



Press release – Paris, May 28, 2026

## **EIB grants Limagrain €300m loan to support seed innovation and sustainable agricultural sovereignty**

- **The loan, part of the EIB’s TechEU program, will bolster Limagrain’s seed R&D activities.**
- **EIB support will spur the development of innovative plant breeding solutions that enhance agronomic performance as well as nutritional and environmental qualities.**
- **The loan is backed by guarantees from the European Commission’s InvestEU program.**

Limagrain and the European Investment Bank (EIB) announce a €300 million financing agreement to accelerate the Group’s seed research and development activities.

The long-term financing is backed by guarantees under the European Commission’s InvestEU program, which mobilizes large-scale public-private investments to advance Europe’s strategic priorities—notably the green transition, innovation and competitiveness.

### **€300 million for innovation and research at Limagrain**

This is one of the EIB’s largest financing operations in European agriculture and the second loan Limagrain—the world’s largest pure seed company—has received from the EU’s lending arm. In 2020, the EIB lent the Limagrain agricultural cooperative an initial €170 million.

This new partnership will strengthen Limagrain’s global R&D investment program, led by its subsidiary Vilmorin & Cie, which is developing innovative plant-genetics solutions to address today’s major agricultural, food and climate challenges.

Our research will focus on improving crop agronomic performance—yields, disease and pest resistance, climate and geographical adaptability, drought tolerance, and nutrient-use efficiency—as well as enhancing nutritional and environmental qualities.

By supporting this innovation drive, the EIB is reinforcing the strategic role of seeds as the first link in the food chain and a key lever for more sustainable, sovereign agriculture.

*“With this loan, the European Investment Bank is putting its weight behind a strategic link in Europe’s food sovereignty. Innovation in plant breeding gives farmers the tools they need to address climate challenges in the form of more resilient seeds,” notes **EIB Vice-President Ambroise FAYOLLE**. “This project shows the TechEU investment program’s commitment to advancing European innovation in key sectors like agriculture and the bioeconomy. By supporting Limagrain’s research efforts with InvestEU guarantees, we are helping to develop concrete solutions that will strengthen European food security and reinforce regional resilience.”*

**Sébastien VIDAL, Chairman of Limagrain**, added, *“On behalf of Limagrain, I want to thank the European Investment Bank and its Vice-President, Ambroise Fayolle, for granting us this historic €300 million loan—and for the trust they have placed in us. Their support reflects Europe’s commitment to seed innovation, a key driver of sustainable agricultural sovereignty. It also sends a strong political and strategic message, once again giving food the central role and recognition it deserves.”*

*“By granting Vilmorin & Cie this €300 million loan, the EIB has shown it firmly believes that Europe needs to invest in its homegrown innovation to support its agricultural sovereignty. It is a vote of confidence in our strategy: serving farmers and regions through innovation, value creation and responsible business. When we invest in agriculture and plant innovation, we are steering our own destiny,” noted **Sébastien CHAUFFAUT, CEO of Limagrain**.*

## **Background**

Given the challenges the world faces, Limagrain is convinced that plant breeding is vital to ensuring sustainable farming that can feed the world—and feed it well.

We have a long history of expertise in plant genetics, developing high value-added field and vegetable seeds for farmers, vegetable growers and amateur gardeners all over the world—seeds that support the agricultural transition.

In 2024-2025, we devoted €324 million to research and development.

At the end of 2024, the EIB Group launched a pan-European €3 billion package of loans for agriculture and the bioeconomy, intended to mobilize €8.4 billion investments, notably in green financing and climate risk reduction. In total, over the years 2024 and 2025, the EIB has strengthened its financial support for agriculture and the bioeconomy with nearly €15 billion in financing.

### **About the European Investment Bank (EIB)**

*The EIB Group – whose shareholders are the 27 European Union member states – is the EU’s long-term financing institution and one of the largest multilateral development banks in the world. In 2025, it signed €100 billion of new financing and advisory mandates to support over 870 high-impact projects across eight major priorities aligned with the EU’s top objectives: climate action and environment; digital transition and technological innovation; security and defense; territorial cohesion; agriculture and bioeconomy; social infrastructure; strong global partnerships; and the union of savings and investment. In addition to long-term loans for major infrastructure, the EIB Group mobilizes private investment in support of businesses and high-risk innovative projects, playing a growing role in European markets for venture debt, venture capital, guarantees, and securitization. In 2025, the EIB Group invested €13 billion in projects in France, including €800 million in agriculture and the bioeconomy.*

*Media can find photos of the EIB Group’s management and headquarters, logos, and B-roll videos in the press kit available on the EIB website.*

### **About Limagrain**

*Limagrain is a global company with deep local roots. Our parent company is an agricultural cooperative based in the Limagne-Val d'Allier plain, in the heart of Central France's Auvergne region, while we are an international seed and agri-food group with some 9,600 employees working in 53 countries. At Limagrain, we breed, produce, and sell high value-added field and vegetable seeds, drawing on our long history of expertise in plant improvement. Uniquely, we also have agri-food chain businesses, in France and internationally, to transform the produce of the Cooperative's 1,300 farmer members. The world faces escalating climatic, environmental and demographic challenges, and our various businesses help address its food and farming issues. As the 4th largest seed company in the world, we achieved sales of 2,500 M€ in 2024-2025.*

[www.limagrain.com](http://www.limagrain.com) - #Limagrain

### **About InvestEU**

*The InvestEU programme provides the European Union with essential long-term funding by mobilizing significant public and private funds to support a sustainable recovery. It also helps to mobilize private investment in support of the EU's strategic priorities, such as the European Green Deal and the digital transition. InvestEU brings together under one roof the multiple EU financial instruments available to support investment in the EU, making project financing in Europe simpler, more efficient and more flexible. The programme comprises three components: the Fund, the Advisory Hub, and the InvestEU Portal. The InvestEU Fund is implemented via financial partners who invest in projects using the EU budget guarantee of €26.2 billion. The entire budget guarantee supports implementing partners' investment projects and increases their risk-bearing capacity, thereby expectedly mobilizing at least €372 billion in additional investments.*

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