

**COLEA AgriTech**

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Wuppertal, June 19th, 2023

Letter of qualification – Thaer Tafesh

The Circular Valley foundation, based in North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany, promotes a future-oriented circular economy to protect both the environment and climate. It does so by developing and implementing resource-saving concepts with a circular added value.

The fundamental pillars focus on connecting industry, start-ups, science, civil society and politics. As Circular Valley, we are proud to bring players across various industries and technologies together, to close material cycles along existing value chains, to develop policy recommendations and to inform the public about the circular economy. More specifically, the foundation supports the development and establishment of circular business models, outlets for scientific innovation, the provision of contributions and ideas for circular products, the implementation and testing of the suitability of solutions, the practical application of policies and strategies, and inter-ministerial collaboration within a circular economy.

The Circular Valley foundation funds the world's first Circular Economy Accelerator. In this program, companies from the Rhine-Ruhr region and beyond are connected to promising international start-ups, to jointly develop solutions for the transformation towards a circular economy and to turn inventions into innovation by bringing business models to the areas where they are needed. By connecting companies and start-ups through technological development agreements, the program strengthens an ecosystem where innovation and technology are nurtured.

Circular Valley is for the circular economy, what Silicon Valley is for the digital economy.

In honor of his performance and dedication, we especially recommend Mr. Thaer Tafesh

as founder of the startup COLEA, based in Ramallah, Palestine, who participated in Batch 4 of our Circular Economy Accelerator program from December 2022 to March 2023 in Wuppertal, Germany.

This letter of recommendation has been issued upon the request of Mr. Tafesh. We got to know Mr. Tafesh during our intensive three-month Accelerator Program for international startups dealing with circular economy related subjects. Our team was able to experience Mr. Tafesh's curiosity, enthusiasm, and passion in implementing projects to promote a circular economy and pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

His startup COLEA represented the first Palestinian company participating in the program and was selected based on its high degree of innovation.

Mr. Tafesh is highly passionate about developing his team's vision of a flexible, humanitarian, and circular business model by treating wastewater from olive oil production. Since its establishment in Palestine, COLEA has consistently showcased its potential in the innovative ecosystem both locally and internationally. With its patent technology preparations, the startup has positioned itself as a pioneering force in the development of circular solutions.

As a direct outcome of COLEA's involvement in the Circular Economy Accelerator, the startup is presently in the process of incorporating itself in Germany. This decision stems from the fact that a majority of its clients reside in Europe, and as part of their strategic expansion plans, they intend to file a European patent and establish operations to better serve their European clientele.

Combined with his personality, Thaer Tafesh was able to gain the sympathy of Circular Valley® supporters. Mr. Tafesh demonstrated strong skills in areas of personal relationships, public speaking, team management, and networking, and constantly strived to gain more knowledge and experience. His clear and visionary thinking led to a strong relationship with our partners in Wuppertal and the Rhine-Ruhr region.

During our last Demo-Day in the Historische Stadthalle Wuppertal he was able to successfully present his energy and dedication to his ideas to a wide audience.

In addition, Mr. Tafesh diligently attended all events and workshops, as well as the individual mentoring and coaching, in order to develop his skills in a targeted manner through exchanges with the experts. Mr. Tafesh showed himself to be open-minded, curious, and always willing to establish a social and cultural balance with his colleagues.

I am convinced that Mr. Tafesh will make the most of the opportunities offered to him and will always perform his duties conscientiously. Therefore, I recommend the acceptance of Mr. Thaer Tafesh.

Kind regards,



Dr. Carsten Gerhardt
Chairman