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Media release

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Fribourg initiative arouses global interest

The Agri & Co Challenge international call for projects closed last Sunday. A total of 154 applications from 53 countries on all continents were submitted. Over the coming weeks, the Fribourg-based jury will cast an expert eye over these projects, whittling them down to the final 15 winners.*

Over the last few weeks, the canton of Fribourg's international call for projects has yielded a total of 154 applications from companies working in the food, agriculture and biomass sectors. By mid-July the jury will draw up a shortlist of 30 applicants, who will be invited to pitch their projects in person; these sessions will take place in September. Based on these presentations, the jury will select the 15 winning entries. The official award ceremony will take place on 7 November in Fribourg.

The 13 members of the jury, chaired by Paola Ghillani, are drawn from the worlds of research, academia and industry, including Nestlé, Cremo, Fenaco and Micarna. All four of these prestigious companies also partner the Agri & Co Challenge initiative.

The jury will evaluate the entries for both programs on the following five criteria:

- > Degree of innovation and feasibility
- > Degree of sustainability
- > Market potential
- > Job creation potential
- > Team and skills

Agri & Co Challenge

Launched in January 2018, the Agri & Co Challenge is aimed squarely at innovative firms working in the food, agriculture and biomass sectors around the world. There are two distinct programs: 'Relocation' and 'Remote Collaboration'. Applicants are free to choose their preferred option. By offering a choice, the initiative is able to cater to the needs of a much wider range of firms, and thereby maximize the innovation and collaboration potential.

As a leading player in the Swiss agrofood industry, the canton of Fribourg will use Agri & Co Challenge to expand its network of innovative and sustainable firms, foster synergies between different economic sectors, and introduce new value chains, especially with emerging markets.

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The acquisition of the St-Aubin Innovation Space last year represents a golden opportunity, and a real USP, for the canton of Fribourg when it comes to promoting and stimulating innovation. With its substantial laboratory, office and testing facilities, not to mention extensive agricultural land, the St-Aubin site provides a unique set-up that is ideally suited to the development of future-oriented solutions and to lasting cooperation on exciting and groundbreaking projects.

* Origin of the projects, in alphabetical order:

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|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| > Argentina | > Greece | > Philippines |
| > Australia | > India | > Portugal |
| > Bahrain | > Indonesia | > Puerto Rico |
| > Bangladesh | > Ireland | > Romania |
| > Benin | > Israel | > Saudi Arabia |
| > Brazil | > Italy | > Senegal |
| > Canada | > Ivory Coast | > Serbia |
| > Chile | > Kenya | > South Africa |
| > China | > Lebanon | > Spain |
| > Colombia | > Lesotho | > Switzerland |
| > Costa Rica | > Mali | > Tanzania |
| > Ecuador | > Mexico | > Ukraine |
| > Egypt | > Myanmar | > United Arab Emirates |
| > Estonia | > Nepal | > United Kingdom |
| > France | > Netherlands | > United States |
| > Gambia | > Nigeria | > Venezuela |
| > Germany | > Palestine | > Vietnam |
| > Ghana | > Peru | |

Website: www.agricochallenge.org

LinkedIn: <https://linkedin.com/company/agricochallenge>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/agricochallenge>

Information

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