



Breeding Scientific Innovations, Harvesting Global Commercial Breakthroughs
Donald Danforth Plant Science Center | St. Louis, MO | May 23 - 24, 2011

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Panels and Keynote Speakers for Third Annual Ag Innovation Showcase
Focus on Agricultural Solutions to Global Crises in
Food Production and Security, Environmental and Energy Concerns**

St. Louis, MO, May 3, 2011 – A robust schedule of panels and keynote addresses featuring an international “who’s who” of speakers from leading agricultural businesses, venture capital and investment firms, and research institutions, will engage in active discussion, providing new insights and perspectives at the Ag Innovation Showcase (www.agshowcase.com), May 23-24, at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center (www.danforthcenter.org) in St. Louis, the largest independent plant science research institute in the world.

Now in its third year, the Ag Innovation Showcase is an international conference focused on exploring innovative ideas and opportunities related to agriculture in solving long-term issues in food production and security, environmental and energy concerns. During its first two years, the Ag Innovation Showcase has already generated long lasting results in showcasing new trends and opportunities, as well as new technologies and solutions. In this year’s Showcase, three outstanding successes will be highlighted from among the alumni of the annual event.

Regarded as the leading global event for agriculture’s industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and investors, the two-day program offers participants a platform for dialogue and discussion, as well as deal-making across the spectrum of ag-bio, food and nutrition, biofuels, sustainable materials, clean-tech, information technology and animal health.

Attendance last year at the second annual Showcase increased 28 percent more than the first hugely successful event, with attendees from India, Malaysia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and across North America. This year already represents a marked increase in reservations. Australia and the Netherlands will be highlighted, while entrepreneurs from these two countries will be joined by those from the U.S., Canada and Malaysia.

Innovations in the various sectors of the field will be spotlighted through presentations by entrepreneurs at the Showcase. These were selected in a global business plan competition focused on technology innovation, market vision and business vision. This year’s 16 winning business plans represent some of the most promising innovations across a broad range of industry sectors and worldwide geographies.

Keynote presenters at the 2011 Ag Showcase include **Gregory T. Lucier**, Chairman and CEO of Life Technologies Corp., whose products facilitate genomic innovations in agriculture, **Jason Pyle**, MD, PhD, and CEO of Sapphire Energy, Inc., one of the world’s leading innovators in

creating algae-based fuel, and **Paulo Rabello de Castro**, PhD, Chairman and Principal Partner of SR Rating/Duff and Phelps, the first credit rating agency in Brazil.

Panels and speakers for the 2011 Ag Innovation Showcase (www.agshowcase.com) include the following:

Ag Economic Forum – Alternative scenarios for international agricultural supply and demand in the future and country-specific insights on Brazil and China. Moderated by **Alex F. McCalla**, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Agriculture and Resource Economics, University of California-Davis, and featuring a keynote presentation by **Mark Rosegrant**, PhD, Director, Environment and Production Technology Division, International Food Policy Research Institute, the panel will also feature **Elisio Contini**, PhD, Deputy of Strategic Studies and Training Center, EMBRAPA (Brazilian Enterprise for Agricultural Research); **Scott Rozelle**, PhD, Helen F. Farnsworth Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University; and **Joyce Cacho**, PhD, Chief Sustainability Officer, Novus International.

Alumni Company Panel – Executives of entrepreneurial companies that presented at previous Ag Innovation Showcase will share insights on their success, their low and high points and on their strategies to attract capital and enhance their visibility since their participation at the Showcase. Moderated by **Arama Kukutai**, Managing Director, Finistere Ventures, and featuring **Kirk Haney**, President and CEO, SG Biofuels, Inc.; **Heidi Kuehnle**, President and CEO, Kuehnle AgroSystems; and **Derek Rapp**, Business Development Lead, Chemistry, Monsanto, former CEO, Divergence (acquired by Monsanto in February 2011).

Strategic Partnerships: From Investment to Acquisition – An inside look at biotech and M&A strategies of major ag food companies in directing early stage investment dollars to help create future acquisition targets, with focus on issues like new markets, identifying and filling gaps in technologies, coping with patent expirations and other strategic considerations. Speakers include **Spencer Maughan**, Vice President, Venrock; **Cindy Warren**, Market Development Specialist, Dow AgroSciences; **Derek Rapp**, Business Development Lead, Chemistry, Monsanto, former CEO, Divergence (acquired by Monsanto in February 2011); and **Dan Tomso**, Manager, BioScience Technology and Licensing, North America, Bayer CropScience LP.

New Frontiers in Ag Research: Tools to Drive Discovery – Experts discuss new technologies and applications for understanding the quantity and quality of complex agricultural datasets using bioinformatics, computational and mega genomics, modeling, imaging and sensor technologies, and more. Moderated by **Ralph Quatrano**, PhD, Dean, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis, and featuring **James Carrington**, PhD, new President, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center; **Mat Muller**, Ag Biotech Business Development, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.; **Nathan Wood**, Vice President, Genomics, Life Technologies; and **Eric Ward**, President, Director, 2 Blades Foundation.

Importance of Innovation Clusters: From Concept to Commercialization – How new models promoting global collaborations based on solution-based clusters are rapidly replacing traditional geographic clustering in ag and other sectors. Moderated by **Rohit Shukla**, CEO, Larta Institute, and featuring **Robert Henry**, PhD, Director, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation; **Charles Dilks**, President, Dilks Consulting, former Executive Vice President, University City Science Center in Philadelphia; Mark van Haaren, PhD, Vice President Business Development, KeyGene, Inc., and **Sam Fiorello**, COO, Donald Danforth

Plant Science Center and President, BioResearch & Development Growth (BRDG) Park at the Danforth Plant Science Center.

By connecting all the key players and essential components to advance leading-edge ideas for innovation in agriculture, from public policy on food security to energy and sustainable development, the Ag Innovation Showcase represents a prime network of entrepreneurs, corporate leaders and investors in the ag space. Attendance last year at the second annual Showcase increased 28 percent more than the first hugely successful event, with attendees from India, Malaysia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and across North America.

About the Ag Innovation Showcase

Established in 2009, the Ag Innovation Showcase is the leading annual global event for agriculture's industry leaders, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and investors. It promotes emerging technologies in ag-bio, food and nutrition, biofuels, sustainable materials, clean-tech, information technology and animal health. Held at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, MO, the largest independent plant science research institute in the world, the Ag Innovation Showcase is a joint effort of BRDG ("bridge") Park at the Danforth Plant Science Center and the Larta Institute, as well as a number of sponsors. More information is available at www.agshowcase.com