ZIXIN GROUP HOLDINGS
紫心集团控股

(Incorporated in the Republic of Singapore with Unique Entity No.: 200718683N)
Website: www.zixingroup.com.sg
SGX stock code: 42W

Zixin Group enters into strategic collaboration with the Agricultural Genomics Institute at Shenzhen, which is held by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and forms a biotechnological joint venture to accelerate growth and innovation in the sweet potato agricultural industry

- **Expansion into data and analytics to unlock valuable insights to enhance genomics of sweet potato varieties and cultivation solutions**
- **Joint venture partnership is to drive R&D in agroecological technology and digital agriculture to amalgamate the core biotech competencies on the genetic resources database, and transform science and technology into functional cultivation of seedlings and sweet potato crops**

For Immediate Release

SINGAPORE, 18 July 2023 – SGX Catalist listed **Zixin Group Holdings Limited 紫心集团控股** ("**Zixin**" or the "**Company**" and together with its subsidiaries, the "**Zixin Group**"), a leading sweet potato biotech-focused value chain operator, wishes to update shareholders and potential investors that its wholly-owned subsidiary Fujian Zixin Biotechnological Potato Co., Ltd. 福建紫心生物薯业有限公司 ("**Zixin Biotech**") had on 29 June 2023 entered into a strategic collaboration agreement with the Agricultural Genomics Institute at Shenzhen("**AGIS**") which is a government-supported scientific research organisation held by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences ("**CAAS**") 中国农业科学院深圳农业基因组研究所, (the "**Strategic Collaboration**"). On the same day, Zixin Biotech had executed the articles of association with regards to the formation of a joint venture company, Shenzhen Zixin Provenance Biotechnology Co., Ltd 深圳紫心种源生物科技有限公司 ("**Zixin Provenance Biotech**") with Fujian Good Villa Agroecological Technology Co., Ltd 福建鼓龙农业生态科技有限公司 ("**Good Villa Agrotech**"), and AgSino China Digital Nutrition Technology (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd. 中农数字营养科技（深圳）有限公司 ("**AgSino Digital Agritech**") (the "**Joint Venture Partnership**").

Commenting on the Strategic Collaboration and the Joint Venture Partnership, the Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Zixin Group, Mr. Liang Chengwang (梁承旺) said, "**Zixin Group's DNA has always been in bio-tech and specifically in sweet potatoes. Being one of the**

first-movers in agri-tech more than 10 years ago, we have experienced an uphill climb. We are truly thankful that our relentless efforts in demonstrating the feasibility of agriculture revolving around science and technology, transformed us into an integrated agri-tech industrial value chain operator.

Our prior years of investments in research and development ("R&D") were targeted at addressing our internal concerns as we construct the industrial value chain. With the Chinese government's determination in strengthening the agricultural sector to address food security concerns, we think it is timely to expand our agricultural genomics research coverage to the whole of China. We believe our expansion into data and analytics to unlock valuable insights which can potentially enhance genomics of sweet potato varieties and cultivation solutions to address the suitability of cultivation in agricultural driven regions in China, will be the game changer for the nation. This spurred our Strategic Collaboration agreement with AGIS.

To utilise the valuable resources from the Strategic Collaboration, we have also put together the expertise of Good Villa Agrotech and AgSino Digital Agritech in agroecology and digital agriculture, respectively, in our Joint Venture Partnership. We believe this initiative will accelerate growth and innovation for the sweet potato industry in China, when implemented through our circular economy business model. Correspondingly, our initiatives and efforts are also expected to contribute positively to the local communities in the agricultural sector and of some assistance in addressing national food security concerns."

(References: **Agroecology** is the application of ecological concepts and principals in farming. Agroecology promotes farming practices that mitigate climate change - reducing emissions, recycling resources and prioritising local supply chains. **Digital agriculture** is the integration of digital technology into livestock and crop management and other processes related to cultivating and managing food resources.)

The Strategic Collaboration with AGIS

The Strategic Collaboration with AGIS is for five (5) years and will involve joint efforts to research the collection of functional sweet potato germplasm resources, the construction of a genetic resources database, molecular breeding, the creation of functional biological products, research and technological system innovation, project declaration, and talent training.

AGIS is a modern and innovative research institute jointly constructed by the CAAS and Shenzhen Municipality, and is the only national research institute specialising in agricultural genomics

research in China. It is mainly engaged in agricultural genomics research and big data analysis, and has constructed the Key Laboratory of Agricultural Genetic Data Analysis of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Key Laboratory of Agricultural Genome Phenotype Analysis and Utilisation of Shenzhen.

Established in 1957, CAAS is a national, integrative agricultural scientific research organisation with responsibility for carrying out both basic and applied research, as well as research into new technologies impacting agriculture. CAAS is dedicated to overcoming a broad range of challenges impacting agricultural development and support of the local rural economy. Importantly, CAAS promotes sustainable agriculture within and outside China, extending its reach through technology exchange and cooperative research agreements with agricultural research institutions/universities domestically and internationally, and global non-governmental organisations.

The Joint Venture Partnership – Zixin Provenance Biotech

Zixin Provenance Biotech was subsequently incorporated on 12 July 2023 with a registered paid-up capital of RMB 10.0 million (equivalent to approximately S$1.9 million). The capital which has been contributed and fully paid up, as well as the shareholding ascribed to the respective joint venture partners in Zixin Provenance Biotech are as follows:

Joint Venture Partners	Capital Contribution (RMB' million)	Shareholding in Provenance Biotech
Good Villa Agrotech	6.0	60%
AgSino Digital Agritech	2.0	20%
Zixin Biotech	2.0	20%
Total	**10.0**	**100%**

The objective of incorporating Zixin Provenance Biotech is to drive R&D in agroecological technology and digital agriculture, which will amalgamate the core biotech competencies on the genetic resources database, and transform science and technology into functional cultivation of seedlings and sweet potato crops. The business activities of Zixin Provenance Biotech will also include providing professional training, technical support, and management services as well as facilitating seamless cooperation across the integrated industrial value chain and supporting industries.

The Company will make further update announcements on SGXNet in compliance with the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited Listing Manual Section B: Rules of Catalist as appropriate or when there are material developments in respect of the same.

Cautionary Note:

Shareholders and potential investors are advised to exercise caution when dealing with the shares of the Company. Persons who are in doubt as to the action they should take should consult their stockbrokers, bank managers, solicitors, accountants, or other professional advisers before trading in or making any investment decision regarding the Company's shares.

Zixin Group Holdings Limited 紫心集团控股

(Stock code – SGX: **42W** | Bloomberg: **ZXGH SP** | Reuters: **42W.SI**)

Zixin Group Holdings Limited (formerly known as China Star Food Group Limited) ("**Zixin**" or the "**Company**" and together with its subsidiaries, the "**Zixin Group**") is a leading sweet potato biotech-focused value chain operator in China. Through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, the Group harnesses its biotechnology capabilities to strengthen and support its core business areas: (a) **cultivation and supply** – (i) research and development on sweet potato varieties to cultivate own sweet potato seedlings, (ii) sweet potato cultivation techniques and solutions to improve the quality and yield for farmlands, and (iii) fresh sweet potato supply, (b) **product innovation and food production** – food processing techniques to maximise nutrient retention in proprietary branded products, (c) **brand building, marketing and distribution** – building of proprietary brands of healthier snacks through targeted marketing campaigns and various distribution platforms (traditional and e-commerce) throughout China, and (d) **recovery and recycling** – recovering nutritional content from sweet potato peels, and converting waste materials such as sweet potato peels, stems and leaves into main ingredients for poultry and animal feed. The Zixin Group will continue to reinforce its circular economy business model in these four main areas to further enhance their effectiveness.

The Zixin Group aims to be a leading sweet potato focused agritech operator globally, leveraging on smart ecological agriculture, utilising biotech throughout its value chain to produce quality sweet potato seedlings, healthier snack food and functional food, as well as deploying modern marketing and distribution methods such as online and retail e-commerce sales channels to complement its traditional wholesalers and distributors, to promote its proprietary brands for better market reach.

Please visit the Company's website at www.zixingroup.com.sg for more information.

Issued for and on behalf of **Zixin Group Holdings Limited** by:

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*This press release has been prepared by the Company and reviewed by the Company's sponsor, Novus Corporate Finance Pte. Ltd. (the "**Sponsor**") in compliance with Rule 226(2) of the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (the "**SGX-ST**") Listing Manual Section B: Rules of Catalist.*

This press release has not been examined or approved by the SGX-ST and the SGX-ST assumes no responsibility for the contents of this press release, including the correctness of any of the statements or opinions made, or reports contained in this press release.

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