



Bindbridge targets black-grass with AI-discovered molecular glues

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The 24-month programme with Niab will use Bindbridge's BRIDGE platform to discover molecular glues targeting black-grass, while developing herbicide-resistant wheat to improve crop selectivity and support future product development



Bindbridge, an AI-driven molecular discovery company developing novel crop-protection technologies, has secured public funding of approximately £400,000 through Defra's Farming Innovation Programme to advance its internal pipeline of molecular glues for agriculture.

The 24-month programme, undertaken in collaboration with Niab, will apply Bindbridge's proprietary BRIDGE discovery platform to develop novel molecules targeting black-grass, one of the most economically damaging and herbicide-resistant weeds affecting English wheat production.

BRIDGE uses AI to discover molecular glues, small molecule chemistry, that selectively trigger the degradation of plant proteins essential for weed survival, offering a potential new mode of action for crop protection. The programme will progress candidates from computational discovery through laboratory and in-plant studies, with the objective of generating experimentally validated molecules. Additionally, the project will use targeted wheat transformation to confer resistance to the novel herbicide, supporting crop selectivity and future product development.

"This award accelerates two important parts of our strategy: continuing to build BRIDGE as a differentiated computational discovery platform, while generating and advancing proprietary crop-protection assets within our own pipeline", said Dr George Crane, CEO and co-founder of Bindbridge. "Black-grass is an important application for targeted protein degradation in agriculture and a strong starting point for developing differentiated herbicide assets with broader relevance across economically important weeds."

Working with Niab, the programme will advance Bindbridge's black-grass programme through molecular optimisation, biological characterisation and whole-plant studies, while also developing herbicide-resistant wheat to support crop selectivity and future product development. Together, these activities will strengthen the asset package for future development with

leading crop-protection partners.