



PRESS RELEASE
Paris, March 04, 2026

Amatera raises €6M to speed up the development of climate resilient crops

Founded in 2022, Amatera is pioneering the development of climate resilient crops. Its proprietary platform integrates advanced plant cell biology, robotics, and artificial intelligence to evaluate plants at the cellular level - accelerating the identification and prediction of high-performing, resilient varieties.

This seed funding round was co-led by Demea Sustainable Investment (ex-Demeter) and Oyster Bay Venture Capital, alongside existing shareholders (PINC, Mudcake, Exceptional Ventures).

Paris, France – March 04, 2026 – Amatera, a Paris-based biotechnology company, today announced the closing of its latest funding round of €6 million in equity. The round was co-led by Demea Sustainable Investment (ex-Demeter) and Oyster Bay Venture Capital, with participation from existing investors - PINC, Mudcake, and Exceptional Ventures.

A persistent challenge in both conventional and emerging breeding technologies is the time-intensive and labor-heavy process of generating and screening new plant varieties. Amatera's proprietary platform addresses this bottleneck by combining plant cell biology, robotics, and artificial intelligence to automate the discovery of high-performing traits at the cellular level. The result is a process that is up to 2x faster and 10x more cost-effective than current industry standards.

Amatera started with proprietary development of new varieties of wine grapes and coffee and is now partnering with leading seed companies and agrifood players to integrate its platform and leverage its expertise into commercial breeding programs. The new capital will support expansion beyond coffee and wine grapes into annual crops, further scale automation and commercialization of its genetics platform.

Addressing resilience in perennial crops

"It can take more than 20 years and millions of euros to create a new coffee or wine grape variety with conventional breeding techniques. We are accelerating the breeding of perennial crops to create new varieties at a fraction of the cost and time. Our goal is to outpace climate change by dramatically expanding natural variation," said **Omar Dekkiche, co-founder and CEO of Amatera.**

By identifying natural cellular variation early in development, Amatera enables the rapid creation and evaluation of non-GMO varieties. This approach significantly shortens breeding timelines while reducing cost and technical risk.

Amatera is deploying its platform to develop high-value perennial crops and is currently focused on:

- Climate-resilient coffee: Developing varieties better adapted to higher temperatures and increased pathogen pressure while preserving premium flavor profiles.
- Disease-resistant wine grapes: Addressing destructive vineyard diseases to reduce chemical inputs and safeguard the long-term sustainability and viability of key wine regions.

Expanding into vegetable and row crops

Armed with €6 million in seed funding, Amatera is expanding its engineering and scientific teams. “This funding enables us to scale our technology from coffee and grapes to the staple crops that feed the world, while strengthening our R&D capabilities to industrialize our patented robotics and AI platform,” said **Lucie Kriegshauser, co-founder and CTO of Amatera**.

Amatera is building strategic partnerships with seed companies to deploy its cellular screening platform in tackling breeding challenges across row and vegetable crops. These collaborations aim to compress R&D timelines, reduce development costs, and increase throughput.

By automating labor-intensive processes such as plant regeneration, tissue culture, and screening, Amatera accelerates breeding progress across old and new breeding technologies including gene editing, mutation breeding, and doubled haploids.

“Amatera has developed a highly differentiated platform combining plant biology, automation and AI to address one of agriculture’s most urgent challenges: climate resilience. By dramatically accelerating breeding timelines compared to traditional approaches, the company offers a scalable, non-GMO and cost-effective solution for perennial crops such as wine grapes and coffee but also for annual crops. We are proud to support this visionary team with strong scientific depth and a clear ambition to industrialize the next generation of crop genetics,” says **Stéphanie Hillard, Investment director at Demea Invest**.

Divya Murthy, Principal at Oyster Bay adds, “From our first conversations, it was clear that Omar and Lucie make an incredibly complementary team with a solid scientific approach to navigate the path from lab to field. Our strategy includes backing foundational technologies that strengthen agricultural resilience and food security, and Amatera directly addresses a structural bottleneck in crop development. Resilient crops will not be optional in the future, and we believe Amatera is building a scalable technology the industry will increasingly rely on to meet this challenge.”

About Amatera

Amatera Biosciences is a Paris-based biotechnology startup building the technology needed to help agriculture adapt to climate change. By combining plant cell biology, automation and artificial intelligence, Amatera accelerates the development of resilient non-GMO crop varieties at a fraction of the cost and time.

About Demea Sustainable Investment (ex- Demeter)

Demea Sustainable Investment (formerly Demeter Investment Managers) and Demea Agro (formerly Cerea Partners) are subsidiaries of Demea Invest. For more than 20 years, they have been leading investment companies dedicated to the sustainable growth of agriculture, agrifood, energy, and the ecological transition.

Demea Invest manages €3 billion raised from institutional investors, corporates, and family offices. It has supported 450 startups, SMEs, and projects across venture capital, growth equity, buyout, infrastructure, mezzanine financing, and private debt. The Demea Invest team comprises 70 professionals based in Paris, Lyon, Bordeaux, Düsseldorf, Madrid, and Montreal.

Demea Sustainable Investment invested in Amatera through its fund VitiRev Innovation (Article 9), a €70 million fund dedicated to the environmental transition of the wine industry. The fund's main investors include the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region via the VitiREV program, Banque des Territoires on behalf of the French State as part of the France 2030 “Territoires d’innovation” program, as well as numerous wine producers, banks, and insurance companies.

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About Oyster Bay Venture Capital

Oyster Bay is Germany’s first specialized food VC started back in 2017. The team invests in startups that simultaneously transform food, climate, and supply chains, applying Oyster Bay’s entrepreneurial perspective, Hanseatic clarity, and global outlook. Fund I ranks among the top 10% of all European funds, and Fund II continues this trajectory with over €100 million. Oyster Bay invests in early stage (Seed-Series A) EU-focused startups and an initial cheque size of € 1-5 million with significant follow-on reserves. The fund is backed by investors such as the European Investment Fund (EIF) and KfW as well as many players within the food and agriculture sector.