

PRESS RELEASE

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InVivo becomes a major player in biocontrol by acquiring Bioline from Syngenta

InVivo has signed an agreement to acquire, through its holding company InVivo AgroSciences, Bioline, a subsidiary of Syngenta specialized in the production and marketing of biological control agents, and in particular macro-organisms active against insects pests in fruits, vegetable and flower crops. By joining forces, Bioline and Biotop, a long-standing InVivo subsidiary working in biological pest control, will become a truly global player in a high-potential and fast-growing market.

Investing in high-potential businesses to create French champions with critical mass is one of the clearly stated ambitions in the “2025 by InVivo” strategic plan. On the same level as digital agriculture, biosolutions* are among the main future paths that the InVivo group intends to explore as part of its drive to produce more and better.

Strengthened by its long-standing know-how with its subsidiary Biotop, the acquisition of Bioline will enable InVivo to build the capacities required to develop a significant activity in biosolutions.

The growth of this USD 2.8 billion market is estimated at 10% a year for the coming ten years.

Bioline has two production sites in the UK and USA. The company is highly present in the macro-organisms market and more specifically in mites in northern Europe used against predatory insects in greenhouse crops. Biotop has a bioplant in the Drôme department in France, specialised notably in the production of ephestia eggs (used for raising auxiliaries) and trichogramma (micro-wasps that fight against corn borers).

The two companies make a highly complementary fit through their expertise in arable crops and specialised crops, their geographical presence in France and internationally, and their portfolio of macro-organisms. Together they will employ 135 people.

Commenting, Thierry Blandinières, CEO of the InVivo group, said: “The acquisition of Bioline demonstrates InVivo’s strategic ambition to invest in high-potential solutions that will enable agriculture to produce more in response to the world’s demographic issues while ensuring the greatest respect for natural balances.”

Alexander Tokarz, Head of Global Crops and Assets at Syngenta said: “Bioline is a strongly performing business with good potential for further growth. Due to its highly specialized nature, we are convinced that Bioline’s potential will be better realized in combination with InVivo, who are already well positioned in this market. Syngenta remains fully committed to the broader field of biological solutions complementing our innovative crop protection and traits portfolio with enhanced spectrum and differentiated modes of actions.”

* Biosolutions = Biocontrol** + Biostimulants***

** Biocontrol = A plant-protection method using natural mechanisms such as insects, mites, bacteria, fungi, algae and plants.

*** Biostimulants = Substances acting on soil life and plant physiology so as to improve the crop strength, yield and quality.

NB. The acquisition of Bioline by InVivo AgroSciences will come into effect in one month maximum, on the completion of the legal and human resources procedures necessary to the transfer of business and the operational transition in optimal conditions.

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About InVivo

The InVivo group comprises 216 cooperatives bringing together over 300,000 farmers. The Group employs 8,400 people in 30 countries and works in four main activities: Agriculture (seeds, agricultural supplies, international grain trading), Animal Nutrition and Health, Retail, and Wine. It reported revenue of €5.7 billion in FY 2014-2015. To learn more visit : www.invivo-group.com - www.twitter.com/InVivoGroup