

BSI Wins Best Biotech Startup Business of the Year 2022 Award

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DAVIS, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE) --May 25, 2022--

Botanical Solution Inc. (BSI), innovator of sustainable, consistent and cost-effective Advanced Botanical Materials (ABM) for agricultural and pharmaceutical applications, has won the “Best Biotech Startup Business of the Year 2022” Award from the World BioProtection Forum and was selected finalist for two more categories. This Award was presented to BSI Senior Vice President Latin America Diego Ibañez who also was one of the distinguished speakers at the main event, held on May 23 in Birmingham, UK.

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Botanical Solution Inc. (BSI) Senior VP for Latin America, Diego Ibañez (Center), receives the Best Biotech Startup Company of the Year Award from the World BioProtection Forum. This prestigious Award, determined by a panel of 20 distinguished agricultural scientists and senior executives, recognized BSI's development and successful commercialization of Quillibrium botanical-based biofungicide, which is currently used for the protection of fruits & vegetable crops in

Chile, Peru, with plans for 2022 - 23 rollouts in Mexico and the USA, respectively. Quillibrium is extracted from the *Quillaja saponaria* tree which grows in Chile. While Chilean deforestation law protects these trees from being cut down, BSI has innovated and patented an innovative method for growing these trees in their labs and then extracting the active ingredients while the *Quillaja saponaria* plants are *in vitro* ... baby trees. BSI's unique method of product development is creating a powerful new product pipeline. (Photo: Business Wire)

An international panel of 20 senior agricultural executives and research scientists evaluated dozens of successful projects based on a point system. The judges' collective decision to award this honor to BSI was based on the company's discovery, innovativeness, scientific value and successful commercialization of its new biofungicide Quillibrium® for fruit and vegetable growers worldwide. The judges also selected BSI as one of the 'Finalists' for the Most Innovative Research Project and the Best Collaboration of the Year for its strong partnership with Syngenta in Latin America.

BSI scientists discovered that extracts of a tissue cultured tree native to Chile, the *Quillaja saponaria*, produce a powerful biofungicide which protects a wide variety of fruits and vegetables against a broad spectrum of plant diseases. An early stumbling block to commercial development was the Chilean deforestation law which strictly forbids the cutting down of *Quillaja saponaria* trees. BSI overcame this obstacle by innovating and patenting a unique method of growing these trees right in the company's own laboratories, and then extracting the active ingredients while the trees are *in vitro* ... baby trees. The same technology also fuels BSI's pipeline of new biopesticide candidates that are based on a number of plant species, which ensures virtually unlimited supply of raw materials and highly consistent active ingredients that have prevented traditional botanicals from its true potential... until now.

The new botanical-based biofungicide Quillibrium is being used successfully throughout Chile and Peru on a wide variety of fruits and vegetables through its distributor Syngenta. Quillibrium awaits regulatory approval in Mexico and the USA, and will soon initiate registration in additional countries to expand its global footprint.

BSI CEO Gastón Salinas declared, "The BSI team is honored to receive the Best Biotech Startup of the Year Award from the World BioProtection Forum. BSI is building strong foundations to deliver the world's most advanced botanical biopesticides for fruit and vegetable growers worldwide, starting with Quillibrium. We are creating a powerful product pipeline for the next generation of botanical-based products." Gastón Salinas will be keynote speaker at Biocontrol Latam on August 16th in Santiago, Chile.

About BSI

BSI, a Delaware Corporation, has a proprietary R&D platform for truly sustainable and improved production of consistent and high-quality Advanced Botanical Materials (ABM). ABM-01 is the first ABM produced by the company, based on a

tissue cultured plant called *Quillaja saponaria*. ABM-01 is the active ingredient used in two gold standard products, BSI's biopesticide Quillibrium® and the adjuvant QS-21, used in modern vaccine development. To learn more visit us at www.botanical-solution.com.

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