

## Ausbiotech, NZBIO work together

Tuesday, 20 September 2011

**THE annual Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference will be held in New Zealand in 2012 offering opportunities to showcase Australasia's agbiotech capability.**

NZBIO, which represents New Zealand's biotechnology industry, was named as host of ABIC 2012 at the 2011 conference in Johannesburg.

The New Zealand bid was supported by Ausbiotech and the two bodies will work together to demonstrate the contribution the region can make to the global agbiotech sector.



NZBIO chief executive officer Michelle Sullivan

ABIC brings together industry professionals to learn about the latest advances in the agbiotech sector and discuss how technologies can be applied to global issues.

NZBIO chairman Maxine Simmons said securing ABIC hosting rights was a significant achievement that offered huge potential to advance agbiotech in Australasia.

"New Zealand is an acknowledged leader in biological science," she said. "The application of this expertise supports and adds tremendous value to our primary industries.

"This international conference will put the spotlight on the breadth and depth of our capabilities and innovation in agbiotech.

"As host of ABIC 2012, we can also facilitate robust international debate on important global issues."

Delegates from around the world, including an Australian contingent, will be attending the conference in Rotorua from September 6-9 next year.

In the 2011 financial year agriculture generated more than \$NZ24.5 billion in exports.

NZBIO chief executive officer Michelle Sullivan said ABIC 2012 would have a research and commercial focus.

"Both New Zealand and Australia are known for ideas, innovation and cutting edge agbiotech technologies, but this is very much a global industry and that means our companies need the right partnerships and investment to take their innovations to the world," Sullivan said.

“ABIC 2012 will provide a forum to forge collaborations and joint ventures with premium partners.”

The theme of ABIC 2012 will be “adapting to a changing world”, including environmental, social and economic change.

The conference features keynote speeches from global experts such as DuPont Agricultural Biotechnology vice-president and expatriate New Zealander Dr John Bedbrook.

“New Zealand is an exciting hub for agricultural biotechnology given the quality of research carried out there, the level of entrepreneurship and its position as a major food producer,” Bedbrook said.

“I am looking forward to contributing to debate at the conference and learning more about the ongoing innovation and developments in the New Zealand and Australian agbiotech industries.”

The Rotura location is close to Scion – a Crown Research Institute, Waikato University, the Waikato Innovation Hub and the agResearch’s Ruakura facility.