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News Release

Bayer, Meiogenix collaborate to accelerate agricultural innovation through the development of unique technologies

Monheim and Paris, Feb. 10, 2020 – Bayer and Meiogenix, a biotech company focused on next-generation breeding technologies, announced today a collaboration to advance agricultural research and development by accelerating the development of Meiogenix’s proprietary technologies related to plant breeding and genome editing applications. This new research collaboration has the potential to deliver much-needed plant health and nutrition improvements to food crops so farmers can more efficiently and sustainably grow improved plant varieties that deliver the types of foods consumers want.

"Farmers need innovative solutions as they face limited natural resources and a changing climate," said Jeremy Williams, Head of Plant Biotechnology, Crop Science Research & Development (R&D) at Bayer. "Access to Meiogenix’s proprietary technologies could improve the precision and speed with which our breeders enhance crops, which could ultimately accelerate those solutions for the diverse needs of people and our planet."

Meiogenix’s proprietary technologies are used to induce the exchange of genomic regions between chromosomes of plant cells during meiosis, the natural process that generates genetic diversity during plant breeding. Technologies based on meiotic recombination provide commercial crops with access to a broader genetic diversity, including complex traits for improved food quality, plants’ resistance to diseases and pests, and higher yield potential. The resulting hybrids and varieties have the potential to deliver value throughout the food chain, from farmers to consumers.

"Over the past decade, we have assembled unique know-how, intellectual property portfolio and network of experts to help generate biodiversity and accelerate breeding through modulating meiotic recombination. We are proud to collaborate with Bayer to develop the next generations of crops", said Giacomo Bastianelli, Co-founder & CEO of Meiogenix.

“Agriculture is facing the challenge of adjusting plant physiology to rapid climate, pest and disease changes, as well as preparing the next generation of healthier food. Collaborating on these new breeding technologies will be key to bringing innovative solutions to farmers and consumers”, said Luc Mathis, strategic advisor of MeioGenix.

As part of the project, MeioGenix will collaborate with top academic institutes to advance these [technologies](#) in crops.

Bayer offers a wide range of educational materials regarding plant breeding and gene editing technologies [on its website](#).

About Bayer

Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the life science fields of health care and nutrition. Its products and services are designed to benefit people by supporting efforts to overcome the major challenges presented by a growing and aging global population. At the same time, the Group aims to increase its earning power and create value through innovation and growth. Bayer is committed to the principles of sustainable development, and the Bayer brand stands for trust, reliability and quality throughout the world. In fiscal 2018, the Group employed around 117,000 people and had sales of 39.6 billion euros. Capital expenditures amounted to 2.6 billion euros, R&D expenses to 5.2 billion euros. For more information, go to www.bayer.com.

About MeioGenix

MeioGenix is a French biotech company whose mission is to develop state-of-the art breeding technologies to increase the genetic diversity of organisms. MeioGenix’s technologies expand the natural biodiversity and helps developing new products to safely address global food challenges. For more information, visit www.meioGenix.com

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Find more information at www.bayer.com and at www.meioGenix.com

Forward-Looking Statements

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