

Fera Science: a year of strategic moves, leadership changes and groundbreaking research

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In 2024, Fera Science Limited (Fera), a prominent agriculture, food safety, and environmental research organisation, has undergone significant transformations marked by strategic partnerships, innovative studies, and leadership changes.

New Leadership at the Helm

Fera appointed Dr Wolfhart Hauser as Chair of its Board in October, succeeding Richard McCarthy CBE, who completed a successful five-year tenure. This leadership change positions Fera for its next phase of growth and innovation.

Award-Winning Excellence

In September, Fera was honoured with the prestigious "Lab of the Year" award, recognising its commitment to scientific integrity, innovation, and addressing global challenges in food systems, including food fraud and emerging risks.

Innovative Partnerships

October: Fera joined forces with 17 Asset Management to address food security and sustainability issues through cutting-edge science and responsible investment strategies.

July: Fera partnered with Albert Bartlett, the UK's leading supplier of potatoes, to combat aphid infestations and viral infections, critical threats to Scotland's seed potato crops.

February: Bridgepoint Development Capital IV (BDC IV) acquired Capita's 75% stake in Fera, valuing the company at £80 million, paving the way for strategic growth and innovation.

Pioneering Research

August: Fera, in collaboration with SugaROx Ltd, unveiled a study on a revolutionary biostimulant technology to enhance tomato resilience to climate change while reducing production's carbon footprint.

EU Regulation Compliance Advisory: Following the EU's 12-month extension of the Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR), Fera urged companies to leverage this time to test and ensure compliance for commodities like soy, coffee, cocoa, and palm oil.

Global Impact

Together with its partners, Fera is tackling pressing global challenges, including climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable food production, and the fight against food fraud. Its initiatives align with international efforts to safeguard food systems and drive sustainable change.

With a strengthened leadership team, award-winning capabilities, and transformative partnerships, Fera Science is poised to lead the way in sustainable agriculture, food safety, and environmental research.