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Driving transition to a sustainable and circular economy: RootCamp grants 7 international Impact Startups enrollment at Acceleration Program

RootCamp is an Innovation Hub for AgriFood systems based in Hannover and Startup Center for Bioeconomy with public support of the Federal State of Lower Saxony. The three served areas are: Corporate Innovation/Venture Clienting, Startup Excellence and Ecosystem creation.

As part of the 5th batch the RootCamp team welcomed seven international AgTech & Bioeconomy startups to its highly selective 12 week acceleration program. Over 300 startups from 61 countries applied and were selected together with RootCamp's industrial partners. Throughout the program's duration, participating startups will benefit from personalized coaching, engaging mentor sessions, exclusive events, and access to RootCamp's extensive network. RootCamp stands out for its distinctive approach, focusing on delivering robust business development support to startups. The program facilitates meaningful connections between startups and corporates catalyzing pilot projects that lead to economically viable collaborations. The Pilot Projects are enabled by a granted budget of up to € 40k to test implementation of tomorrow's products within existing industrial environments.

"We're excited to welcome startups from new countries—Spain, France, and Hungary—bringing diverse perspectives and innovation to our ecosystem. Our 5th batch proudly features five female co-founders, showcasing our commitment to gender diversity in entrepreneurship. This cohort underscores our focus on sustainability and ESG principles, offering innovative solutions for agricultural challenges while prioritizing sustainability," said Gaia Amatteis, RootCamp COO & Head of Program.

Amata Green | Transforming agricultural waste into valuable biochar | Spain

Amata Green aims to construct pyrolysis facilities across southern Spain, converting agricultural olive waste into biochar. Combining the biochar with Amata Green's secret "sauce" results in their eco mix: This initiative fosters a circular economy, repurposing waste

as a valuable commodity for the farming industry and other sectors. The solution addresses soil salinity, water scarcity, nutrient leaching, and excessive input usage in agriculture, while improving the performance of crop production. This nature-oriented methodology not only counteracts the adverse effects of climate change but also facilitates farmers in transitioning towards organic and environmentally conscious practices. Aligned with the EU's directive to enhance organic crop production, Amata Green's approach diminishes soil depletion and reduces reliance on chemical inputs, thereby cultivating healthier ecosystems.

eco:fibr | Pulp from pineapple plants - Turning waste into purpose | Germany

eco:fibr disrupts traditional paper production with a unique, circular economy approach. The team utilizes a byproduct from pineapple cultivation, which is usually burned nowadays in Costa Rica's agricultural fields, as the primary material to obtain top-quality pulp. In its mission, the startup from Hannover aims to bolster secure and equitable job opportunities in Costa Rica while safeguarding both the ecology and economy of pineapple cultivation. The development process for producing pulp from pineapple leaves prioritizes the conscious exclusion of environmentally harmful chemicals and serves as a sustainable alternative to traditional wood pulp, making it versatile for use in a wide array of paper and cardboard products.

Farmula | Formula for regenerative agriculture | Germany

Farmula develops a seed-coating solution based on biochar, effectively enriching seeds with fertilizers, organic pesticides, and biostimulants. This transformative technology revolutionizes agriculture by alleviating water stress, minimizing fertilizer use, and curbing CO_2 emissions. The innovative coating efficiently delivers essential nutrients directly to the seeds & protects them from pests. Biochar, with its CO_2 storage and water-retention properties, becomes a vital reservoir, protecting young plants during heat stress. By reducing excessive fertilizer and chemical pesticide usage, Farmula's technology champions sustainable farming while serving additionally as a CO_2 sink.

Proofminder | Advanced AI and Drone-Based Technology for Precision Farming | Hungary

Proofminder's technology integrates advanced AI and drone-acquired visual data, delivering precise insights at the leaf level across extensive agricultural areas. It enables meticulous

plant monitoring, identifies stress factors, diseases, and weeds accurately, while also supporting various agricultural needs like stand counting, weather damage analysis, and nitrogen assessment. Additionally, the platform reduces fertilizer needs, and positively impacts the environment by minimizing the amount of agricultural inputs & their carbon footprints. This comprehensive solution optimizes farming practices, maximizes crop potential, and champions sustainable agriculture for long-term success.

NoMaze | Simplifying Plant Breeding Analytics | Germany

NoMaze addresses the critical challenge of plant breeding data analytics under time pressure by developing a pioneering software solution that streamlines the process of plant selection. The startup aims to transform data analysis for plant breeders. Current workflows are time-consuming, involving manual steps and prone to errors due to constant back-and-forth between departments. NoMaze software democratizes data access, reducing challenges. By facilitating plant experts to effortlessly delve into their data, enabling the discovery of the best plants, this process significantly enhances efficiency and accuracy in their daily work.

Regen Insight | MRV Platform for Carbon-Positive Farming | France

Regen Insight leads the charge in sustainable agriculture, leveraging data and finance to drive the adoption of regenerative farming for climate change mitigation and biodiversity restoration. The MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification) platform offered by Regen Insight assists farmers in understanding their carbon footprint and devising actionable plans, funded by carbon certificates linked to their environmental impact. Employing advanced technology, including satellite and soil data, Regen Insight precisely measures emissions reductions and carbon storage on farms, ensuring the credibility of sustainable actions. Through the generation of carbon certificates, the startup not only supports greener agriculture but also creates additional revenue streams for regenerative farms.

Verdancy | Forward-thinking formulations for eco-friendly agriculture | Germany

Verdancy is committed to enhance plant protection in response to our dynamic biodiversity loss. Central to their mission is the advancement of environmentally friendly and highly efficient methods to promote plant health. Their innovation involves using microgels —

small, eco-friendly containers to encapsulate a range of plant protection substances, starting with copper. These plastic-free biodegradable microgels harmlessly. By employing natural adhesives, they secure these microgel containers onto leaves, ensuring their retention during rain. This approach optimizes plant health with reduced application volumes.

About RootCamp - A SpinLab Company

RootCamp is an Innovation Hub for AgriFood systems based in Hannover City and serves as a Startup Center for Bioeconomy with public support from the Federal State of Lower Saxony. The three main areas of focus are Corporate Innovation/Venture Clienting, Startup Excellence, and Ecosystem creation. For Corporate Partners, RootCamp provides consultation services in building innovation infrastructure. As a venture client expert, RootCamp scouts the global Startup Ecosystem for solutions and prospective clients or collaborators. Startups receive support from professional experts and experienced coaches. Young startups benefit from a 12-week Acceleration Program, while senior startups receive tailored individual support. In response to the shift towards a sustainable and circular economy, RootCamp actively supports the formation of ecosystems and offers collaborative formats to manage dynamics within value chains. Industry players such as K+S and KWS, alongside the City of Hannover and the federal state of Lower Saxony, support RootCamp. Additionally, it offers office and workshop space in the center of Hannover.

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