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KeyGene™ and Semillas Fitó sign long-term agreement

Semillas Fitó first member of new field crop consortium within the KeyGene InnovatorsClub

Keygene N.V. and Semillas Fitó announce that they have signed an agreement for a long term collaboration to develop and integrate molecular tools into the breeding programs of Semillas Fitó. Semillas Fitó will be part of the KeyGene InnovatorsClub that started in 2008 with an ornamentals consortium of four flower breeding companies. With Semillas Fitó as the first member, a field crop consortium has now started. Two additional field crop breeding companies have already agreed to join this consortium.

The KeyGene InnovatorsClub is a collaboration platform for small and medium sized plant breeding companies willing to invest in molecular breeding. Members of the KeyGene InnovatorsClub have access to the molecular breeding technologies, know-how and software solutions built up by KeyGene over the past 20 years, while working with vegetable and field crop breeding companies. Recent technology advances make molecular breeding tools available for all breeding programs, including the smaller ones. Semillas Fitó will accelerate its breeding processes using these modern tools to lower costs and develop new varieties.

“This is an excellent opportunity to enhance our molecular biotech activities in Maize, says Eduard Fitó, CEO of Semillas Fitó. Merging the current knowledge and expertise of both companies can give a lot of synergy to our crops.”

Mark van Haaren (Vice President Business Development of KeyGene) says: “The joining of Semillas Fitó in our KeyGene InnovatorsClub as the first field crop company is an important step towards building a field crop consortium next to the already existing ornamental consortium. The enthusiasm of the participating breeding companies to apply molecular tools in their breeding programs makes it a pleasure to collaborate with each other in the KeyGene InnovatorsClub. We expect further growth of the number of both participating field crop and ornamental companies in the coming months.”

About KeyGene

Keygene N.V. (www.keygene.com) is a R&D company with the mission to be the leading company in developing and applying DNA expertise in the field of molecular genetics with a focus on crop plants. In recent years KeyGene invested in next generation sequencing platforms to support its leading position in the field of plant molecular breeding and developed new enabling technologies. KeyGene exploits its proprietary technologies, databases and know-how through strategic alliances, contract research and products for applications in the plant breeding industry. KeyGene has a subsidiary in Rockville Maryland, USA and a Joint Lab at the Shanghai Institute of Biological Sciences in Shanghai, China. In total KeyGene employs 130 researchers and staff.

About Semillas Fitó

Semillas Fitó (www.semillasfito.com) is an independent company with the main focus on research and development of new and leading varieties in vegetables, field crops and grasses. The multinational company aims to be a leading name in top quality and high technological value seeds, meeting consumer needs and giving profitability to professionals. To reach their goals, Semillas Fitó relies on many years of experience, a professional human team and commitment to a R&D focused strategy. Semillas Fitó is located in Southern Europe, Turkey and Mexico and operates world wide.

For more information please contact:

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