

**Syngenta Seeds, Inc.**

7500 Olson Memorial Highway  
Golden Valley, MN 55427  
Tel: 763-593-7333  
Fax: 763-593-7877

[www.syngenta-us.com](http://www.syngenta-us.com)

**Media contacts:**

Nick Nagele  
Weber Shandwick Worldwide  
312-988-2069 or  
[nnagele@WeberShandwick.com](mailto:nnagele@WeberShandwick.com)

Jill Wenzel  
Syngenta Seeds  
763-593-7113 or  
[jill.wenzel@syngenta.com](mailto:jill.wenzel@syngenta.com)

**media release**

Golden Valley, MN, USA, December 3, 2008

## **EPA Approves New Syngenta Agrisure® Trait** *New Trait Designed to Provide Control of a Broad-Spectrum of Lepidopteran Corn Pests*

Syngenta reported today that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has granted registration approval for its new Agrisure® corn trait, referred to as the MIR162 event, which Syngenta will include in stacks with the Agrisure CB/LL trait for the control of a broad spectrum of lepidopteran corn pests. The approval is a key milestone in bringing to market a new mode of action for insect control in corn.

Pending all remaining regulatory and key import approvals, hybrids containing the new trait are anticipated to be available for planting in spring 2010. The trait will only be available stacked with either the Agrisure 3000GT trait stack for control of European corn borer, corn rootworm and glyphosate or glufosinate herbicide tolerance, or the Agrisure GT/CB/LL stack for control of European corn borer with glyphosate and glufosinate herbicide tolerance.

The MIR162 event uses a new proprietary technology from Syngenta that features a novel insecticidal protein called Vegetative Insecticidal Protein 3A (Vip3A). In Syngenta trials, the trait has been shown to provide enhanced control of a wide range of lepidopteran corn pests including corn earworm, western bean cutworm, black cutworm and fall armyworm.

Tracy Mader, marketing manager for Agrisure Corn Traits, said the technology, which represents a new mode of action for insect control in corn, is expected to deliver several key benefits. "Current corn insect control traits use Cry proteins," Mader said. "Although Vip3A targets pests in a manner similar to the Cry class of proteins, the two types of protein attack different sites on the pest's gut and have distinct modes of action."

"Just as using different herbicides can help reduce the potential for weeds developing resistance to herbicides, using different modes of action for insect control can reduce the risk for resistance development to these critical trait technologies."

Syngenta is a world-leading agribusiness committed to sustainable agriculture through innovative research and technology. The company is a leader in crop protection, and ranks third in the high-value commercial seeds market. Sales in 2007 were approximately \$9.2 billion. Syngenta employs over 21,000 people in more than 90 countries. Syngenta is listed on the Swiss stock exchange (SYNN) and in New York (SYT). Further information is available at [www.syngenta.com](http://www.syngenta.com).

***Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements***

This document contains forward-looking statements, which can be identified by terminology such as 'expect', 'would', 'will', 'potential', 'plans', 'prospects', 'estimated', 'aiming', 'on track' and similar expressions. Such statements may be subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results to differ materially from these statements. We refer you to Syngenta's publicly available filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for information about these and other risks and uncertainties. Syngenta assumes no obligation to update forward-looking statements to reflect actual results, changed assumptions or other factors. This document does not constitute, or form part of, any offer or invitation to sell or issue, or any solicitation of any offer, to purchase or subscribe for any ordinary shares in Syngenta AG, or Syngenta ADSs, nor shall it form the basis of, or be relied on in connection with, any contract therefor.