



Joint News Release

P343/21e
October 21, 2021

BASF and Viperger accelerate targeted research and development of sustainable crop protection products

Limburgerhof, Germany, and Copenhagen, Denmark – Farmers worldwide are facing the challenge of feeding a growing population while reducing the impact of agriculture on the environment. BASF partners with Viperger, a global leader in research services, to apply their technology to discover new active ingredients for sustainable crop protection products more efficiently and quickly.

For the first time in the agricultural sector, the research collaboration uses a technology from Viperger that has already been applied successfully in the search for pharmaceutical active ingredients. This new technology allows for the testing of novel chemical compounds on target proteins in living cells. Tests in cells lead to more accurate results compared to conventional methods, which use target proteins previously isolated from cells and purified in an elaborate process. Testing can be performed on several million compounds, looking at their uses in crop protection as well as their environmental impact, all in a single experiment and in considerably shorter time. Promising compounds can be easily identified through a specific DNA coding. This targeted research approach can greatly accelerate the identification of new active ingredients.

“The collaboration with Viperger will complement our set of tools aimed at developing novel, world-class, sustainable crop protection solutions for a connected offer that will benefit farmers, consumers and the environment,” said Juergen Huff, Senior Vice President, Research and Development Crop Protection at BASF

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Agricultural Solutions. “Through Vipergen’s powerful technology, we aim to identify active ingredients for new crop protection products more efficiently. This helps to accelerate the development of new solutions that increase agricultural productivity and reduce environmental impacts.”

“We are excited to partner with BASF to drive innovation for sustainable agriculture,” said Nils Hansen, Chief Executive Officer of Vipergen. “Applying our Cellular Binder Trap Enrichment® technology to screen DNA-encoded libraries in living cells will quickly provide high-quality hits that BASF can use to develop new sustainable crop protection products.”

BASF retains exclusive rights to globally commercialize all products resulting from the collaboration. Financial details of the partnership were not disclosed.

About BASF’s Agricultural Solutions division

With a rapidly growing population, the world is increasingly dependent on our ability to develop and maintain sustainable agriculture and healthy environments. Working with farmers, agricultural professionals, pest management experts and others, it is our role to help make this possible. That’s why we invest in a strong R&D pipeline and broad portfolio, including seeds and traits, chemical and biological crop protection, soil management, plant health, pest control and digital farming. With expert teams in the lab, field, office and in production, we connect innovative thinking and down-to-earth action to create real world ideas that work – for farmers, society and the planet. In 2020, our division generated sales of €7.7 billion. For more information, please visit www.agriculture.basf.com or any of our social media channels.

About Vipergen ApS

Vipergen is a world-leading provider of small-molecule drug discovery services based on DNA-encoded library (DEL) technologies and is the first and only company capable of screening DELs inside a living cell. Vipergen provides its proprietary suite of leading-edge DEL technologies through funded discovery partnerships with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, including top pharmaceutical companies in the U.S., EU, and Japan. For more details about Vipergen and the YoctoReactor® (yR), Binder Trap Enrichment® (BTE), and Cellular Binder Trap Enrichment® (cBTE) drug discovery technology platforms, please visit www.vipergen.com.