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Lantmännen SW Seed and KeyGene to collaborate on molecular breeding of Field Crops

Lantmännen SW Seed, an international plant breeding company with its head office in Svalöv, South Sweden, has recently signed a service agreement with KeyGene, a technology based company from the Netherlands, to accelerate their Oilseed rape and wheat breeding programs to meet the requirements of the future market. This will especially benefit the winter oilseed program within SW Winter Oilseed AB.

The use of KeyGene's state of the art bioinformatics and molecular breeding tools will help Lantmännen SW Seed to bring its variety and hybrid development to the next level. Exploring and exploiting worldwide allelic variation within these two crops with biotechnology tools has an enormous potential for the generation of higher yielding crops. The extended use of molecular breeding technologies will give Lantmännen SW Seed a competitive advantage in the European seed market.

Commenting on the collaboration, Annette Olesen, Director of Product Development says: "KeyGene's state-of-the-art bioinformatics and molecular breeding technologies are perfectly suitable to boost our field crop breeding programs. Also KeyGene's large experience in working together with researchers and breeders from various seed companies is an important asset to implement new molecular breeding approaches at our company".

Edwin van der Vossen, Vice President Field Crops at KeyGene, adds: "We are very pleased with this new collaboration, in which we will apply and integrate our bioinformatics and molecular breeding knowledge to Lantmännen SW Seed's and SW Winter Oilseed's breeding programs. In this way we will support the generation of new varieties and hybrids in a fast and cost-effective way. Our expertise and proprietary Accelerated Molecular Breeding and Lead Discovery Platforms will suit a sequence-based breeding approach on the lead crops of Lantmännen SW Seed".

About SW Winter Oilseed AB

SW Winter Oilseed AB is a plant breeding company, jointly owned by Lantmännen SW Seed in Sweden, SAS Maison Florimond Desprez in France and Elsoms Seeds Ltd in the UK. The company was established in 2009 and its main business is plant breeding, production and marketing of winter oilseed rape for the European market.

About Lantmännen SW Seed

Lantmännen SW Seed is an international plant breeding and seed company. The core business is the development and marketing of new plant varieties and the production of seed. Cereals, oil seeds and forage grasses & legumes are the main crops. The most important markets are located within Central and Northern Europe. For more information, please visit www.swseed.com.

About Lantmännen

Lantmännen is one of the largest Groups in the food, machinery, energy and agriculture industries in the Nordic region. Lantmännen is owned by 37,000 Swedish farmers. It has more than 10,000 employees, operates in 18 countries and has a turnover of SEK 35 billion. Lantmännen operates throughout the entire food processing chain – from field to fork. For more information, please visit us at www.lantmannen.com and www.lantmannen.se.

About KeyGene

KeyGene is a privately owned, innovative molecular genetics Ag Biotech company with a primary focus on the improvement of 6F (Food, Feed, Fiber, Fuel, Flowers and Fun) crops. KeyGene's passion is a Green Gene Revolution approach to explore and exploit existing and induced natural genetic variation in vegetable and other 6F crops. KeyGene delivers sustainable responses to the world's needs for yield stability & quality of vegetable and field crops.

We help our strategic partners with cutting edge breeding technologies and plant based trait platforms to meet their needs. We perform strategic and applied research with more than 135 employees from all over the world, with state of the art facilities and equipment. KeyGene has its headquarters in Wageningen, the Netherlands, a subsidiary in Rockville, USA and a Joint Lab with the Shanghai Institute of Biological Sciences in Shanghai, China. For additional information, please visit: www.keygene.com.

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