

## **ADVANTA AND BIOCERES TO DEVELOP DROUGHT TOLERANT SORGHUM, RICE, COTTON AND BRASSICA CROPS**

### **-- Improvement In Drought Tolerance To Increase On-Farm Productivity And Decrease Environmental Impact Of Farming --**

Hyderabad, India (September 16, 2009) – Advanta India Limited, a leading multinational seed company, and Bioceres S.A., a leading Argentinean Biotech company, today announced completion of a research and commercial development agreement for the development of drought tolerant sorghum, rice, cotton and brassica.

The technology targets abiotic stress in a range of crops. The gene was originally discovered in sunflower, in which the gene is triggered or induced under drought or water stress conditions. Proof of concept was established in Arabidopsis and is in advanced development in a range of field crops. Gene expression is associated with tolerance to both drought and salt stress, a feature Advanta hopes to improve even further with different gene/promoter combinations.

It is recognized that drought and water stress are one of the most serious challenges to food security and production sustainability in agriculture. Technology such as this will help in food and fiber production security in environments where drought, water stress or sparse water availability is a feature.

“Advanta is committed to bringing the latest technologies that help the farmers of rainfed crops to manage their water resources better. We recognize that water is going to be in great demand in the centuries to come and we are making efforts to address this issue through the use of biotechnology. These technologies will be very relevant for developing countries like India as well as for the developed markets like the USA said VR Kaundinya, CEO and Managing Director of Advanta. “Bioceres has exciting technology in this field and we are very happy to partner with them in this process”.

#### **About Advanta**

Advanta is a global seed company headquartered in India and with operating units in Argentina, Australia, India, Thailand and the USA with a wide range of proprietary products in important agricultural and vegetable crops that improve the productivity and profitability of the farmers in different parts of the world. Advanta is a member of the United Phosphorous Group of Companies. For more information visit - [www.advantaindia.com](http://www.advantaindia.com).

#### **About Bioceres**

Bioceres is an Argentina-based investment management firm in the area of agricultural biotechnology. Its major investments are channeled through two company subsidiaries – INDEAR S.A., with a R&D focus, and Bioceres Semillas S.A., its seed business unit. Bioceres' drought tolerance technology is based on collaborative research with Universidad Nacional del Litoral and the Argentine National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET). For more information visit - [www.bioceres.com.ar](http://www.bioceres.com.ar)