BASF and Embrapa announce a cooperation agreement

1888PressRelease
(1888PressRelease) July 04, 2011 [1] - The cooperation brings together the expertise and know-how of both partners in the search for untapped agricultural solutions in the areas of biotechnology, genetic improvement, soil fertility and mechanization, plant protection, and physiology. The agreement is valid for five years with no limit on the number of projects to be explored.

Latest agreement will speed up development and introduction of new technologies and solutions for Brazilian agriculture
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Initial project will bring biological product to sugar cane growers

The cooperation has already resulted in projects that are currently in the development stage. The initial project, for example, evaluates the feasibility of using a bacterium to enhance nitrogen fixation for sugar cane plantations. "There is a strong demand for biological products", says Eduardo Leduc, Senior Vice President BASF Crop Protection Latin America, "with their unique mode of action and features, biological products are a perfect complement to our chemical portfolio. As these biologicals do not produce residues, growers have one more tool to manage resistance and gain flexibility to apply crop protection closer to harvesting time".

"We believe that the development of new technologies of this scale is only possible through partnerships such as this one, which enhances the exchange of knowledge between two key agricultural partners in Brazil," says Markus Heldt, President BASF Crop Protection. "The scope of this initial project and the benefited crop was selected according to its relevance to Brazilian agriculture. The objective is to ensure the solutions we bring are relevant and needed", Heldt adds.

BASF and EMBRAPA have a long history of joint projects. In 2010, the companies announced the approval for commercial cultivation of Cultivance®, the first genetically modified crop developed in Brazil, from laboratory to commercialization . With this latest agreement, new joint projects will be brought through the development and commercialization stages at a much faster rate. "The agreement is a great example of effective public- private partnerships capable of developing technologies and furthering the economic, social and environmental strength of Brazilian agriculture", highlights Heldt.

About BASF Crop Protection Division

With sales of €4.0 billion in 2010, BASF's Crop Protection division is a leader in crop protection and a strong partner to the farming industry providing well-established and innovative fungicides, insecticides and herbicides. Farmers use these products and services to improve crop yields and crop quality. Other uses include public

health, structural/urban pest control, turf and ornamental plants, vegetation management, and forestry. BASF aims to turn knowledge rapidly into market success. The vision of BASF's Crop Protection division is to be the world's leading innovator, optimizing agricultural production, improving nutrition, and thus enhancing the quality of life for a growing world population. Further information can be found on the web at www.agro.basf.com [2] or follow us on twitter: www.twitter.com/basfagro [3] .

About BASF

BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products and agricultural products to oil and gas. As a reliable partner BASF creates chemistry to help its customers in virtually all industries to be more successful. With its high-value products and intelligent solutions, BASF plays an important role in finding answers to global challenges such as climate protection, energy efficiency, nutrition and mobility. BASF posted sales of about €63.9 billion in 2010 and had approximately 109,000 employees as of the end of the year. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available in its Social Media Newsroom at newsroom.basf.com .

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