THE WORLD LIVING SOILS FORUM:

International start-ups, a powerful lever for living soils

The World Living Soils Forum (WLSF), an event with an ambition to accelerate the development and sharing of knowledge about the living soils, will bring together scientists, researchers, and international experts on June 1 and 2. For this first edition of the WLSF, the organizers aim to create a powerful dynamic of action toward concrete solutions developed by, and with, start-ups committed to living soils in their respective countries and ecosystems.

Innovation for living soils around four themes

4 major themes have been selected in an attempt to cover all the issues related to living soils and to allow start-ups to reveal the potential for more sustainable and resilient agriculture. For each theme, one or more start-ups proposing solutions, services or products that address the identified issue(s) will be presented.

BIODIVERSITY AND WATER: PROTECTING KEY RESOURCES FOR LIVING SOILS.

4 start-ups have been selected to illustrate these interdependent topics.

• Realizing that farmers often lack access to comprehensive and directly usable data for a holistic approach, **CropX**, which develops cloud-based software solutions coupled with sensors, offers farmers simple and affordable tools to better understand the health of their soils. This allows them to better manage their water resources, better use inputs, and optimize their yields while also having a beneficial effect on soil health and biodiversity.

• Evolving practices on the irrigation front is crucial both for the conservation of the resource and for the economic stakes linked to watering practices for the farmer. **Telaqua** offers simple solutions to monitor, program and optimize irrigation with the use of connected sensors and an intuitive application.

• By serving as a food source for microbes essential to soil health, microalgae are pivotal in maintaining the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of living soils. **MyLand**, extracts and isolates native microalgae from soil samples and introduces a system to multiply the selected algal strain.

• The interpretation of the sounds of birds or vertebrates has long served as an indicator to monitor these populations. **Baker Consultants**, a green solutions consultancy that works at all stages of crop planning and development, uses the sounds and vibrations emitted by insects in the soil to assess their health.

REGENERATING THE SOIL: PROMOTING VIRTUOUS AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

• Scientific findings around mycorrhizal symbiosis highlight the importance of the links between organisms from the world of fungi and plants. Adapting this scientific knowledge to the field of agriculture, **Mycophyto** develops and produces biological solutions adapted to all kinds of crops, to increase yields while boosting the natural biodiversity of soils, and reducing the environmental footprint of the crops.

LIVING SOIL: A PROMISING LEVER TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE. 2 START-UPS HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO ILLUSTRATE THIS THEME.

• Farming practices must evolve, and these changes can be beneficial to the farmer. This is the premise of **Soil Capital**, which offers a certified carbon offsetting program for farmers, helping to compensate their transition to better farming practices and thus promoting the transition to regenerative agriculture.

• Considering the waste generated by certain agricultural practices, the need to regenerate depleted soils and the impact of climate change on agricultural practices, **Husk**, which focuses on rice growing practices, offers a solution to transform

waste from rice cultivation into biochar on site. Through a pyrolysis system, this ancient process is revised and modernized to store carbon in the soil and nourish it in a circular fashion, while helping rice farmers reduce their dependence on nitrogen inputs.

ACCELERATING THE TRANSITION: SOLUTIONS FOR SCALING UP

• Making the right decisions at the right time: that is what farmers do every day. But they need to be in full possession of their own data and able to analyze it. **Trinity Agtech**, which offers a software and a trusted digital assistant, gives this power back to the farmers, who become the owners and managers of their data and can thus reach their full potential.

A collaborative, open and demanding selection process

Out of one hundred and thirty start-ups considered, a shortlist of seventeen was made and eight were invited to present their solutions in an open agora to encourage discussion. Among this pre-selection were fourteen scale-ups and three start-ups, four of which were from France, while the others were from Belgium, Holland, the United Kingdom, East Africa, Israel, the USA and New Zealand. Some of them are coming to France for the first time.

The selection process used to identify these start-ups is the result of a collective effort by Moët Hennessy's international ecosystem, at the heart of innovation, relying in particular on the expertise of Circul'R and Earlymetrics. Strict criteria were established: initially to pass the first level of selection, the start-up had to have demonstrated the maturity of its solution through the profile of its customers, the recognition of its technical capabilities and the potential for deployment of its solutions. Then, various parameters were studied, including the start-ups' links with academics and institutions, their financing and public or private support, any labels or sectoral recognitions already obtained, as well as the composition of their teams.