

# Agrilifestudio

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## Launch of the first impact startup studio dedicated to AgriTech.

Agrilife Studio has announced the closing of an initial €25m financing round with three major institutional investors: the ***French Tech Accélération 2 de France 2030 fund***, managed on behalf of the French government by Bpifrance, Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale via the ***Révolution Environnementale et Solidaire fund***, and the ***French Tech Acceleration 2 de France 2030 fund***, managed on behalf of the French government by Bpifrance. and Crédit Mutuel Arkéa.



*A Mission company, AgriLife Studio aims to create around ten start-ups over the next seven years, focusing on the challenges of tomorrow's agriculture and healthy, sustainable food.*



### Context

A number of observations have been made about the French agri-agro sector in recent years:

- Although it accounts for 21% of greenhouse gas emissions, agriculture is at the heart of the response to the challenges of climate, demography and biodiversity.
- In 20 years, France has risen from 2<sup>ème</sup> to 6<sup>ème</sup> as one of the world's leading exporters of agricultural products. At the same time, imports have risen sharply, affecting our food sovereignty.
- With the "*French AgriTech*" programme launched in 2021, the Government intends to strengthen the development of the innovation ecosystem in the agriculture, food and bioeconomy sectors. With more than 600 French startups in the agricultural sector by 2022, France is the world's fifth-largest Agri Tech ecosystem in terms of funds raised (€490m).
- Start-ups are key players in speeding up the time-to-market for innovations tailored to farmers and other players in the agri-food chain.

The urgency of the climate and the environment, as well as the need to secure the entire value chain from farmers to consumers, mean that we need to speed up the search for solutions.

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## **AgriLife Studio**

To meet these challenges, AgriLife Studio SAS was set up by Priscilla Rozé-Pagès and Antoine Coutant in 2022 at the initiative of Bpifrance and with the sponsorship of Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale and Crédit Mutuel Arkéa.

Agrilife Studio's mission is to identify, develop and finance innovative, high-impact projects, leading to the creation of French start-ups in the fields of biotechnology, robotics, digital technology and information technology.

To detect innovative concepts and promising markets, and identify the talents of future management teams, Agrilife Studio has begun working with research bodies and institutes such as INRAE and AgroParisTech, as well as with SATTs, agricultural colleges, university laboratories, cooperatives, competitiveness clusters and entrepreneurial communities.

The first funding round of €25m will be used to launch the first projects, with the aim of creating around ten start-ups over the next seven years. AgriLife Studio is in the process of building up its team and is already working on analysing several projects, which are still confidential, while at the same time recruiting the entrepreneurs in residence.

### **Testimonials :**

*"Our aim is to be a recognised player in the field, working with all stakeholders, and of course with farmers, to identify real needs and ensure the applicability and impact of the solutions developed with our entrepreneurs",* explains Priscilla Rozé-Pagès, Co-Founder and Chairman of AgriLife Studio.

*"We want to develop our relationships with French and international laboratories and research centres in order to create start-ups based on biotech and digital innovations that will have a positive impact on the responsible agriculture and healthy, sustainable food markets,"* explains Antoine Coutant, Co-Founder and Managing Director of AgriLife Studio.

Pierre Gillet, Investment Director of Bpifrance's French Tech Accélération fund, comments: *"As the French agritech ecosystem has been booming for several years now, we wanted to help create the 1<sup>er</sup> French startup studio dedicated to the agri-agro sector. After more than a year's work with Priscilla and Antoine, we're delighted to have contributed to the launch of Agrilife Studio. This initiative is fully in line with the objectives of France 2030, supported by the French government, to develop innovative projects to meet the challenges of food sovereignty and innovation. This project is a continuation of our efforts to develop studios in our areas of excellence, particularly in deeptech.*

Sabine Schimel, Managing Director of Crédit Mutuel Impact (Fonds Révolution Environnementale et Solidaire) adds:

*"AgriLife Studio is built around a complementary team with strong expertise in Agritech issues. As manager of the Révolution Environnementale et Solidaire fund, which is financed by Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale's societal dividend, we are proud to be involved in the launch of a project that promotes French research and will enable the emergence of players providing innovative and relevant solutions to the environmental and societal challenges facing agriculture, particularly in terms of climate change, biodiversity, access to water and food sovereignty. This is part of Crédit Mutuel's strong commitment to farmers. "*

Hélène Bernicot, Chief Executive Officer of Crédit Mutuel Arkéa adds:

*"In addition to the central role of feeding populations, the agricultural sector, and Agritech in particular, encompasses many issues linked to transitions: carbon capture, preservation of biodiversity, health, production of renewable energies. Banks have a crucial role to play in supporting these changes towards sustainable agriculture, based on innovation. This is a commitment we make every day at Crédit Mutuel Arkéa, as a local bank and a company with a mission."*

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**About Agrilife Studio**

Agrilife Studio is an impact start-up studio specialising in AgriTech, i.e. the agriculture of tomorrow, healthy and sustainable food, and bio-based products. With a funding potential of several million euros per project, our aim is to co-create, with entrepreneurs, more than 10 startups that have a major impact on the climate, demographics and biodiversity, and meet the new needs of farmers, manufacturers and consumers.

**About France 2030**

- The aim is twofold: to bring about lasting change in key sectors of our economy (health, energy, automotive, aeronautics and space) through technological innovation, and to position France not just as a player, but as a leader in the world of tomorrow. From fundamental research, to the emergence of an idea, through to the production of a new product or service, France 2030 supports the entire life cycle of innovation, right through to its industrialisation.
- The scale of the programme is unprecedented: €54 billion will be invested to help our businesses, universities and research bodies make the transition in these strategic sectors a success. The aim is to enable them to respond competitively to the ecological and attractiveness challenges of the world to come, and to develop the future leaders of our sectors of excellence. France 2030 is defined by two cross-cutting objectives: to devote 50% of its spending to decarbonising the economy, and 50% to emerging players who are driving innovation, without spending anything that is detrimental to the environment (as defined by the Do No Significant Harm principle).
- Will be implemented collectively: designed and deployed in consultation with economic, academic, local and European players to determine the strategic orientations and flagship actions. Project leaders are invited to submit their applications via open, demanding and selective procedures in order to benefit from government support.
- It is steered by the Secrétariat Général pour l'Investissement on behalf of the Prime Minister and implemented by the Agence de la Transition Ecologique (ADEME), the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), Bpifrance and the Banque des Territoires.

For more information: <https://www.gouvernement.fr/france-2030> | @SGPI\_avenir

### **About Bpifrance and the French Tech Acceleration 2 fund**

Bpifrance finances businesses - at every stage of their development - through loans, guarantees and equity. Bpifrance supports them in their innovation and international projects. Bpifrance also supports their export activities through a wide range of products. Advice, universities, networking and acceleration programmes for start-ups, SMEs and ETIs are also part of the services offered to entrepreneurs. Thanks to Bpifrance and its 50 regional offices, entrepreneurs benefit from a single, close and effective contact to help them meet their challenges.

The French Tech Accélération 2 fund, managed by Bpifrance on behalf of the French government, is endowed with €100 million and was launched as part of the Programme d'Investissements d'Avenir (PIA) and is now part of France 2030. Created as part of the French Tech public initiative, its aim is to invest in and promote the development of start-up acceleration structures (accelerators, start-up studios, acceleration investment funds, etc.).

For more information: [www.bpifrance.fr](http://www.bpifrance.fr) - <https://presse.bpifrance.fr/> - Follow us on Twitter : @Bpifrance @BpifrancePresse

### **About the Environmental and Solidarity Revolution Fund**

Managed by Crédit Mutuel Impact as part of Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale's asset management division, the Fonds Révolution Environnementale et Solidaire, funded by Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale's societal dividend, is a sustainable impact fund (Article 9 fund under SFDR regulations). With the ambition of investing €1.5 billion by 2027, the fund does not aim to achieve any short-term financial returns, but rather to generate ecological and social added value. The fund's aim is to amplify the transformation of production models and to intervene in key areas of climate and environmental transition where financial needs are very great and other players are not yet sufficiently present.

### **About Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale**

Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale is one of France's leading bancassurers, with over 77,000 employees serving more than 30 million customers. It offers a full range of services to individual customers, local professionals and businesses of all sizes through its 4,500 sales outlets.

Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale groups the Crédit Mutuel branches of the Centre Est Europe (Strasbourg), Sud-Est (Lyon), Ile-de-France (Paris), Savoie-Mont Blanc (Annecy), Midi-Atlantique (Toulouse) federations, Loire-Atlantique and Centre Ouest (Nantes), Centre (Orléans), Normandie (Caen), Dauphiné-Vivaraïs (Valence), Méditerranéen (Marseille), Anjou (Angers), Massif Central (Clermont-Ferrand), Antilles-Guyane (Fort-de-France) and Nord Europe (Lille).

Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale also includes Caisse Fédérale de Crédit Mutuel, Banque Fédérative du Crédit Mutuel (BFCM) and all its subsidiaries, notably CIC, Euro-Information, Assurances du Crédit Mutuel (ACM), TARGOBANK in Germany, Cofidis, Beobank in Belgium, Banque Européenne du Crédit Mutuel (BECM), Banque de Luxembourg, Banque Transatlantique and Homiris.

More information on [creditmutuelalliancefederale.fr](http://creditmutuelalliancefederale.fr)

### **About the Crédit Mutuel Arkéa group**

The Crédit Mutuel Arkéa cooperative group comprises the Crédit Mutuel de Bretagne and Sud-Ouest federations and their member local mutual banks, as well as around forty specialised subsidiaries (Fortuneo, Monext, Arkéa Banque Entreprises et Institutionnels, Arkéa Investment Services, Suravenir, etc.). It has more than 11,000 employees, 2,600 directors, over 5.1 million bancassurance members and customers, and total assets of €189.1 billion.

The first banking group to adopt a Mission Statement in 2019, Crédit Mutuel Arkéa became a company with a mission in 2022 and, through its "Transitions 2024" strategic plan, is committed to providing finance that serves local and regional authorities and their stakeholders, in order to position itself as an agile and innovative financial partner for the transitions of the future.

With a nationwide presence, Crédit Mutuel Arkéa has chosen to keep its decision-making centres in the regions. It is a major player in job creation in its regions, and relies on an ongoing recruitment drive. The Group is convinced that local development can only be achieved by combining financial and non-financial considerations. This is why Crédit Mutuel Arkéa is the first French bank to have developed a unique method for calculating overall performance. This enables it to take into account all the financial, social, societal and environmental impacts of its activities and those of its stakeholders.

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