are not simply operators, but rather business owners managing margins, productivity and risk. Machinery is no longer just a tool – it is a strategic investment that directly influences yield, efficiency and profitability.

Reliability at a premium

With this shift comes a sharper focus on reliability and brand. In a sector where timing is everything – where a delayed harvest or failed seeding window can have a big knock-on effect on farm finances – equipment must perform consistently. Farmers are increasingly willing to pay for machines that deliver dependable results.

This has reinforced the used values of established manufacturers, whose reputations are built on durability and performance. It also underpins pricing across the used equipment market, where condition, maintenance history and brand perception all play a role in determining value.

Buying cheaply can quickly become expensive

"A machine that fails to meet operational expectations can end up costing far more than any initial

saving," says Potka. "Reliability has become non-negotiable."

Perhaps the most telling change is behavioural. Emergency purchases still happen, but they are no longer the norm. Farmers are planning ahead, aligning machinery investments with seasonal cycles and operational needs. Winter becomes a period not just of rest, but of reflection and preparation. By the time spring arrives, decisions are already forming.

This more considered approach reduces risk and improves outcomes. It also signals a broader professionalisation of the sector, where data, experience and foresight increasingly guide decision-making.

Taken together, these shifts point to a market that is maturing. Farmers are becoming more analytical in their approach, machinery more sophisticated in its design and transactions more reflective of long-term value. The days of buying purely on instinct or necessity – and locally – are giving way to a more strategic mindset.

And as agriculture continues to evolve, machinery purchasing will remain at the heart of that transformation – not as a routine transaction, but as a critical business decision.

IMPROVED SPRAY NOZZLE PERFORMANCE FOR YOUR DESIGNS

"A key characteristic of Pro HE Nozzles is the ability to produce crisp, well-defined edges. This precision reduces overspray onto hardscapes and minimizes runoff, especially in constrained or high-traffic urban environments."

Landscape architects and irrigation designers are under increasing pressure to design water-efficient systems without sacrificing coverage or plant health. Tight urban spaces, stricter water regulations, and growing concerns about overspray and runoff are forcing specifiers to find more efficient spray heads.

Fixed spray nozzles have historically presented challenges with misting, uneven distribution, and overspray. Hunter Industries developed Pro High-Efficiency (HE) Nozzles to address these limitations and improve precision.

Landscape architects and irrigation designers who specify Pro HE Nozzles can expect more predictable performance, better plant health, and improved compliance with water-efficiency standards. Pro HE Nozzles use engineered flow control and optimized droplet sizing to improve distribution uniformity and create more consistent coverage.

A key characteristic of Pro HE Nozzles is the ability to produce

crisp, well-defined edges. This precision reduces overspray onto hardscapes and minimizes runoff, especially in constrained or high-traffic urban environments. By keeping water within the intended planting area, designers can better match irrigation application with soil infiltration rates and planting design.

For optimal performance, pair Pro HE Nozzles with Pro-Spray® PRS30 Sprinkler Bodies to maintain 30 PSI pressure regulation at the nozzle. This

helps maintain droplet integrity, improve distribution uniformity, and prevent misting that can limit system efficiency.

Pro HE Nozzles reflect a broader industry shift toward more efficient irrigation systems where every component plays a role in performance. Specifying them supports long-term water savings while improving irrigation performance across the landscape.

For more information, visit www.hunterirrigation.com

WHY COWS PRODUCE LESS THAN THEY COULD

Dairy production is always a balance between what a cow can produce and what the existing surroundings allow a cow to achieve. Through years of careful, selective breeding, the cow's potential is established, but daily farm conditions ultimately decide how close cows can get to that potential. In places where feeding systems are consistent and environmental pressures are mild, the cow's natural potential becomes evident, and the yield climbs steadily. In other settings, however, invisible barriers weigh them down even when the cow seems healthy.

The key to hidden potential

Dairy cows carry a genetic ceiling for how much milk they can produce under ideal conditions. This ceiling is set by biology and

breeding, and it represents the upper boundary of what the cow's physiology can handle efficiently. Each day, a series of small, constant pressures pulls performance down from that genetic potential: the effort of digesting tough fibre, the strain of staying balanced under stress and metabolic problems, and the hidden cost of maintaining the body in less-than-perfect conditions. These drains are not dramatic; you won't see them in the parlour or the paddock. Yet they accumulate, and the cows quietly produce less than they could.

What exactly is happening when phytogenic feed additives are added to the diet? The best way to think about this is not as a stimulant, but as a key.

Anta®Sync, a phytogenic feed additive, works by reducing

oxidative stress and inflammation, two hidden processes that consume energy and weaken resilience. With its polyphenol-rich plant ingredients and double-soluble polyphenols, it supports improved bioavailability, metabolic efficiency and a more consistent effect under practical conditions. In this way, Anta®Sync helps cows direct more energy towards milk production, fertility and immune defence instead of losing it to stress responses.

The cow still eats the same feed but turns it into more milk because less is lost to inefficiency. As a result, the cow approaches its genetic ceiling and its true potential is becoming visible in the tank.

For more information, visit
www.dr-eckel.de



CHEAP VS. PREMIUM CATTLE BRUSHES: WHY QUALITY MATTERS FOR YOUR LIVESTOCK OPERATION

In modern dairy and buffalo farming, animal comfort is no longer a luxury—it's a productivity essential. Healthy, stress-free cattle produce better milk yields, maintain stronger immunity, and require fewer health interventions. One simple yet highly effective welfare tool is the cattle grooming brush.

Rotating cow brushes help improve dairy cow comfort, hygiene, and milk productivity by supporting natural grooming behavior.

However, when choosing a cattle brush for your livestock operation, the temptation to save money with cheaper options can lead to expensive long-term consequences. While budget brushes may seem cost-effective initially, premium cattle brushes deliver superior durability, performance, and return on investment.

At first glance, low-cost cattle grooming brushes appear attractive because of

their affordable purchase price. Many farms opt for these solutions assuming they offer similar benefits at a fraction of the cost.

Buffaloes and cattle are powerful animals. Daily rubbing, pushing, and aggressive grooming place immense pressure on brush systems. Cheap brushes are rarely engineered to handle this level of stress.

Common issues with low-quality cattle brushes include bristles becoming bent and permanently deformed, matted brush surfaces that reduce effective grooming, and the accumulation of dust, manure, and debris that compromises hygiene. In addition, weak mounting structures may loosen or fail over time, while poor material quality often leads to rust formation. These shortcomings typically result in frequent replacement needs and higher repair costs, making low-quality brushes less reliable and more expensive in the long run.

Often, inexpensive cattle brushes lose effectiveness within just a few weeks of continuous farm use.

What looked like a smart saving quickly becomes an ongoing maintenance expense.

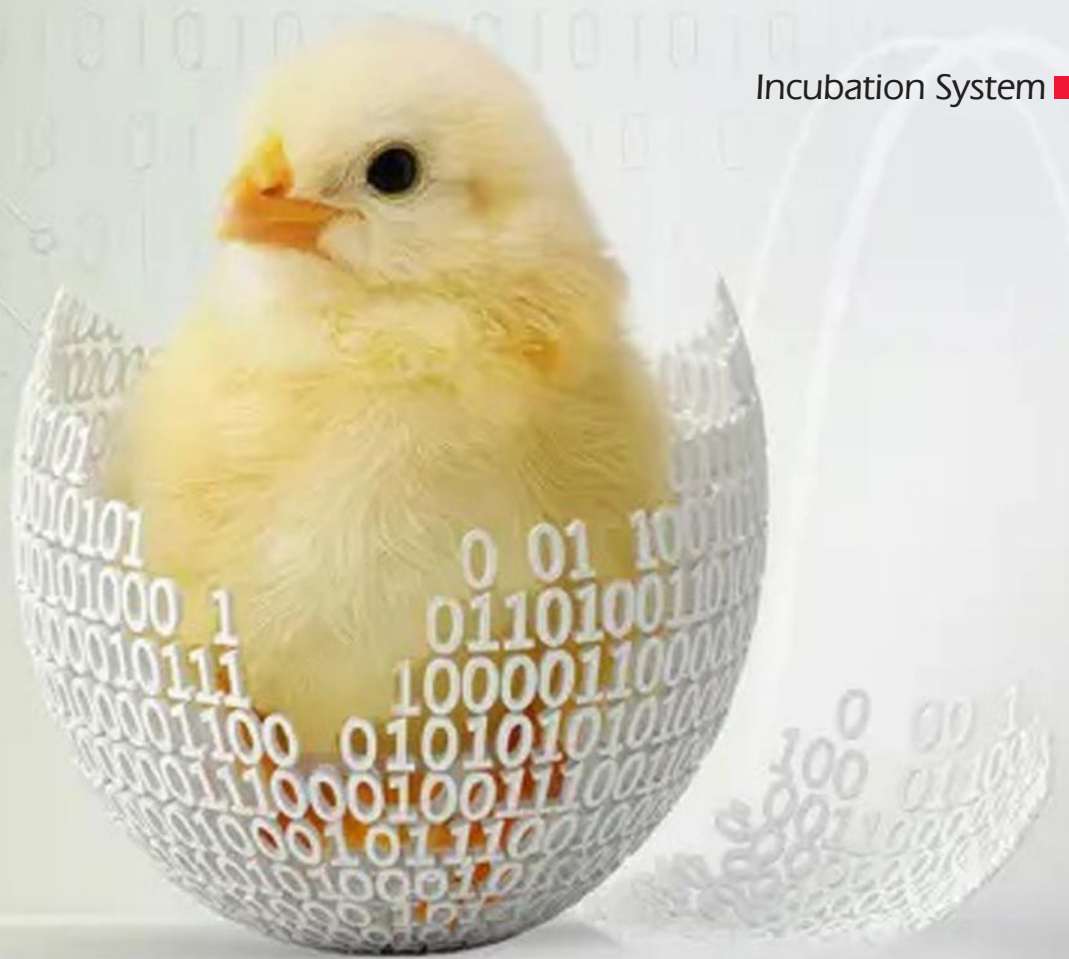
Enhance herd comfort and hygiene with the Delmer Cow Brush – WallyAir Series Spring, designed for flexible, stress-reducing grooming that supports healthier and more productive dairy cows.

High-quality cattle brushes are specifically designed for demanding livestock environments. Premium systems focus on durability, animal comfort, hygiene, and long-term performance.

Improve animal hygiene and comfort with the Delmer Wall Mounted Cow Brush, a durable grooming solution designed to support natural scratching behavior and healthier dairy herds.

For more information, visit www.delmergroup.com





UNISTREAMER™: A NEW ERA IN INTELLIGENT INCUBATION

Petersime is launching UniStreamer™, their new generation of intelligent single-stage incubators designed to keep hatcheries ahead of rising market demands.

UniStreamer™ is a new generation of intelligent single-stage incubators designed to help hatcheries secure consistent results and run a more predictable, profitable and future-ready operation.

What makes it different?

1. Maximum chick uniformity

Uniformity is one of the strongest drivers of downstream efficiency, yet it's often the hardest to

achieve. UniStreamer™ changes that. By advancing our Embryo-Response Incubation™ technology and adding new, nature-inspired innovations, this new generation of intelligent incubators raises the bar on how precisely the incubation environment adapts to the needs of each specific batch of eggs.

The result:

- Predictable, top-quality output
- Unmatched uniformity
- Higher overall

profitability

2. End-to-end traceability

By combining unique trolley identification with intelligent

Eagle Trax™ software, UniStreamer™ offers an innovative end-to-end traceability solution. Hatcheries can track every step – even including farm storage and transport – and gain clarity, control and the insights needed to continuously optimize performance. Every step is logged, every parameter is captured, every deviation becomes visible.

That means:

- Full process visibility
- Continuous performance optimization
- Stronger customer trust

For more information, visit www.petersime.com

COBB IN CENTRAL ASIA: SUPPORTING GROWTH IN UZBEKISTAN

Cobb has reached a major milestone in its Central Asia growth strategy with the successful delivery and placement of 100,000 breeder chicks to long-term partner ZM Bobur in Uzbekistan.

The shipment, completed in May, represents the largest placement of Cobb chicks into Uzbekistan to date and marks the first stocking of ZM Bobur's newest breeder farm—a key step in the company's ambitious expansion plans.

The chicks were produced at Cobb's fully owned hatchery in Türkiye, using eggs sourced exclusively from Cobb-owned facilities in Europe and the United States. This integrated approach ensures full quality assurance alignment across the supply chain—from breeding to hatchery to delivery.

By hatching closer to the

destination market, Cobb significantly reduces transit time compared to traditional import routes, helping improve chick condition on arrival and supporting strong early-life performance.

Cobb's focus on quality is reflected in consistently low day-old chick mortality (DOA) and seven-day mortality rates, providing customers with confidence in both product and delivery systems.

The Türkiye hatchery plays a critical role in supporting customers across Central Asia, combining global genetics with regional proximity to optimise outcomes in challenging logistics environments.

ZM Bobur has worked exclusively with Cobb for over 10 years. The new breeder farm is part of a wider expansion strategy that will see the company reach 1 million hatching eggs per week by 2027, with longer-term plans targeting 3 million eggs per week.

This latest placement represents the first stage in that growth journey. Abdullah Vahab, owner of ZM Bobur, commented: "Our partnership with Cobb over the past decade has been built on consistent quality and reliable supply. This latest placement is

an important milestone for our business as we expand our operations, and the ability to receive high-quality chicks from a regional hatchery in Türkiye supports both performance and future growth."

Cobb continues to invest in the Central Asia region, supporting customers with high-quality genetics, reliable supply chains, and localised production capabilities.

Erol Can, Middle East & Türkiye Commercial Director commented; "This milestone demonstrates our long-term commitment to Central Asia and our ability to deliver consistent, high-quality chicks through a fully integrated supply chain. Our partnership with ZM Bobur is a strong example of how we support customer growth at scale."

Matthew Wilson, Sales and Technical Director for Cobb Europe, added; "We continue to see strong growth in Central Asia, driven by consistent field performance and customer confidence in Cobb products. Our genetics are delivering excellent broiler performance alongside strong breeder results, including reliable hatchability and ongoing improvements in egg production."



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