

# News Release

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## **BASF to acquire innovative melon breeding company ASL**

- **Acquisition will secure and increase BASF's position in melon seeds**
- **Expansion of BASF's breeding and seed production in France**
- **Closing planned on January 1, 2023**

*Nunhem, the Netherlands* – On Wednesday, October 28, 2020 BASF has formally agreed to acquire ASL, one of the most innovative melon breeding companies in the world, to continue expanding its position as a preferred partner in the fruit and vegetable value chain. The transaction with the privately-owned French company based near Avignon, covers all assets, including seed production, intellectual property rights, germplasm, research and development facilities as well as staff.

ASL is specialized in orange flesh type melons, such as the Cantaloup and Charentais types. To guarantee an efficient know-how transfer it is planned to close the acquisition on January 1, 2023. The owners' decision to pursue the divestment of their company to their long-term partner, BASF, will secure the continuation of the most innovative melon breeding program.

“For the global vegetable seeds industry, melon is an important crop. BASF's vegetable seeds portfolio marketed under the Nunhems® brand already covers hybrid melon seeds,” said Vicente Navarro, Senior Vice President of BASF's vegetable seeds business. “By acquiring ASL, we continue offering a highly

innovative melon pipeline to our value chain partners and consumers. They are the ultimate motive of all our business activities and the reason why we want to make healthy eating enjoyable and sustainable by breeding new varieties that meet their expectations in taste and convenience.”

The seed production and breeding facilities near Avignon will complement BASF’s existing network of 23 breeding stations for vegetable seeds worldwide and will be the first station for R&D activities, such as breeding and screening, located in France.

Financial details of the transaction are not disclosed.

Further information about BASF vegetable seeds business is available at [www.nunhems.com](http://www.nunhems.com).

#### **About BASF’s Agricultural Solutions division**

With a rapidly growing population, the world is increasingly dependent on our ability to develop and maintain sustainable agriculture and healthy environments. Working with farmers, agricultural professionals, pest management experts and others, it is our role to help make this possible. That’s why we invest in a strong R&D pipeline and broad portfolio, including seeds and traits, chemical and biological crop protection, soil management, plant health, pest control and digital farming. With expert teams in the lab, field, office and in production, we connect innovative thinking and down-to-earth action to create real world ideas that work – for farmers, society and the planet. In 2019, our division generated sales of €7.8 billion. For more information, please visit [www.agriculture.basf.com](http://www.agriculture.basf.com) or any of our social media channels.

#### **About BASF**

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. More than 117,000 employees in the BASF Group work on contributing to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio is organized into six segments: Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, Surface Technologies, Nutrition & Care and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of €59 billion in 2019. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchange in Frankfurt (BAS) and as American Depositary Receipts (BASFY) in the U.S. Further information at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).