



## **1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION OF PROTEIN CONNECT : THE START-UPS AGRIODOR AND NXT FOOD WERE AWARDED THE PROTEIN CONNECT LABEL**

PRESS RELEASE — 28 January 2021

On January, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the final of the PROTEIN CONNECT start-up challenge was held. Twenty seven seedlings from seven countries competed in the first edition of this annual contest proposed by Protéines France and its partners. The ambition of the Protein Connect program is to accelerate the growth of the short listed start-ups by boosting their integration to the value chain. The laureates will be granted access to the ecosystems of the Protéines France companies, allowing them not only to quickly build up partnerships with more mature companies but also to find help and useful advice for their growth.

### **27 INNOVATIVE FILES WERE SCRUTINISED BY A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PANEL**

27 start-ups in all, from 7 different countries (France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Bulgaria and Togo) submitted their files in order to receive the label and benefit from the support of Protéines France and its partners. The candidates were positioned on the whole value chain (upstream agriculture, ingredients, processes and finished products) and seven of them were centered on new resources (algae and insects).

The panel composed of the Protéines France members (Adisseo, Algama, Limagrain, Roquette, Tereos, Vivescia) and its partners (AgroParisTech, BPI France, Business France, the IAR cluster, Terres Univia, Toaster lab by Vitagora, and the Village by CA Nord de France) decided, through rigorous pre-selection, on a selection of 8 finalists (on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December) and then on the winners at the end of January.

The start-ups were evaluated on defined criteria such as the level of innovation, the technical feasibility, impact on the vegetal protein sector and new French and European resources, risk management (knowledge and market opportunities...), as well as the motivations and needs of the candidates to be integrated to the Protein Connect program.

### **TWO START-UPS WERE GRANTED THE PROTEIN CONNECT LABEL AND A “HELPING HAND” WAS AWARDED**

Protéines France and its partners are pleased to award the Protein Connect label to:

- [AGRIODOR](https://agriodor.com/) - spin-off of the INRAE created in 2019, which developed a bio control solution against the faba bean weevil (a little insect pest) and aims to expand to other crops - [https://agriodor.com/]
- [NXT FOOD](https://nxtfood.fr/) start-up from the Hauts-de-France created in 2019, specialised in the production of meat alternatives made of vegetal proteins - [https://nxtfood.fr/]

These two start-ups appeared to be the most promising contributors to innovation of the future protein sector.



In addition to access to the vegetal proteins ecosystem and new resources, the two laureates will receive a custom coaching program from members of Protéines France and its partners.

The panel wished to address a “Helping Hand” award to the [PAPONDU](#) start-up as a mark of support and encouragement. This new seedling whose origin was the student challenge on vegetal proteins, organised by our partner, the Village by CA Nord France, is developing a vegetal solution to replace eggs.

Protein France warmly congratulates all of the finalists (Alver, Excellent, Nenuphar, Umiami, Update Foods) and the candidates of the Protein Connect and sends them all its best wishes for success.

## **ABOUT PROTÉINES FRANCE**

Protéines France is the French company consortium whose ambition is to federate and catalyse the development of vegetal proteins and new resources. It was created by industrial players and French cooperatives with the aim of developing those sectors and to make France one of the world leaders in this field. Protéines France already brings together the following entities ADISSEO, ALGAMA, ARBIOM, AVRIL, CAUSSADE SEMENCES, FERMENTALG, GROUPEMENT LES MOUSQUETAIRES, HERTA, LES NOUVEAUX FERMIERS, LESAFFRE, LIMAGRAIN, NESTLE, NUTRITION & SANTE, POITTEMILL, PURATOS, ROQUETTE, ROYAL CANIN, SOUFFLET, TEREOS, TRIBALLAT NOYAL, VIVESCIA, YNSECT and VIA VEGETALE. The association is coordinated by IAR, the competitive cluster dedicated to bioeconomy.

## **ABOUT PROTEIN CONNECT**

Launched in 2020 by Protéines France, the Protein Connect is the first label dedicated to start-ups of the vegetal protein and new resources sector. The objectives of this ambitious international program are to promote the most promising and innovative start-ups and to facilitate partnerships with industrials. The start-ups who were awarded the « Protein Connect » title will receive recognition and a privileged access to the Protéines France network (25+ members and more than 100 experts) as well as its partners (AgroParisTech, BPI France, Business France, le pôle IAR, Terres Univia, Toaster lab by Vitagora, and the Villages by CA Nord de France and Paris). Along with a custom coaching program so as to help boost their business and growth.

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