
Press Release

Final Milestone completed in Phytowelt GreenTechnologies' research collaboration with Pastoral Genomics

Cologne, May 2010

The research collaboration between Pastoral Genomics and Phytowelt GreenTechnologies has completed its first project successfully.

Hybrid plants between a wild type grass and a commercial cultivar of perennial ryegrass have been prepared by Phytowelt GreenTechnologies and are now ready for analysis by Pastoral Genomics.

"These results are another example of the high quality of our research where the combination of molecular biology and tissue culture technologies were key factors to get the expected results," explained Peter Welters, CEO of Phytowelt. *"But the dedication, skills and knowledge of our scientists and technicians were as well essential for this success!"*

"Pastoral Genomics will study these plants carefully in collaboration with New Zealand experts to learn whether they have the ideal combinations of characteristics for use on our farms," said Zac Hanley, manager of Pastoral Genomics. *"These plants offer some of the potential gains from biotechnology but are not genetically modified under New Zealand law."*

The results of this project open the way for breeders to generate hybrids that have previously been difficult to achieve. Traits such as natural disease resistance can be exchanged between wild and cultivated species more rapidly.

Therefore Phytowelt's sophisticated platform of Monocot Somatic Hybridization technology offers a tremendous tool for delivering desirable traits in cereals and grasses.

Pastoral Genomics is an industry-good research consortium working on developing biotechnologies for New Zealand's pastoral industries. Hybrid breeding is one of three strategies we are using to provide enhanced forages; the others are marker-assisted selection and cisgenics®.

Phytowelt GreenTechnologies is a worldwide operating SME whose core business is agricultural science and plant biotechnology. With more than 10 years of experience in plant biotechnology PHY is the ideal partner to improve plant breeding and industrial production processes. The company offers services in plant biotechnology, including contract research, project coordination and management. Key expertise in plant breeding is the development of improved methods in genetic engineering and tissue culture technologies. Its key expertise in the exploitation of plant biodiversity also enables Phytowelt to create added value in sustained production processes, e.g. by using plant enzymes for the production of fine chemicals. Through its long-time practical experience, the company has gathered a distinctive technological knowledge, especially with the handling of challenging plant material.

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