

Unfold Unveils New Vertical Farming Solutions To Bring Fresher and More Sustainable Produce to Market

With \$30 million in funding from Leaps by Bayer and Temasek, Unfold combines seed genetics, crop growing expertise and digital solutions to help vertical farmers succeed

DAVIS, CA, AUG. 12, 2020 — Unfold, a new company that combines leading seed genetics with crop growing and agronomic expertise to advance the vertical farming industry, launches today with an initial \$30-million investment from Leaps by Bayer, the impact investment arm of Bayer AG, and Temasek. As part of this initial funding, Unfold gains rights to Bayer’s germplasm from their world-class vegetable seed portfolio.

Unfold’s mission is to improve the food ecosystem with more sustainable, fresher, and better-tasting fruits and vegetables to help farm operators and retailers deliver on the immense promise of vertical farming. While most start-ups in the vertical farming area focus on the development of more efficient infrastructure, Unfold will be unique for its ability to utilize world-class seed genetics (germplasm) from vegetable crops to develop new seed varieties coupled with agronomic advice tailored for the precise indoor environment of vertical farms.

“Unfold unlocks the power of vertical farming by offering new seed varieties for farming operations that are focused on produce quality - a process that wastes less food, is fresher and ultimately tastes better as a result,” said John Purcell, Ph.D., President and CEO of Unfold. “To put it in perspective, In the United States over 90 percent of the leafy greens are grown in California, but 75 percent of their consumption is east of the Rocky Mountains. Vertical farming offers a local and sustainable solution that brings delicious produce closer to consumers.”

The potential in vertical farming is massive. It represents a \$50 billion market opportunity driven by the demand for fresh, local, sustainable produce year-round. The advantages of vertical farming include reducing the water needs and pesticide use required to grow crops while enabling produce to be grown locally near the communities who consume them. As the first and only company with unparalleled assets to unlock the genetic components of vertical farming, Unfold has a greenfield opportunity within the industry to drive its continued growth and success.

Unfold serves the vertical farming market through a series of partnerships with farming operators, technology providers, and other organizations across the produce supply chain. In doing so, Unfold aims to help create and support sustainably grown, hyperlocal food production in order to help with food security for growing and diverse populations.

For more information about Unfold, current job opportunities, and to stay informed on future announcements about the company, you can visit Unfold’s [website](#) or follow any of our social channels on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).