

## **Semillas Fitó and Micropep Technologies enter into Collaboration Agreement to improve plant breeding on vegetable crops.**

Barcelona and Toulouse, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Semillas Fitó and Micropep Technologies announced today that they have entered into a collaboration in vegetable crops.

Micropep Technologies uses the naturally-evolved actions of small peptides, usually 10 to 20 amino acids long, directly applied to plant cells. These peptides transiently regulate the expression of microRNAs that, in turn, orchestrate the expression of plant physiology master-genes. Potential applications include improving the soil/plant interactions, yield improvement and weed management. It has the potential to become a key element of the toolbox available to breeders and farmers to improve plant performance with minimal environmental footprint.

Eduard Fitó, Head of Business Development of Semillas Fitó said *“This technology has the potential to dramatically change the plant breeding and plant protection industry. We see a broad potential of applications for this technology to strengthen our leadership position in the seed industry”*

Thomas Laurent, Co-founder & CEO of Micropep said: *“This collaboration agreement is an important early step for Micropep. The development of our technology is the result of a tight collaboration between LRSV scientists, SATT Toulouse Tech Transfer and Micropep. We are all very pleased by its rapid adoption by Semillas Fitó, a major industry player.”*

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### **About Micropep Technologies**

Micropep is a French company developing a disruptive patented technology that uses small natural proteins to temporarily manage and control plant genetics. This technology is based on scientific discoveries made at LRSV, a leading academic plant research laboratory in Toulouse, and has been licensed to Micropep under a worldwide exclusive agreement with the French Technology Transfer Office TTT.

### **About Semillas Fitó**

Semillas Fitó is one of the oldest and largest seed companies in the Mediterranean region whose main focus is the research and development of new plant varieties. The economic and human resources devoted by the company to research and development, which represents more than 15% of its turnover and 38% of its staff, are the highest of any Spanish agribusiness company. For more information visit [www.semillasfito.com](http://www.semillasfito.com)

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