VILMORIN-MIKADO SOWS THE FUTURE

NEW LABORATORIES REINFORCE GLOBAL SEED QUALITY AND TESTING CAPABILITIES

Vilmorin-Mikado, a French Japanese seed company part of Limagrain, has inaugurated three new quality control laboratories at its French headquarters in La Ménitré, France. This investment reinforces the company's long-term commitment to innovation, seed quality and operational excellence for customers worldwide. The new facilities represent an investment of €6.3 million.

Expanding quality control capabilities to support a growing global market

As demand for seed testing continues to grow, driven by increasing regulatory requirements, evolving phytosanitary risks and more complex quality standards, Vilmorin-Mikado has significantly expanded its analytical capabilities through three dedicated laboratories focused on:

- **Germination** testing,
- **Genetic** identity verification,
- Seed **pathology** diagnostics.

The new 2,173 m² facility brings together these complementary activities under one roof and is designed to support both French and international operations.



New Quality Control Laboratories
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With the new laboratories, annual analysis capacity can increase from more than **35,000 analyses today to over 50,000 analyses per year**, representing a capacity increase of more than 40%. More than 40 specialists now work within the facility.

Supporting faster innovation and enhanced customer service

Beyond increased capacity, the laboratories have been designed as a platform for continuous innovation. The new infrastructure will enable:

- Faster development of new testing methods,
- Greater responsiveness to emerging seed-borne diseases and regulatory changes,
- Reduced lead times for product release and customer support activities.

The facility also incorporates advanced automation, molecular diagnostics and dedicated metrology activities to ensure high levels of reliability and operational efficiency.

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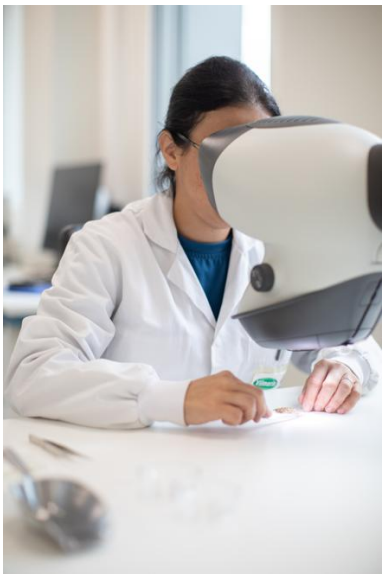
Guaranteeing seed quality through specialized expertise

The three laboratories address key quality assurance requirements across the seed value chain:

Germination Quality Control Laboratory
Conducting approximately 25,000 tests annually, the germination laboratory evaluates seed purity and germination performance under both standardized and stress conditions representative of different growing regions around the world.

Genetics Quality Control Laboratory
The Genetics laboratory verifies varietal identity through molecular marker analysis and other validation methods. It routinely supports 26 vegetable crops, performs approximately 2,500 genetic tests each year and analyses more than six million genetic data points annually.

Pathology Quality Control Laboratory
Focused on the detection of seed-transmitted pathogens, the pathology laboratory conducts approximately 4,000 tests annually across up to 45 crop-pathogen combinations using techniques including qPCR, ELISA, and mycological analysis.



High-Precision Magnifying Glass
- Germination Quality Control Laboratory -
© Teddy LOCQUARD / Vilmorin-Mikado

Internationally recognized standards

Seed quality relies not only on scientific expertise but also on the reliability, traceability and impartiality of testing processes. To ensure that customers worldwide can rely on consistent and robust results, Vilmorin-Mikado quality control laboratories operate under internationally recognized standards and quality frameworks. The laboratories benefit from several official recognitions, including:

- **ISO 17025 accreditation**, the international reference standard for testing laboratory competence (COFRAC Accreditation N°1-7117, scope available on www.cofrac.fr);
- **Germination test according to ISTA methods**, ensuring compliance with internationally accepted seed testing rules;
- **GSPP certification** (Good Seed and Plant Practices), supporting the prevention of contamination by seed-borne pathogens on tomato;
- **NAL authorization (N°7441)** for regulated seed health analyses, seed purity and varietal purity.

"For our customers, seed quality starts long before the seed reaches the field. These new laboratories expand our ability to provide reliable, timely and internationally recognized analyses throughout the seed production process. By combining advanced technologies, recognized methods and the expertise of our teams, we are enhancing the quality assurance services that support our customers' performance and confidence worldwide"

Rodolphe THIÉBAUT,
Head of Global Supply, Vilmorin-Mikado

These recognitions reflect Vilmorin-Mikado's commitment to delivering reliable, reproducible and internationally accepted analytical results for customers, regulators and partners across the global seed industry.

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QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORIES

3 new laboratories
Germination
Genetics, Pathology

€6.3M
investment

35,000+
analyses per year today
with the potential to reach
50,000+ analyses per year



40%
increase in analysis capacity

40+
experts



KEY PROJECT DATES

July 2023 | Project launch
July 2024 | Construction work begins on site
January 2026 | Construction completed

2.5 years
Project duration

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About Vilmorin-Mikado

Vilmorin-Mikado *is a Franco-Japanese seed producer that has specialized in breeding, producing, and selling high value-added vegetable seeds for professionals since 1743. As a responsible partner in the vegetable food chain, Vilmorin-Mikado is committed to helping better nourish people everywhere. Our wide range of unique, original seeds is distributed on five continents in more than 100 countries. Vilmorin-Mikado has more than 1,000 employees and recorded sales of €248 million in 2025-2026, of which 17% was entirely devoted to research. World leader in carrots and witloof chicory, Vilmorin-Mikado is also a major player in salads, tomatoes, sweet peppers, kabocha squashes, daikon radishes and bunching onions. Nearly three centuries ago, Vilmorin-Mikado's founders began our Tree Seeds work, which actively contributes to rebuilding sustainable forests.* www.vilmorinmikado.com *- #VilmorinMikado*

Vilmorin-Mikado is part of ***Limagrain****, an international seed & agri-food group owned by a French agricultural cooperative. Drawing on its long history of expertise in plant improvement, Limagrain is today the fourth largest seed company in the world.* www.limagrain.com *- #Limagrain*

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