أبوظبي الوطنية للإستثمار والتطوير
Abu Dhabi National Investment and Development
SINCE 1974 منذ

QITAF Holding Signs Strategic Agreement with Reagenics to Advance Saffron Production and Plant Biotechnology in Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi, UAE – 8 October 2026 – Abu Dhabi National Investment and Development PJSC (ADID), a public joint stock company listed on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX), has announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, QITAF Holding, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Reagenics Research Ltd. on 8 October 2026, during Global Food Week 2026 in Abu Dhabi.

The strategic partnership aims to explore the introduction and commercial development of advanced plant-cell cultivation technology in the United Arab Emirates, **with saffron identified as the first priority for potential production and commercialisation in Abu Dhabi.**

The collaboration brings together QITAF Holding's strategic investment and development capabilities with Reagenics' proprietary biotechnology platform, which enables the cultivation of valuable plant-derived materials in controlled environments, offering potential year-round production beyond the seasonal and geographical limitations of conventional agriculture.

Through this partnership, the two companies intend to evaluate opportunities to establish advanced saffron-related production capabilities in Abu Dhabi, targeting high-value applications across the food, wellness and specialty industries. The agreement also provides a framework for exploring technology localisation, research and development, commercial applications and potential expansion into other high-value plant-derived products.

Shamsa Sulaiman AlFahim, Chief Executive Officer of QITAF Holding, commented:
"This strategic partnership represents another important step in ADID's diversification into high-value industries and advanced agricultural technologies.
Saffron is internationally recognised as one of the world's most valuable agricultural products, and we see significant opportunities to explore innovative methods of producing saffron-derived materials through advanced biotechnology.
By combining Reagenics' proprietary technology with QITAF's development capabilities, our ambition is to explore the establishment of a new generation of agricultural biotechnology activities in Abu Dhabi, creating opportunities for innovation, economic diversification and long-term commercial value. This initiative reflects our commitment to supporting Abu Dhabi's position as a leading destination for advanced agricultural technologies and sustainable economic development."

Eran Lagon, Chief Executive Officer of Reagenics, stated:
"We are delighted to partner with QITAF Holding, a wholly owned subsidiary of ADID, to explore bringing our advanced plant-cell cultivation technology to Abu Dhabi.
Our proprietary platform offers new possibilities for producing valuable plant-derived materials under controlled conditions, beginning with saffron.
Through this collaboration, we look forward to combining our scientific expertise with QITAF's strategic capabilities to explore commercially viable opportunities in the UAE and potentially serve international markets."

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The partnership forms part of ADID's broader strategy to diversify its investment portfolio and expand into sectors including agriculture, food security, agricultural technology, biotechnology and the bioeconomy through QITAF Holding.

The initiative also reflects Abu Dhabi's growing focus on innovation-driven industries, advanced technologies and the development of sustainable, high-value production capabilities.

The MoU establishes an initial framework for cooperation. Any specific investment commitments, commercial production arrangements or implementation plans will be subject to further technical and commercial assessments and, where applicable, definitive agreements.

