



PRESS RELEASE

Sofiprotéol supports CIACAM in its development to strengthen its financial structure and accelerate its growth.

Paris, Vitrolles, December 3, 2024 – Sofiproteol, Avril's investment company dedicated to agricultural and food industry players, supports CIACAM, the French leader in dried vegetables, in its development. This financial commitment aims to consolidate its balance sheet by providing quasi-equity and to support it in its strategy to strengthen its French supplies.

70 years of expertise in the trade of dried vegetables

Founded in 1950 by Samson Cherqui, CIACAM is a family business based in Vitrolles (PACA) and Merville (Hauts-de-France). Specializing in the trade and marketing of dried vegetables (chickpeas, lentils, beans, peas...), it relies on unique expertise in sourcing, serving French and international food industries. With a turnover of 70 million euros, growing thanks to the market's dynamism, and an annual sales volume of 65,000 tons of products, CIACAM positions itself as a key partner in the agricultural and food industries.

Strengthening French supply in a market dominated by imports

In a market where more than 60% of dried vegetables are imported, CIACAM aims to strengthen its French supplies. Faced with the challenges of the sector, this challenge relies on close collaboration with all stakeholders (producer organizations, storage organizations, industrialists). CIACAM aims to base its supply strategy on the agronomic (nitrogen fixation, fertilizer reduction, interest in rotations) and nutritional benefits of legumes.

Cyril Melin, Associate Director of Sofiprotéol

"Legumes play an essential role in agricultural, food, and environmental transitions and are at the heart of the issues supported by Sofiprotéol. We are pleased to support CIACAM in its desire to boost local production, in line with our mission to Serve the Earth."

A long-term partnership for sustainable development

With Sofiprotéol, CIACAM intends to sustain its historical relationships with its French and international partners while investing in the future of local sectors. "Thanks to Sofiprotéol's support, we will strengthen our financial structure and accelerate our development while consolidating our model," says **Illan Cherki**, President of CIACAM.

Key figures :

- 65,000 tons of dried vegetables sold per year
- Two industrial sites: Merville (59) and Vitrolles (13)
- Turnover of 70 million euros
- 45 employees

Sofiprotéol participants in the Ciacam operation : Cyril Melin, Géraud Nologues, Gaspard Chabaille d'Auvigny, and Anne-Sophie Dubourg.

About Sofiprotéol:

Sofiprotéol, created in 1983 at the initiative of the agricultural community, is Avril's financing and development company, and is committed to agricultural and food sector companies. Sofiprotéol, a sustainable partner, dedicated to food and environmental transitions, supports sector companies over the long term, in particular to consolidate their equity capital during growth and investment initiatives aimed at improving their competitiveness. From credit to equity capital, Sofiprotéol's financing solutions are based on an industrial and entrepreneurial approach. They support development and innovation at all stages of the sectors: from upstream of agricultural production (seeds, genetics, crop inputs, etc.) to downstream (agro-industrial and food sectors), through the grain handling and food processing industries.

Find out more: www.sofiproteol.com

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