BSG EXTENDS ITS GLOBAL CONTRACT RESEARCH CAPABILITIES TO LEAD ACTIVITY IN BRAZIL

Brazil’s agricultural input market has emerged as one of the largest and fastest growing in the world.

Soybean producers consume the largest share of Brazil crop protection chemicals market, other major consumers include corn, sugarcane, fruits, vegetables & nuts and cotton. Brazilian farmers are also increasingly adopting GM crops, more than 30 Mio. ha were planted with GM corn, soybean and cotton in 2011. The Brazilian government has implemented strict regulations for registration of agricultural inputs and it was logical that SGS invest in this contract research market for agricultural input R&D and registration. These recent investments in Brazil complement an already well-developed global network of field trial stations (see map) and GLP laboratories as well our Brazilian portfolio of technical services in the agricultural segment from input R&D to the final consumers.

GREEN FIELD PROJECT – BRAZILANDIA EXPERIMENTAL STATION

The first investment was to build a large state-of-the-art experimental station in a key location. Contrary to many countries, Brazil is highly regulated when it comes to agricultural research and requires highly trained professionals, dedicated experimental location(s) that must be duly registered and accredited by various governmental bodies such as the Ministry of Agriculture (MAPA), CTNBio (Bio safety commission), INMETRO (Federal Institute of Weights and Measures) and CETESB (Environmental body in São Paulo State).
After more than six months scouting for locations, comparing land size, soil and topography, water and electricity supply, climatic conditions, geographical position, logistics and compliance with regulations, we finally found the ideal location in Brasilandia with a capacity of 75 ha.

Distant from the city of São Paulo by 180km and close to Viracopos international airport, SGS Brasilandia field station, located in the municipality of Conchal, state of São Paulo, offers the ideal geographical and climatic set up to plant and run experiments on a wide array of crops. Just recently audited and certified by the Ministry of Agriculture (July 2012), SGS Brazilandia is fully operational and will start running trials for the up-coming 2012/2013 summer crop season. The opening day took place on the 8th of August with a large group of sponsors and stakeholders.

ACQUISITION OF GRAVENA

The second investment was the acquisition of the leading Brazilian field trial organisation, Gravena – Pesquisa, Consultoria e Treinamento Agricola Ltda (Gravena) having its headquarters in the state of São Paulo.

Founded in 1993 by Prof. Santin Gravena (entomologist), Gravena employs more than 120 highly trained agronomists, technicians and agronomical trainees and operates out of four field stations strategically distributed in the main production states (São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Goias and Parana) and climatic areas of Brazil. Their portfolio of services include:

- Efficacy & selectivity trials for pesticides
- GLP residue trials for pesticides (incl. study directorship)
- Composition, expression and agronomical trials on GM crops
- Non-target organisms (NTO) trials
- Environmental monitoring of transgenic crops
- Insect rearing for GM trials
- Biological laboratory (baseline resistance studies, bio-assays, etc.)
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training and consulting
The acquisition was finalized on 5th of July 2012 and CEOs of both companies said:

“It is a pleasure to announce this acquisition which brings to our global network a great deal of expertise and adds one of the most important agricultural countries for field trials, making SGS a global leader in this activity”

- Chris Kirk, SGS

“This partnership will help strengthen our current operational set-up and allow our business to grow sustainably towards new markets and new clients”

- Prof. Santin Gravena & Dr. Renan Gravena.

These two combined investments will also create a strong basis for further developments for contract research in Brazil and Latin America to provide a “One-Stop-Shop” service solution to life science companies and all other agricultural input suppliers for which getting efficiently to market is a priority.

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