

Press release 27 May 2019

## **Innovative project for underground fish farming enters second phase**

**Sargans - SCAUT's 'Underground Green Farming' project is entering its second phase. The Aquaponic prototype combines the sustainable, underground cultivation of fish and salad. With the second delivery of rainbow trout from the canton of Thurgau and additional personnel, the project will take the next step towards overcoming the food shortage.**

Since February 2019 SCAUT operates together with international industry partners the innovative 'Underground Green Farming' prototype for the sustainable production of food in the underground by means of aquaponics. The project is now entering its second phase with another delivery of rainbow trout. For this reason, the number of employees will be increased and supplemented with further experts. Furthermore, an optimisation of the lighting concept for the salad culture in naturally dark tunnels should ensure an even better yield.

The Aquaponic system works in a closed circuit: The water from the fish tanks, which is enriched with nutrients via fish excrement, serves as a food source for the plants and is then returned to the water cycle. The prototype in the Hagerbach Test Gallery in Flums consists of three areas - fish tank, salad culture in raised beds and biofilter plant.

The use of underground space in urban areas is intended to reduce the transport costs for food and the associated traffic volume as well as exhaust emissions in the future. Furthermore, the constantly constant climatic conditions in the subsoil also reduce the CO2 footprint of cities, as less heating or cooling is required.

We are happy to show interested media representatives the 'Underground Green Farming' prototype in the Hagerbach Test Gallery Flums, 45 minutes by car from Zurich. Please send your request to: [info@scaut-association.com](mailto:info@scaut-association.com)

Learn more about Aquaponic:

SCAUT Website: <https://bit.ly/2EggNTF>

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*The Swiss Centre of Applied Underground Technologies (SCAUT) is the world's leading competency centre for the use of the underground space. It relies on high-end engineering, innovative solutions and most advanced ITC to make a substantial contribution to the creation of underground spaces for the future and to provide relief for metropolises and highly populated urban areas.*

*The SCAUT consortium working on the 'Underground Green Farming' project consists of the following industry partners: Amberg Group, AMP Aquaponic Management Project, Pacelum, the Hagerbach Test Gallery and APB Environment.*

**Pictures:**



**Picture 1:**

It is sprouting underground: the use of underground infrastructures is intended to overcome the food shortage in the future. The 'Underground Green Farming' prototype is a first step in this direction.



**Picture 2:**

The rainbow trout from a fish farmer in the canton of Thurgau feed the salad cultures in the aquaponic cycle with their excrements.