

Event puts Australasian biotech under the spotlight

ADELAIDE, 17th October: Global challenges being debated in Adelaide this week are an important introduction to topics that will be under the spotlight at the world's top international agricultural biotechnology conference in New Zealand next year.

New Zealand's biotechnology industry organisation NZBIO is hosting ABIC 2012 – the annual conference of the Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference - on a theme of *Adapting to a Changing World*. AusBiotech, Australia's biotechnology organisation, is a key partner in attracting the global event to the region.

This week, AusBiotech is holding its national conference in Adelaide (16 – 19 October). The event, AusBiotech 2011, is the premiere biotechnology conference for Australia and the Asia-Pacific, bringing together senior representatives and professionals from across the biotechnology industry and the globe.

While there has recently been intense competition between New Zealand and Australia on the rugby field, in agricultural biotechnology it is a different story.

Both the CEO of AusBiotech, Anna Lavelle, and NZBIO's Chief Executive, Michelle Sullivan, are delighted to be working together on ensuring ABIC 2012 is a success.

Dr Lavelle says there is keen interest in the agbiotech sessions at AusBiotech 2011, illustrating the vibrancy of the industry in Australasia.

“Our two countries have a lot to contribute to global debate on ways in which agbiotech can address some of the biggest issues facing the world such as climate change, sustainability, food production and health and nutrition.

Dr Sullivan will be talking at an AusBiotech 2011 session dedicated to ABIC 2012 in Adelaide this afternoon (Monday 17th October). One of her goals is to highlight the outstanding opportunity ABIC 2012 presents for organisations to showcase themselves to an influential and international agbiotech audience. “There is already high interest in sponsorship opportunities around ABIC 2012 and we expect even more after AusBiotech.”

Dr Sullivan says a number of sessions at AusBiotech 2011 will be forerunners to debate among global delegates in Rotorua, New Zealand, next year.



PROUD HOSTS OF ABIC 2012



Examples include discussions on food security, alternative fuels, new applications of agbiotech and tissue regeneration using biomaterials.

Dr Roger Hellens, Science Group Leader, Genomics, at Plant & Food Research in New Zealand, who heads the programme committee for ABIC 2012, will be speaking on future foods, another important issue to be discussed by the global agbiotech industry at ABIC 2012.

Dr Hellens will address AusFoodtech, held annually as part of AusBiotech, on advances in whole genome sequencing technologies that will enable targeted breeding programmes of safe, sustainable foods with characteristics consumers want.

“This area of research has huge potential to address some of the issues facing a world with a rapidly growing population, food security challenges, and pressure on our environment.

“Both New Zealand and Australia have much to contribute in this area and ideas that come out of AusBiotech can feed into wider discussion at ABIC 2012.”

ABIC is attended by industry leaders, researchers and scientists, investors and policy makers who come together to learn about the latest advances in agbiotech and discuss how technologies can be applied to global issues.

Find out more at www.abic2012.com

Further Information

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About ABIC

The first ABIC conference was held in Canada in 1996 and in 1998 the ABIC Foundation was set up to ensure the continued success of ABIC meetings. The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation overseen by a board of directors with representation from several countries and based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Its goal is to ensure ongoing opportunities for continuous learning and networking within the agbiotech community through the annual Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference. ABIC conferences are held on a four year rotation in the following regions: Europe/Africa/Middle East; Asia Pacific; United States/Canada/Mexico; and South America.

www.abic.ca

About NZBIO

NZBIO is a vibrant member-based organisation focused on growing New Zealand's prosperous bioeconomy. With hundreds of individual and corporate members from across agbiotech, human health, industrial and environmental and food bioscience, NZBIO plays a leading role in providing practical support for companies to grow. NZBIO's activities include member events,

seminars and conferences, policy advocacy, national and international outreach and promotion. Our membership base ranges from start up bioscience companies, to mature corporates and major multinationals. We also represent New Zealand research institutes and universities, specialist service professionals, corporate, institutional, individual and student members from New Zealand and around the world.

NZBIO is an important voice of the New Zealand bioscience sector informing policy makers, enabling collaboration and investment, showcasing New Zealand's capability to the world and demonstrating how biosciences can contribute to societal, economic and environmental challenges.

www.nzbio.org.nz

About AusBiotech

AusBiotech is Australia's biotechnology industry organisation representing 3,000 members covering the human health, agricultural, medical devices and diagnostics, food technology, environmental and industrial sectors in biotechnology. AusBiotech is dedicated to the development, growth and prosperity of the Australian biotechnology industry, by providing initiatives to drive sustainability and growth, outreach and access to markets, and representation and support for members nationally and around the world. Its membership base includes biotechnology companies, ranging from start-ups to mature multinationals, research institutes and universities, specialist service professionals, corporate, institutional, individual and student members from Australia and globally.

www.ausbiotech.org