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NEW GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES FOR PUBLIC GOOD & BETTER FOOD CROPS: ICRISAT AND KEYGENE IN PARTNERSHIP

A global partnership on technologies to potentially benefit millions of smallholder farmers across Asia and Africa, was signed on May 25, 2018 in Mumbai.

The Netherlands-based agricultural biotech company KeyGene and not-for-profit scientific research organization, the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) signed a Letter of Intent (LoI), for research and co-development on legumes and cereals. The two institutions will work together using novel crop innovation solutions based on KeyGene's proprietary technologies and know-how.

The signing took place at a high profile trade mission hosted by High Commission of The Netherlands, in presence of the Dutch Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (The Netherlands) Ms Carola Schouten in Mumbai. The LoI was signed by Dr. Kiran Sharma, Deputy Director General of ICRISAT and Dr. Arjen van Tunen, CEO of KeyGene.

KeyGene and ICRISAT will work together on innovative approaches for trait development and gene discovery. KeyGene will share its knowledge and expertise on crops and the use of KeyGene's crop innovation platforms. This includes KeyGene's Sequence-Based Genotyping (SBG) and mutation breeding technologies. The genetically diverse grain legume resources of ICRISAT will serve as a reservoir for the identification and exploitation of useful traits. These will be used as a starting point for crop breeding and mutagenesis programs.

Capacity building and skill development of start-up entrepreneurs is also envisaged in this collaboration through ICRISAT's BioNEST-Bioincubator "BioNCube".

"We look forward to this collaboration with ICRISAT to combine scientific expertise from both organizations. The applications of KeyGene technology in the germplasm of ICRISAT's mandate crops can help develop highly productive and resilient crops for food and nutrition security of the poorest populations in India and Africa", says Arjen van Tunen, CEO KeyGene.

"As part of this partnership, we are hopeful to see rapid improvements in the applications of technology and its translation into next-generation agricultural products to benefit smallholder farmers in the drylands. We also believe that the combined knowledge will enable building capacity to foster innovation in agriculture", says Peter Carberry, Director General (Acting), ICRISAT.

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. At KeyGene, we work in an international environment with more than 140 professionals from all over the world. Our company is based in Wageningen, Netherlands and Rockville, MD, USA. www.keygene.com

About ICRISAT

ICRISAT, a member of the CGIAR System Organization, is a non-profit, non-political institution that undertakes agricultural research for development in the semi-arid tropics of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of global partners with a mission to reduce poverty, hunger, malnutrition and environmental degradation in the dryland tropics. It approaches this through partnership-based international agricultural research for development that embodies Science with a Human Face. ICRISAT conducts research on six highly nutritious drought-tolerant crops: chickpea, finger millet pigeonpea, pearl millet, sorghum and groundnut and serves some of the most deprived and marginal farming communities involved in dryland agriculture.

PRESS RELEASE



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