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**media release**

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Syngenta trials indicate increased yields with corn earworm control

Test plots highlight efficacy of new Agrisure Viptera™ broad-spectrum lepidopteran trait

Syngenta today unveiled preliminary data from its 2008 trials designed to evaluate the efficacy of its new broad-spectrum lepidopteran corn pest control trait, event MIR162. The company also announced that the new trait will be known as the Agrisure Viptera™ trait.

The Agrisure Viptera trait recently was granted registration approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Pending all remaining regulatory and key import approvals, hybrids containing the Agrisure Viptera trait are anticipated to be available for planting in spring 2010.

Agronomy Marketing Manager Bruce Battles presented the results during the American Seed Trade Association's Corn & Sorghum Research Conference in Chicago, IL. Citing replicated trials in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas and North Carolina, Battles pointed to an average yield advantage of 10.2 bu/A for Agrisure® CB/LL/RW hybrids stacked with the Agrisure Viptera trait vs. isolines containing only the Agrisure CB/LL/RW stack¹.

Battles said the trials focused on evaluating the effect of the Agrisure Viptera trait in environments with normal corn earworm pressure. "In addition to measuring yield, we also measured ear damage from naturally occurring pests such as corn earworm," Battles said. "There was a clear correlation between the level of ear damage and yield increases in the Agrisure CB/LL/RW check vs. the Agrisure Viptera stack. We saw the biggest yield advantages in plots that had higher levels of corn earworm pressure. While the average yield advantage for all plots weighed in at 10.2 bushels per acre, the yield advantage in plots with corn earworm infestation rose to 16.3 bushels per acre."

¹All Syngenta strip trial comparisons are completed with hybrids of similar RMs, adjusted for moisture to +/- 3 points and of equivalent trait classes unless otherwise noted. Isolines used for comparison featured identical genetics to the test hybrids but did not contain the Agrisure Viptera trait. Replicated trials consisted of six locations, with six replications per trial site. Results were averaged across all six locations. Trials were located in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas and North Carolina.

Battles said the trials highlighted the challenges of dealing with lepidopteran pests beyond European corn borer, a spectrum of insects Syngenta refers to as the multi-pest complex. “We located trials in a variety of geographies to pick up a variety of infestations,” he said. “And we faced the same situation as our growers face – not all plots had infestations of the same pests, and we could not predict the insect infestations we did experience.”

“That’s exactly the nature of the multi-pest complex,” Battles added. “These pests don’t occur in every field every year, but they do occur frequently. If growers are seeking to maximize yields, they need to account for the random and unpredictable nature of these infestations and plan for broad-spectrum insect protection at all crop stages.”

The Agrisure Viptera trait will only be available stacked with either the Agrisure 3000GT trait stack for control of European corn borer and corn rootworm with glyphosate and glufosinate herbicide tolerance, or the Agrisure GT/CB/LL stack for control of European corn borer and glyphosate and glufosinate herbicide tolerance.

Agrisure Corn Traits are a system of high-performance in-seed traits providing resistance to European corn borer (the Agrisure CB/LL trait) and corn rootworm (the Agrisure RW trait) and conferring tolerance to glyphosate herbicides (the Agrisure GT trait) and glufosinate herbicides (the Agrisure CB/LL trait). Growers seeking a triple stack of all Agrisure insect protection and herbicide tolerance offerings can get full protection and weed control flexibility in the Agrisure 3000GT trait stack, which combines all current Agrisure traits.

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.

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