



Wageningen, NL/Kuala Lumpur, April 11, 2017

## **FELDA GLOBAL VENTURES BERHAD AND KEYGENE SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF COLLABORATION**

Crop Innovation Company KeyGene and Felda Global Ventures Berhad (FGV) announce that they have signed a Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) agreement to establish a strategic partnership to start a joint research laboratory (joint lab). This joint lab will empower FGV R&D to become a center of excellence by strengthening its research capabilities, enabling faster introduction of better and more sustainable oil palm varieties to the market. Malaysia's FGV is the largest producer of Crude Palm Oil and the third largest Oil Palm Plantation operator in the world.

The research and development collaboration has multiple objectives but will primarily focus on the development and improvement of planting material through marker-assisted breeding. The collaboration will help FGV to fast-track the development and commercialization of oil palm planting material with high oil yield, disease tolerance and other special traits.

*"The agreement assures FGV access to KeyGene's vast technology expertise in crop genomics. In turn, this will significantly increase our competitiveness in the oil palm seed market through faster introduction of new and improved oil palm planting material"* said Dato' Zakaria Arshad, Group President and Chief Executive Officer of FGV.

Currently, FGV is the largest seed producer in Malaysia with a market share of 42%. It is also the only authorized foreign company that is able to penetrate the highly competitive Indonesia seed market. *"This collaboration brings benefit to FGV by increasing research capabilities in the molecular genetics research area leading to the development and production of superior oil palm planting material"* added Dato' Zakaria.

Arjen van Tunen, CEO KeyGene: *"We are excited to embark on this strategic journey with FGV R&D to setup a joint lab. KeyGene will contribute with its know-how & expertise, benefitting from a successful track record of 27 years in providing innovative technologies. Together with FGV we will breed for healthy and sustainable oil palm varieties that meet the future demands of our societies. Starting a joint lab will enable both parties to work together at each other's location, enabling maximum interaction, knowledge sharing and expertise building. This will lead to a better understanding of the needs which will be fulfilled in terms of capacity building, technology implementation, and the development of breeding and resource management tools for oil palm breeding"*.

The MoC tenure is eight months and upon mutual agreement by both parties to be supplemented by 5-year definitive agreement.

### **About KeyGene**

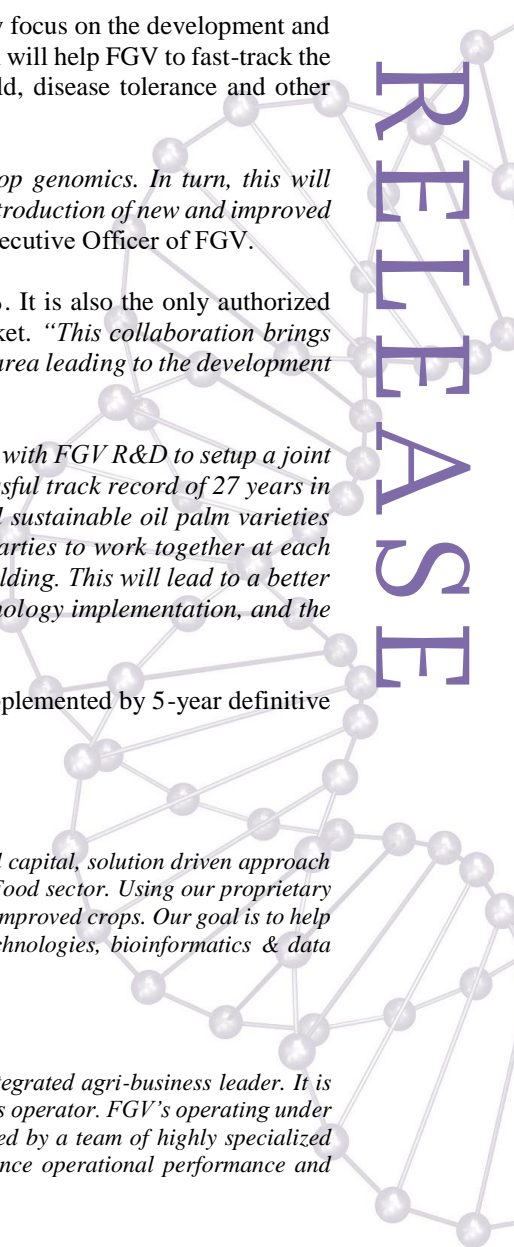
#### ***The crop innovation company***

*KeyGene is the go-to AgBiotech company for higher crop yield & quality. With our intellectual capital, solution driven approach and collaborative spirit, we work for the future of global agriculture with partners in the AgriFood sector. Using our proprietary technologies and non-GM approaches, we support customers with the development of new and improved crops. Our goal is to help organizations with their toughest R&D challenges, combining our cutting edge breeding technologies, bioinformatics & data science expertise and plant-based trait platforms. [www.keygene.com](http://www.keygene.com)*

### **About Felda Global Ventures**

*Felda Global Ventures Holdings Berhad ("FGV") is a Malaysia's globally diversified and integrated agri-business leader. It is the worlds' largest producer of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) and the third largest oil palm plantations operator. FGV's operating under six main business Clusters and among them is R&D and Agri Services Cluster. This cluster led by a team of highly specialized scientists with a main objective to generate cutting-edge agri-business technologies to enhance operational performance and commercial utilisation across all facets of FGV.*

PRESS RELEASE





**For more information**

**KeyGene**

Jenny Peters

PR Officer

+31 317 466 866

[Keygenepr@keygene.com](mailto:Keygenepr@keygene.com)

Twitter: KeyGeneInfo

**FGV**

Dr. Sharifah Shahrul Rabiah Syed Alwee

Chief Executive Officer

+606-799 8087

shahrul.a@feldaglobal.com

PRESS RELEASE

