2024 AgTech Venture Capital Investment and Exit Round Up

By **CropLife**

Last year, our analysis of <u>Crunchbase</u> data shows 736 AgTech startups raised a total of \$5.7B, writes market expert Kyle Welborn at <u>CropLife</u>. This represents a flat level of funding and a small decrease in deals from 2023. There were 37 AgTech exits last year, 36 M&A transactions and one IPO. This is up 32% from the <u>28 AgTech exits from 2023</u>.

Key Takeaways from Last Year

In 2024, startup funding mirrored the previous year, with \$314B raised globally across industries — a 3% increase from 2023. AgTech made up 1.82% of total venture capital funding. Compared to 2023, robotics startups saw a \$135M funding increase, while funding for crops and genetics startups grew by \$280M in 2024. However, climate monitoring and farmer credit startups raised \$300M less, and funding for controlled environment agriculture dropped by \$125M compared to 2023.

AgTech exits began to rebound compared with 2023. Data from Pitchbook and the National Venture Capital Association count 3,083 venture backed exits last year. That means AgTech related deals accounted for 1.2% of all exits in 2024. There were 34 unique groups that acquired an AgTech startup last year, of

which 47% of those acquirers were startups and early-stage companies, 44% were more mature or established companies, and 9% were investment firms and holding companies. Startup-to-startup acquisitions are often stock-based, so around 19 M&A transactions last year likely involved cash that went back to founders and investors.

AgTech Venture Investments

Below is a breakout of the deals and dollars that flowed to different sectors of AgTech last year:

| Market Focus | 2024 Deals | 2024 Dollars Raised |
|---|------------|---------------------|
| Alternative Protein, Processing, Food Tech, Feed Production, Food Upcycling & Ingredients | 127 | \$977,000,815 |
| Animal Health, Nutrition, Production, Breeding, & Monitoring | 53 | \$294,707,746 |
| Aquaculture Management & Inputs | 29 | \$201,560,888 |
| Biological, Pollination, Novel Crop Inputs & Protection | 82 | \$465,365,230 |
| Climate Monitoring, Crop Insurance, Farmer Credit, Financial Services & Carbon Trading Initiatives | 81 | \$701,493,466 |
| Controlled Environment Agriculture | 41 | \$246,193,501 |
| Digital Agronomy, In Field Sensors, Decision Support & Farm Management Software | 84 | \$322,914,431 |
| Farm Robotics, Automation & Labor Planning | 51 | \$413,581,735 |
| Food Preservation, Safety, Shelf-Life Extension, Waste Reduction & Reprocessing | 60 | \$797,790,160 |
| New Crops & Genetics | 38 | \$380,859,471 |
| Supply Chain, Trading, Tracking, Traceability & eCommerce | 83 | \$495,065,809 |
| Other | 7 | \$416,537,494 |
| Total | 736 | \$5,713,070,746 |

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