

**PRESS RELEASE**

*La Chapelle d'Armentières, 25 April 2019*

## **Bioline Group inaugurates its new seed factory at La Chapelle d'Armentières (59)**

The new plant, located on the historic site of the Semences de France company in La Chappelle d'Armentières, was officially inaugurated on 25 April to contribute to Bioline by InVivo's development of the third way of agriculture.

Led by Bioline Group and with the support of the European Metropolitan Area of Lille, the city of La Chapelle d'Armentières, the city of Armentières and the SNCF, the project reached completion in record time (less than a year). The new site expands on the existing site and stretches over an additional 1.7 ha, representing nearly 1 ha in built areas and 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> in green spaces.

The project represents a total of €11 million invested via LS Production and financed at 50% by its two shareholders: Bioline Group and NPZ (Norddeutsche Pflanzenzucht). This investment has been made by and large with the cooperation and support of the businesses of Hauts-de-France and contributes to the dynamism of the local economy.

"This is a strong sign of sustainability for the "Made in France" seed business of Semences de France, a Bioline by InVivo subsidiary and the leading French seed company with €172 million in turnover, 20% of which is generated internationally," said Laurent Martel, Managing Director of Bioline by InVivo.

### **A renewed industrial tool integrating the latest technologies**

The new seed factory has three buildings and will replace the plant historically known as "Ringot", which will be kept to meet the storage needs of bulk grains in particular.

"The new plant is equipped with the latest seed sorting and treatment technologies, including the latest seed coating technologies, in order to meet market expectations with the possibility of developing small series to make tailor-made products," added Pascal Mombled, General Manager of Semences de France.

For the site's production teams, the new seed factory will facilitate work (automatic cleaning of the machines, maximum reduction in handling), improve safety (fluidised and optimised production process) and reduce the ecological impact (elimination of off-site transport via new storage capacities).

### **A new building in harmony with societal expectations**

Integrating the industrial site in the peri-urban area of La Chapelle d'Armentières and in the immediate vicinity of the Armentières train station required building a project that would best assimilate with its environment (creating a wetland and an ecological pond, planting species of ecological interest with apprentice gardeners from the Bavay Apprenticeship Programme, planting meadows with late mowing seasons) and with the objective of pursuing exemplary waste management (storage silos, specific building for pallet management).



**About Bioline Group:**

With its 1200 employees, Bioline Group, a committed actor for the Third Way of Agriculture, is the agriculture-dedicated holding company of the InVivo Group. With activities spanning the entire agricultural production chain, the company brings together a unique alliance of 360° expertise, organised into 4 business lines:

- seed - Semences de France, LS Production Aegilops in France, Novasem Italy, Tradisco Seeds Hungary and Agro-Sol in Brazil;
  - plant health - Life Scientific, Phyteurop, In-Ou in China and CCAB in Brazil;
  - biocontrol - Bioline Agrosiences;
  - digital agriculture - Smag, be Api and the programme Fermes Leader.
- These 4 business lines and external clients alike also benefit from Agrosolutions' agro-environmental consulting expertise and new insurance solutions from Bioline Insurance.

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