

# Manus Bio and STK Bio-Ag Technologies to develop next-gen biopesticides

Created: Monday, 03 August 2020 09:39



Manus Bio Facility in Cambridge. (Image source: Manus Bio Inc)

**Manus Bio Inc and STK Bio-Ag Technologies (STK) have collaborated to develop and commercialise a series of natural plant-based active ingredients as new and highly-efficacious biopesticide products**

The first active ingredient in development by the collaboration has demonstrated potent efficacy for insect control across multiple classes of **pests** that commonly impact fruit, vegetable, and row crops.

**Manus Bio** will be the exclusive supplier to **STK** for this first major ingredient as they work together to commercialise this proprietary and patented STK product.

As this active ingredient is of low abundance in nature, a major challenge has been to produce at the scale and economics required for deployment as a commercial crop

protection solution. **Manus Bio** is using its advanced bio-fermentation platform and industrial manufacturing capabilities to develop a robust production process to supply this and other ingredients at the volumes and costs required to enable widespread use as **biopesticides**. **STK** will apply its unique expertise in advanced plant science and bio-ag solutions to enable the development and commercialisation of these new cutting-edge botanical - based solutions worldwide.

**Dr Ajikumar Parayil, CEO of Manus Bio**, commented that the collaboration aims to develop sustainable natural products for agricultural applications, which is an excellent fit for high-performing microbial natural products chassis.

“Manus has proven capabilities in the large-scale production of complex natural ingredients. We are thrilled to be working with **Manus Bio** to bring this innovative active to become the basis for a family of new solutions for the benefit of farmers dealing with the growing need for sustainable farming,” said **Arye Tenenbaum, CEO of STK**.