



Syngenta Media Releases:

Syngenta Licenses Chromatin Gene Stacking Technology for Sugar cane

Research Triangle Park, NC, USA, June 26, 2009

Syngenta Biotechnology, Inc. announced today that it has entered into an exclusive worldwide research and commercial license agreement for Chromatin's proprietary gene stacking technology in sugar cane.

Chromatin has developed a novel approach to gene stacking, using the plant's own DNA to deliver several genes. Under this agreement, Syngenta has obtained exclusive rights to use Chromatin's stacking technology for trait genes in all members of the genus *Saccharum* which includes commercial sugar cane varieties as well as energy cane, and crosses between *Saccharum* and other plant species. Syngenta obtained non-exclusive rights for use of this stacking technology in corn and soybean in 2007.

Sugar cane is among the top crops grown today for use in sugar production and biofuels. Syngenta offers a broad range of crop protection products for sugar cane growers and is developing a novel planting technology planned for launch in 2010 under the brand name Plene™ that will help reduce production costs. New trait combinations in sugar cane could offer growers additional improvements in production efficiency and yield increases.

"Sugar cane growers and processors will benefit economically and environmentally from access to a combination of advanced traits that this technology could make," said Ian Jepson, Global R&D sugar cane crop lead. "This new stacking technology, combined with the advanced plant varieties, crop protection choices, and our revolutionary new Plene technology will ensure our customers will have the best solutions in sugar cane and will give us a leading position especially in the large Brazilian market."

"Chromatin is pleased to continue our work with Syngenta," said Daphne Preuss, Chromatin's chief executive officer and president. "The broad Syngenta pipeline and crop production programs make them an ideal partner for us in applying Chromatin's gene stacking technology in sugar cane worldwide."

Further terms of the deal were not disclosed.

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Syngenta is one of the world's leading companies with more than 24,000 employees in over 90 countries dedicated to our purpose: Bringing plant potential to life. Through world-class science, global reach and commitment to our customers we help to increase crop productivity, protect the environment and improve health and quality of life. For more information about us please go to www.syngenta.com.

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