

Daily Note

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Syngenta and Enko announce new fungicidal chemistry

Syngenta Crop Protection and crop health company Enko announced today the discovery of novel chemistry to control fungal disease in crops, using a platform that reduces the time required for R&D discovery. It is reported that the new chemistry features a new mode of action designed to target diseases that can devastate cereal crops. This discovery was achieved by screening billions of chemical molecules within Enko's DNA-encoded libraries and using artificial intelligence and machine learning models to identify potent, selective molecules. This significantly shortens the time required for the discovery process while ensuring molecules meet specified safety criteria. The fungicide discovery milestone is part of Syngenta and Enko's multi-year collaboration to bring new, affordable, safe and sustainable crop protection solutions to farmers globally. The two companies further aim to build on the success of the fungicide collaboration and have signed a new agreement to discover novel chemical starting points for a new herbicide.

BASF preliminary results 2023

BASF Group has released preliminary figures for the full year 2023. Expected sales of €68,902 million and expected income from operations (EBIT) before special items of €3,806 million are below the ranges forecast by BASF and below the average analyst estimates for 2023. Total sales declined by 21.1% in 2023 to an expected €68,902 million (2022: €87,327 million) and were thus below the €73 billion to €76 billion range forecast by BASF. The decrease in sales was mainly due to decline in volumes and negative currency effects. Agricultural Solutions slightly exceeded the average analyst estimates for EBIT before special items in 2023.

The company notes that it will publish its 2023 report on the 23rd of February 2024.

Agritask/Pessl partner to integrate weather offering

As reported by [S&P Global Commodity Insights](#), Israeli agronomic intelligence provider Agritask (Tel Aviv) has partnered with Austrian digital agriculture company Pessl Instruments (Weiz) to integrate the latter's METOS weather stations into the Agritask platform. The deal involves the former's customers gaining access to METOS to help mitigate risks associated with extreme weather events and climate change shifts.

METOS uses a variety of "real-time" environmental parameters in combination with other agronomic data sources. The technology provides insights into soil and crop conditions, enabling resource-efficient practices, says Agritask, adding that the weather station data will provide a more advanced agronomic picture for users leveraging the company's platform.

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