

Project Meta Due getting funds: Secondary metabolism of plants under scrutiny at Ilsa

■ The Italian company Ilsa spa has obtained a funding from the Regional Council of Veneto for its project Meta Due, ranking 12th among over 400 companies that asked the regional body funds for research. Meta Due is the third Ilsa project obtaining financial coverage from the Regional Council of Veneto, following suit to Ilsa previous programs, namely Vebiof and U.V.A. This guarantees scientific continuity in the company's long-term research work, directed towards the study of fertilizers derived from natural plant matrices; this step is towards the valorization of food industry waste and the creation of new biological products for plant nutrition, as well as for a more rational and efficient use of synthesis products.

The project was designed by the R&D department of Ilsa, coordinated by Adriano Altissimo; it envisages a scientific contribution from the Department

of Agricultural Biotechnology of the University of Padua, led by Serenella Nardi from the CRA (Consiglio per la Ricerca e Sperimentazione in agricoltura = Council for Research and Experimentation in agriculture) of Rome, as well as from the German University of Kassel.

With the program Vebiof in 2008, Ilsa focused on the processes of extraction and characterization of active molecules in formulations of plant origin. Now, with project Meta Due, Ilsa research is focusing on the effects of formulates both at the primary metabolism level, responsible for proper plant nutrition, and at the secondary metabolism level, responsible for plant health. Therefore, the goal of Meta Due will be that of evaluating the various natural extracts and the effectiveness of active molecules inside cells.

The project will last two years, and its conclusion is expected by the end of 2012.

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