



## **'THE RADICLE NPP CHALLENGE BY UPL' REVEALS FINALISTS COMPETING FOR US\$1.75M INVESTMENT**

- *The Challenge seeks to advance natural and biological solutions to protect crops from biotic stresses and saw applications from 237 agriculture start-ups representing over 55 countries.*
- *The finalists competing for the US\$1.75M investment at the Pitch Day Event on March 18th include IBI-Ag, Impetus Agriculture, SOLASTA Bio, and Trillium Ag.*

**LONDON, February 14, 2024** - UPL Corporation Ltd. (UPL Corp), a global provider of holistic and sustainable agricultural solutions, and Radicle Growth, a company-building platform investing in early-stage agriculture and food technologies, today announces the finalists of "The Radicle Natural Plant Protection (NPP) Challenge by UPL". The Challenge sets out to invest US \$1.75M in start-up companies from around the world that are advancing natural and biological solutions to protect crops from biotic stresses such as bacteria, fungi, nematodes, insects, arachnids, and weeds. The four finalists competing for investment are:

- **IBI-Ag:** IBI Ag harnesses the power of antibodies to develop bioinsecticides that target pests with precision while minimizing environmental impact.
- **Impetus Agriculture:** Impetus Agriculture is developing new biological insect control products with the effectiveness of legacy chemical methods of control.
- **SOLASTA Bio:** SOLASTA Bio is a bioinsecticides company designing nature-inspired, selectively targeted peptide insect control products.
- **Trillium Ag:** Trillium Ag is developing a platform to unlock RNAi for precise, sustainable, and effective crop protection.

Mike Frank, CEO of UPL Corp., said: "We were delighted to receive 237 applications for the NPP Radicle Challenge – signaling the extraordinary innovation happening across the biologicals space. Our business unit Natural Plant Protection (NPP) offers growers an extensive portfolio of biosolutions to increase crop resilience and protection, improve nutrition, and support soil health, and we're excited to work with pioneering innovators to help bring to market more nature-based solutions."

Kirk Haney, Managing Partner of Radicle Growth, said: "We are incredibly impressed with the game-changing technologies we have identified through the Radicle Challenge process and believe these technologies can be transformative in advancing natural and biological control solutions in the food value chain."

Each company will present to a panel of judges on March 18<sup>th</sup>. A US \$1 million investment will be made in The Challenge winner and a US \$750,000 investment in the second-place winner to accelerate their growth. In addition to the funding, the winners will get access to advice from both UPL and Radicle senior executives to help accelerate their company's business and technical efforts.

The NPP Radicle Challenge marks the second competition led by UPL in collaboration with Radicle Growth, with a total of US \$1.25M invested in two companies in the 2022 'UPL Radicle Carbon & Soil Challenge'.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**About UPL Corp**

UPL Corporation Ltd. (UPL Corp) is a leading global crop protection and biological solutions company defining the future through sustainable agriculture and a grower-first mindset. With a robust portfolio of holistic solutions, UPL Corp aims to create shared growth and prosperity for farming communities, agriculture, and our planet. As the largest of UPL Group's pureplay platforms, UPL Corp contributes to more than \$5bn in annual revenue and is a leader in fostering collaboration through OpenAg® to develop advanced technologies for crop health and productivity.

**About UPL Group**

UPL Ltd. (NSE: UPL, BSE: 512070, LSE GDR: UPLL) is a global provider of sustainable agricultural products and solutions that cover the entire agrifood value chain. With annual revenue exceeding \$6bn, the company is one of the largest agriculture companies worldwide, serving growers in more than 130 countries. UPL Group consists of four pure-play platforms that include UPL Corporation Ltd. (UPL Corp); UPL Sustainable Agri Solutions (SAS); Advanta Enterprises Ltd.; and UPL Specialty Chemicals Ltd. (USCL). Together, these platforms are dedicated to Reimagining Sustainability and driving progress in our food system through our innovative OpenAg® approach. To learn more about UPL, please visit [upl-ltd.com](https://upl-ltd.com) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), and [Facebook](#).

**About Radicle Growth**

[Radicle Growth](#) selects innovative, early-stage companies for investment, ensuring that disruptive AgTech & Food Tech companies reach their full potential. In addition to providing seed-stage capital, Radicle Growth provides a fertile environment for visionaries in the ag and food space to flourish. Their proprietary platform is one of a kind in the ag and food industry, filling a huge void in the market by identifying the most innovative technologies and accelerating them with a range of value-creation initiatives. To connect and learn more about Radicle Growth follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). To stay informed on Radicle Challenges, visit: <https://radicle.vc/the-radicle-challenge/>.