



## News Release

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### **RAGT Semences and Bayer CropScience sign licensing and cooperation agreement for the improvement of wheat**

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**Rodez, June 27, 2011** – RAGT Semences and Bayer CropScience, based in Monheim, Germany, have signed a license and cooperation agreement. Under the agreement, RAGT grants Bayer CropScience access to winter wheat germplasm and associated molecular markers. The French company has one of the strongest winter wheat breeding programs in Europe. In addition, both companies will explore joint projects to further improve wheat breeding and RAGT will have options to license wheat traits from Bayer CropScience. Financial details were not disclosed.

For Daniel Segonds, Chairman of RAGT Executive Board, “this agreement represents a major step for RAGT in further expanding its solid position in the European wheat seed market. Wheat is a key crop for both partners that deserve huge research efforts involving both conventional and new breeding techniques in order to address the future challenges in agriculture. Thanks to Bayer CropScience’s strong traits portfolio and the company’s unique skills in advanced technology, combined with its commitment and means to address these new challenges, Bayer CropScience certainly represents the ideal partner for us”.

“We are convinced that this cooperation will be a source of sound solutions for European growers, and will highly benefit both partners,” he added.

“We are very excited about our partnership with RAGT and the opportunities it will bring in the future. This mutually beneficial agreement will further strengthen the wheat breeding programs of both partners,” said Sandra E. Peterson, Chairman and CEO of Bayer CropScience. “This licensing and cooperation agreement is another important step to achieve our goal: To improve sustainable cereal production with superior solutions based

on our leading crop protection portfolio, agricultural service solutions and best in class wheat varieties. These solutions will enable growers to increase the productivity of wheat in a sustainable way addressing challenges like climate change.”

### **Key figures about wheat:**

With about 25 percent of the global agricultural land under wheat cultivation, it is the largest cereal crop in terms of acreage and one of the world’s most important staple foods. Wheat is the second most-produced cereal crop after corn with more than 650 million tons produced every year. Wheat productivity is increasing at less than 1 percent annually, while the annual global demand is growing at approximately double that percentage. Main wheat producing regions are the European Union, Australia, the Black Sea Region, China, India and North America.

### **About RAGT Semences**

RAGT SA, based in Rodez (Aveyron), is organized into two main activities: farming and gardening supply for its region of origin, and a seed activity, RAGT Semences, which make it one of the major players in Europe, particularly in cereals, corn, oilseeds and fodder plants. The RAGT group reports revenue of €300 million and has a workforce of over 1,100 worldwide.

### **About Bayer CropScience**

Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the fields of health care, nutrition and high-tech materials. Bayer CropScience, a subgroup of Bayer AG with annual sales of EUR 6.830 billion (2010), is one of the world’s leading innovative crop science companies in the areas of crop protection, non-agricultural pest control, seeds and traits. The company offers an outstanding range of products and extensive service backup for modern, sustainable agriculture and for non-agricultural applications. Bayer CropScience has a global workforce of 20,700 and is represented in more than 120 countries.

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