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**Soil Microbiota:
STARFISH Bioscience Raises €900,000 From Seventure Partners To
Regenerate Soil Microbiomes By Developing The Next Generation Of
Microbial Biostimulants For Sustainable Agriculture**

- Starfish develops microbiological solutions for agriculture and viticulture
- Restoring microbial diversity is a pillar of resilience against climate change and a lever for reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Soil microbiota is a key to reducing the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers

Starfish Bioscience today announced that it has raised €900,000 from Seventure Partners, the world's leading investor in the microbiome field through its Health for Life Capital funds. This seed funding, raised just two months after the company was founded, will enable Starfish Bioscience to structure and accelerate the development of its solution to restore soil microbiota diversity. Starfish Bioscience's first step will be to finalize the compilation of an atlas of soil bacteria and strengthen its teams.

Starfish's objective is to develop solutions that restore the soil's fertility and health and Starfish Bioscience's first microbiological solution will be aimed at the winegrowing market. Starfish Bioscience's technology is based on in-depth knowledge of soil microbiology and keystone bacteria, which have unique functions that are central to the maintenance and balance of ecosystems.

"Keystone soil bacteria are still unexploited. Soil microbiota play an essential role in plant health, and consequently in our health. Its alteration has major consequences for the ecosystem as a whole. These micro-organisms represent the bulk of the biomass of our soils, yet only 1% of soil bacteria are known. Restoring them in the soils means making the ecosystem richer and more resilient by limiting erosion, making the soil more fertile and resilient in the face of drought, and limiting the growth of pathogenic organisms," says **Sandrine Claus, founder and CEO of Starfish Bioscience.**

The Soil is an Essential Resource For Humanity

More than 3 billion people around the world are affected by soil degradation, leading to fragile crops and significant reductions in yields. This degradation is strongly associated with the depletion of subterranean microbiological biodiversity.

As Jane Goodall reminded us at the World Living Soils Forum organized by Moët-Hennessy: "Over 80% of all life on the planet depends on soil. There are some things on soils which we can see with our naked eye such as worms and plant roots, but we can't see all the millions of microorganisms and we don't realize the interrelationship between them that creates healthy soils. How shocking then to learn that this wonderful ecosystem, but which we still have so very much to learn, is in terrible danger. In fact, soil plays a very important role in mitigating climate change as it's one of the great ecosystems along with the oceans and forests that absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and this of course helps to regulate the greenhouse effect."

Shaped by human, the agricultural ecosystem is regularly disturbed by practices such as ploughing and the use of chemicals. Agricultural production has an impact on the soil gut and plays a crucial role in ecosystem health, agro-ecology and climate.

Isabelle de Crémoux, CEO of Seventure Partners, comments: "*With Starfish Bioscience, we found the ingredients for success - pioneering innovation, globally scalable solutions and a sustainable solution to a problem that has so far lacked appropriate answers. Starfish Bioscience's solutions represent a significant advance in the use of the soil microbiome for sustainable agriculture. As a player committed to the planet and to health, and a pioneer in the major issues of this century, this investment was an obvious choice for us, and the expertise we have built up in the Health For Life Capital™ funds is a great way of combining impact and financial performance*". She continues: "*The black bio-economy, named after the color of the soil, is now attracting the attention of many major players such as governments, research institutes and companies. There is growing interest in the microbiomes of food systems. They are essential for achieving sustainable primary production, for improving food quality and safety, for maintaining and improving the quality of food, and for improving the quality of life.*"

About Starfish Bioscience

Founded in November 2023, Starfish Bioscience aims to provide soil microbiome restoration solutions for sustainable agriculture. Its founder, Sandrine Claus, has been working in microbiome research for nearly 20 years and holds a PhD from Imperial College London.



The start-up is currently incubated by UNITEC, a generalist incubator supported by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, and Start-up Win, the Bernard Magrez Group's specialist WineTech incubator.

About Seventure Partners :

Seventure Partners is a long-term equity investor that actively supports innovative companies aiming at generating positive impacts on Humankind, Society, Sustainability and the Planet.

With € 1bn net commitments under management as of the end of 2023, Seventure is a leading venture capital firm in Europe investing since 1997 in innovative businesses with high growth potential in 2 main areas: (i) Life sciences (Biotech, Health & digital Health, Nutrition, Foodtech, Blue Economy, Aquaculture, Animal & Agriculture, Sport & Wellness ...) with a specific interest for microbiome-related innovations across Europe, Israel, Asia and North America and (ii) Digital technologies (FinTech, RetailTech, Cybersecurity etc...) in Western Europe.

Investments can range between €500k and €10m per round and up to €20m per company, from early to late stage, growth, pre-IPO and IPO.

For more details: <http://www.seventure.fr/en>

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