



PRESS RELEASE

Vienna, 27 March 2026

AGRANA confers promotion award for science and research at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)

Dr. Marianna Giancaterino and Dr. Henrique Rasera were honored yesterday at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, with the AGRANA Research Promotion Award

Dr. Giancaterino received the award for her research work on the use of electrotechnologies in the processing of agricultural commodities for food production. Technologies such as pulsed electrical fields and ohmic heating have long represented more sustainable approaches in the food industry and improve food safety and quality while also requiring less energy. Electrical fields promote material and heat transfers through the formation of pores in cell membranes despite the exact mechanism of action still being unexplained. Her study investigates how electrotechnologies influence the processing of fruit and vegetables and evaluates their potential.

Dr. Henrique Rasera Raniro, who was not able to accept the award in person, received the AGRANA award for her thesis on the added value of cover crops in mobilising soil-based phosphorus deposits. This work underlines the relevance of chemical processes in the soil in the interests of sustainable agriculture. Dr. Raniro's research findings confirm the advantages of greater plant diversity as a means of improving the phosphorus cycle and identify cover crops as an effective means of sustainable phosphorus management.

"Our Research Promotion Award is a conscious effort to recognise the work of young scientists engaged in answering the key future-oriented questions related to food production," stresses AGRANA COO Franz Ennser. "Both doctoral theses address an important challenge in the processing of agricultural commodities: improving processing efficiency and sustainability without negatively impacting product quality. This is also a central issue for AGRANA. Approaches such

as those of Marianna Giancaterino and Henrique Rasesa Ranero therefore fully align with our aim of optimising the usage of commodities and produce food more efficiently. As a result, their research makes a valuable contribution to achieving more sustainability along the entire value chain,” Ennser adds in closing.

Caption:

(from left to right) BOKU Rector Eva Schulev-Steindl, AGRANA COO Franz Ennser, award recipient Marianna Giancaterino and BOKU Vice Rector Christian Obinger (image copyright: BOKU Vienna)

About AGRANA

AGRANA converts agricultural raw materials into high-quality foods and numerous industrial intermediate products. Around 9,000 employees working in its two business divisions, Food & Beverage Solutions and Agricultural Commodities & Specialities, generate annual Group revenue of approximately € 3.5 billion at 50 production facilities worldwide. The Group was founded in 1988, is the global leader in fruit preparations and a leading manufacturer (and supplier) worldwide of apple and berry juice concentrates. AGRANA is the leading sugar company in Central and Eastern Europe and a major producer of customised potato, corn and wheat starch products as well as bioethanol.

This press release is available at <https://www.agrana.com/>.