

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

**OVER \$2.5 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR GENOMIC SOLUTIONS  
IN AGRICULTURE AND BIO-FOOD, FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Montréal, June 15, 2023** – Génome Québec, in partnership with the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT), is particularly excited to announce the 10 research teams, representing five academic institutes in Québec, that have won major funding in genomics. The total investment, including public and private partners, amounts to over \$2.5 million as part of the second round of the *Genomics Integration Program – Agriculture and Biofood, Forestry and Environment*.

“Following a highly successful first cycle, the second round of this program looks promising. Funded projects will, among other things, develop genomic solutions to counter pathogens that threaten the productivity of the bio-food and forestry sectors, design new biostimulants for agriculture and optimize urban farming systems, all from a sustainable development perspective. This opportunity will catalyze many collaborations between the scientific community, Québec start-ups and SMEs, enabling them to grow and innovate with the help of genomics,” according to Stéphanie Lord-Fontaine, Vice President, Scientific Affairs at Génome Québec.

“I'm delighted for the research teams receiving support today in this new round of the Genomics Integration Program. This second cycle will see the emergence of innovative technological concepts that will strengthen the sustainable development and resilience of strategic sectors for Québec's economy, including agriculture and the bio-food industry. The FRQNT also salutes the connections between the research community and non-academic actors, which will enable these innovations to be successfully implemented in end-user sectors, thus reaffirming the relevance of this program in the FRQNT's programming,” says Janice Bailey, Scientific Director of FRQNT.

**Congratulations to the recipients**

- François-René Bourgeois from the Centre des technologies de l'eau in partnership with ÉAU (Écosystèmes Alimentaires Urbains) - [Control and Optimization of the Microbial Flora of an Aquaponic System](#)
- Philippe Constant from the Institut national de la recherche scientifique in partnership with the Centre de recherche agroalimentaire de Mirabel - [Prevention of Grapevine Trunk Diseases using a Genomic Tool for Decision Support](#)
- Saji George and Suha Jabaji from McGill University in partnership with BioSun Products INC. - [Use of Genomics Approaches to Study the Mode of Action of a Novel Nano-Enabled Biostimulant \(nOB9\) and its Impact on Root Nodulation and Soil Microbial Health](#)
- Thiago Gumiere from Université Laval in partnership with Premier Tech - [Development of a Tool for Molecular Characterizations of Soil Functionalities and Validation of the Effectiveness of a Soil Inoculation Process](#)
- Xiaonan Lu and Xin Zhao from McGill University in partnership with Olymel - [Isothermal Amplification-CRISPR/Cas12a based Lateral Flow Assay for Rapid Detection of Campylobacter in Poultry Products](#)
- Véronique Ouellet and Marc-André Sirard from Université Laval in partnership with Dairy Farmers of Canada - [Epigenetic selection for heat tolerance in dairy calves](#)
- Edel Pérez Lopez from Université Laval in partnership with Les Serres Sagami and Ulysse Biotech - [Understanding the interplay between Clavibacter michiganensis, tomato, and a biological control agent](#)

**Génomique Québec would also like to highlight its funding for the following recipient projects:**

- Eric Déziel from the Institut national de la recherche scientifique in partnership with Dispersa - [Creation of a Tunable Microbial Strain for Production of Specific Sophorolipids](#)
- Cassandre Lazar from Université du Québec à Montréal in partnership with Derena Geosciences, Exploration Midland, Mine Raglan (Glencore), Nouveau Monde Graphite and Ressources Utica Forages Inc. - [MicroGenNx: a new approach to characterize deep geological bodies using DNA belonging to native rock-dwelling microbial communities](#)
- Ilga Porth and Louis Bernier from Université Laval in partnership with Natural Resources Canada et Canadian Food Inspection Agency - [A Highly Sensitive Monitoring Tool for the Real-Time Detection of Tree Pathogens](#)

**What is the *Genomics Integration Program – Agriculture and Biofood, Forestry and Environment*?**

This program supports projects ranging from \$100,000 to \$300,000 by covering half of the funding for partnerships between academic researchers and users partners capable of implementing and/or commercializing the research results. The funds must be used to develop a proof of concept that can be leveraged to secure subsequent funding. The funds can also be used to help the user partner integrate the proof-of-concept results at the end of the project. Projects must relate to fields such as agriculture and biofood, forestry, and the environment and include an omics technology component—for example, the development of new omics technology, the use of artificial intelligence to mine omics data, genetic engineering, synthetic biology, etc.

**About Génomique Québec**

Génomique Québec's mission is to catalyze the development and excellence of genomics research and promote its integration and democratization. It is a pillar of the Québec bioeconomy and contributes to Québec's influence and its social and sustainable development. The funds invested by Génomique Québec are provided by the ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie du Québec (MEIE), the government of Canada, through Genome Canada, and private partners. To learn more, visit [www.genomequebec.com](http://www.genomequebec.com).

**About the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies**

The FRQNT's mission is to support and promote research and the next generation of researchers in their excellence, diversity and openness, in order to stimulate discovery and innovation. Through its strategic orientations, FRQNT aims to attract diversified, creative and agile research talent, ensuring an innovative workforce for society as a whole; to propel open and fundamental research, generating breakthrough discoveries; and to position research as a key to responding to partner issues and major societal challenges. <https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/en/nature-and-technologies/>.

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