



Good food, Good life

Press Release

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Nestlé strengthens agricultural science expertise with new research institute

Delivering on Nestlé's net zero roadmap and the [transition towards a regenerative food system](#) requires large-scale changes in the way agricultural raw materials are produced and sourced. To translate novel agricultural science into concrete applications and to identify the most promising agricultural technologies, Nestlé today announced the creation of the Nestlé Institute of Agricultural Sciences.

The new institute will focus on the areas of plant science, dairy livestock and agricultural systems science. In close collaboration with internal and external partners, it will assess and combine science-based solutions to improve the nutritional and sensorial qualities and the environmental impact of agricultural raw materials.

Stefan Palzer, Nestlé CTO, said: *"Our transition towards a regenerative food system is enabled by agricultural science and new agricultural technologies. The new institute will accelerate the translation of science into concrete solutions that can be implemented at farm level, to support farmers globally in improving their environmental footprint, in reducing food and nutrient losses, and in better adapting to climate change while ensuring the quality of the raw materials they produce."*

The institute builds on Nestlé's existing work and expertise in agricultural science, with important programs already being implemented. For example, our plant science experts have been contributing to the company's sustainable cocoa and coffee sourcing plans – the [Nestlé Cocoa Plan](#) and the [Nescafé Plan](#) - including with scientific discoveries such as the recently announced high-yield, drought and disease resistant [coffee varieties](#). Nestlé experts are also working on identifying the most suitable pulses and grains to provide low carbon, plant-based alternatives to meat, seafood and dairy. This strong focus on plant science will be further strengthened and extended to additional crops. The institute will also accelerate the work with external partners to contribute to reducing emissions in dairy farming, to develop regenerative agriculture practices, and to improve biodiversity and soil health. The institute will also explore new approaches to [upcycling agricultural side streams](#) to reduce nutrient loss and food waste along the agricultural value chain.

Isabelle Bureau-Franz, Head of Nestlé Research, said: *"The work in agricultural sciences will complement our broad expertise at Nestlé Research, ranging from food safety to health science, material science and packaging. We will leverage our scientific breadth to drive holistic approaches, contributing to concrete solutions and innovation applied throughout the value chain, including in products."*

The institute will work closely with academic institutions and research organizations, start-ups, industry partners and farmers to assess and develop science-based solutions and adapt them for implementation and scale-up across the company's supply chain, while having a positive impact on the livelihoods and incomes of farmers. It will rely on new and existing collaborations, such as [the research program with ETHZ](#) to reduce the carbon footprint of agricultural products.

Jeroen Dijkman, Head of the Institute of Agricultural Sciences, said: *"At the institute we will screen a wide variety of science-based agricultural solutions and assess their potential for reducing the environmental footprint of key agricultural raw materials. Together with our research and industry partners we want to bring the most promising approaches and solutions to farmers and contribute to their transition to regenerative practices with scalable and impactful applications."*

As part of Nestlé's global research organization, the institute will be based in state-of-the-art facilities in Lausanne, Switzerland – which are due to be formally inaugurated later this year. It will also include the company's plant science unit in France, as well as existing cocoa, coffee, and dairy research farms based in Ecuador, Côte d'Ivoire, Thailand and Switzerland.

Nestlé invests yearly CHF 1.7 billion in research and development, involving more than 4,000 people at 23 sites around the world, to accelerate the innovation of science-based products across life stages, in a way that's good for you and the planet.

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