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SYNGENTA RECEIVES U.S. APPROVAL OF CORN TRAIT

Syngenta has received deregulation of MIR162, the Agrisure Viptera trait, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The trait will be combined with the Agrisure 3000GT trait stack to provide corn growers with broad-spectrum insect control and glyphosate tolerance for maximum convenience and productivity. "The Agrisure Viptera trait is a truly innovative technology that will be the cornerstone of Syngenta's insect control solutions," says Davor Pisk, Chief Operating Officer of Syngenta Seeds. "It provides a new mode of action that has demonstrated a level of pest control and yield performance previously unseen in our industry." Syngenta plans to commercialize hybrids containing the Agrisure Viptera trait for the 2011 growing season. MIR162 has already been approved for cultivation in Canada and Brazil. For more information, click [here](#).

HARRIS MORAN ACQUIRES MESA MAIZE

Harris Moran and sister company Clause – together a business unit of Vilmorin and Cie – has acquired Mesa Maize, a sweet corn seed company located in Olathe, Colorado. "We are excited about adding current sweet corn varieties from Mesa Maize to complement the existing Harris Moran product line and also the potential that exists to combine the germplasm from both companies to make high quality and widely adapted new hybrids to meet customer needs," says Matthew Johnston, President and COO of Harris Moran. The acquisition strengthens Harris Moran and Clause's position in the sweet corn market and provides Mesa Maize access to the business unit's well-established upstream technologies and global distribution platform. For more information, click [here](#).

UC DAVIS HIRES NEW DIRECTOR OF PLANT BREEDING

The University of California, Davis Seed Biotechnology Center has appointed Rale Gjuric as the first Director of the Center's Plant Breeding Academy. Gjuric is currently the President and Managing Director of Haplotech Inc., a Canadian company that he founded specializing in technical and consulting services for plant breeding companies. Previously, Gjuric held the positions of Breeding Manager of DL Seeds and Research and Managing Director of Deutsche Saatveredelung AG, Canada. Gjuric is an accomplished plant breeder with 35 canola varieties released in the last 15 years. For more information, click [here](#).

FLORAGENEX AND BIODIAGNOSTICS TO COLLABORATE

Floragenex and BioDiagnostics Inc. have announced a unique collaborative agreement to expand both companies' scope of services to the global seed industry. The agreement combines Floragenex technology and expertise in DNA sequencing and discovery with BDI's experience and understanding with high-throughput screening and plant breeding. Customers of BDI will have access to Floragenex DNA sequencing and molecular marker discovery services. Customers of Floragenex benefit from the testing and genotyping services offered by BDI and the company's deep experience in the application of genomic tools to plant breeding. "By partnering with Floragenex, BDI can provide cost-effective molecular marker tools to its customers for a wide range of plant species," says Quentin Schultz, President of BDI. "These tools provide precise information that enhances line development and quality assurance testing." BDI and Floragenex will launch their collaboration with projects for customers in the agronomic and vegetable crop markets. For more information, click [here](#).

NOMINATE THE 2010 FUTURE GIANT OF THE INDUSTRY

Seed World is now seeking nominations for the 2010 Future Giants of the Industry award. Future Giants of the Industry annually recognizes a young professional or student who shows the potential to make a significant contribution to the industry. The Future Giants of the Industry program is co-presented by FuSE, an initiative of the American Seed Trade Association, and *Seed World* magazine. For more information or to fill out a nomination form, click [here](#).

ASTA'S ANNUAL MEETING IS FAST APPROACHING

The 127th Annual Meeting of the American Seed Trade Association will take place in San Antonio, Texas, June 26 to 30, 2010 and already has a full lineup of terrific speakers including:

- Michael Specter, the *New Yorker* Staff Writer and author of the book *Denialism – How Irrational Thinking Hinders Scientific Progress, Harms the Planet and Threatens our Lives*.
- Bob Meaney, Executive Vice-President at Valmont, on water and its challenges.
- Ray Gilmartin, Professor at HBS and former CEO of Merck, on benefiting and coping with disruptive technological change.
- Terry Barr, Chief Economist for CoBank, on the economic state of affairs.
- An agribusiness panel that includes Michael Laughlin, Cargill's head of animal nutrition; Mike Miille, COO of AgraQuest, a leading specialty crop protectants company; Scott Ortman, CEO of Kokomo Grain, a leading regional grain company, and Tim Den Dulk, CEO of Fair Oaks Dairy, one of the largest U.S. dairies. The organizing committee has put together a hard hitting listing of speakers that will challenge and inform attendees and better prepare them to cope with the strategic challenges that seem to get only more complicated. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

KEYGENE AND BIOGEMMA JOIN FORCES

KeyGene and Biogemma will share bioinformatics expertise in a long-term collaboration that focuses on data integration and mining of genomics and genetic information applied for sequence-based plant breeding. The collaboration combines the capabilities of KeyGene on molecular breeding, genomics and sequence based molecular analysis with the know-how of Biogemma on genomics, functional genomics and gene-based approaches in field crops. "This will help our scientists with our partners to speed up genetics discoveries necessary to the development of better yielding crops and safer feed and food productions," says Pascual Perez, CEO of Biogemma. For more information, click [here](#).

DISCOVERY MAY LEAD TO NEW VARIETIES OF SOYBEANS

A Purdue University scientist has discovered a long-sought gene that controls the soybean plant's main stem growth and could lead to the creation of new types of soybean plants that will allow producers to incorporate desired characteristics into their local varieties. Jianxin Ma, an Assistant Professor of Agronomy, used the research model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*

to discover the soybean gene that controls whether the plant's stem continues to grow after flowering. The find is a significant key to diversifying the types of soybeans growers can produce all over the world. "The approach that we used in this study proves to be promising for rapid gene discovery and characterization in soybeans," says Ma, whose findings were published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*. For more information, click [here](#).

BAYER CROPSCIENCE ANNOUNCES NEW CHAIR

Bayer CropScience has announced that Sandra Peterson is to be the new Chairman of the Board of Management of Bayer CropScience AG and will join the subgroup's Board of Management on July 1, 2010 and succeed Friedrich Berschauer as Chairman effective October 1, 2010. Peterson has been a member of the Executive Committee of Bayer HealthCare since May 2005, heading up the Medical Care Division since January 2009. For more information, click [here](#).

BECK'S HYBRIDS ADDS TO TEAM

Wade Wiley has joined Beck's Hybrids as Soybean and Wheat Product Development Manager. Wiley will evaluate the best soybean and wheat products for introduction into Beck's seed portfolio. Additionally, Wiley will serve as a liaison between Beck's Research and Sales Department supporting product and placement questions and being a resource to Beck's sales staff in representing products to customers in the marketplace. Most recently, Wiley worked as a genetic supplier where he evaluated thousands of new soybean and wheat varieties annually. Wiley serves as the Soybean Program Chair of the American Seed Trade Association and serves on the Board of Directors with the Indiana Crop Improvement Association. For more information, click [here](#).

ISU AND U OF N ESTABLISH SEED INSTITUTE

Through a \$4.49 million grant over three years from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, the Iowa State University's Seed Science Center, the University of Nairobi, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center and private business experts are establishing a Seed Enterprise Management Institute at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences in Kabete, Kenya. The institute will provide seed training to graduate students who pursue plant breeding in African universities, support the production of improved seed varieties and create a web-based network for information exchange on seed technology. Faculty and staff of ISU's Seed Science Center will provide the guidance and assistance for the physical design and construction of the institute including the seed conditioning, storage and drying facilities, training facilities and a seed laboratory. For more information, click [here](#).

PROTEIOS APPOINTS GENERAL MANAGER

After 22 years with Proteios International BV, the Managing Director, Jan Tamboer, will hand over responsibilities on June 1, 2010 to Rob Pronk, who joined Proteios International BV last year as General Manager of Proteios International BV in Europe. Pronk has a strong background in the pharmaceutical industry and has the task of further strengthening Proteios International BV within the Incotec Group as the leading company in analytical services within the global seed industry. For more information, click [here](#).

CGIAR DEVELOPS TOOLKIT FOR BREEDERS

The Generation Challenge Program of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research has developed the GCP Molecular Marker Toolkit. It is a fast-access device for validated markers of economically important crops namely banana and plantain, barley, bean, cassava, chickpea, coconut, cowpea, faba bean, groundnut, lentil, maize, millet, pigeonpea, potato, rice, sorghum, sweet potato, wheat and yam. The toolkit uses information from public databases, papers and internet sources which have been authenticated through experiences of breeders. For more information, click [here](#).

AGGATEWAY ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE VP AND COO

The AgGateway Board of Directors has announced that Wendy Ann Smith has joined the organization as Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer. Smith has been actively involved in eBusiness over the past 12 years and most recently served AgGateway as acting Executive Vice-President and a member of the AgGateway Management Team. For more information, click [here](#).

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