

# DECLARATION OF CORPORATE SUPPORT FOR STRENGTHENING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AS CATALYSTS OF GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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We, the undersigned Chief Executive Officers of agriculture-oriented institutions in the international private sector;

**Noting** that the 189 member nations of the UN meeting at the September 2000 UN Millennium General Assembly adopted the following development goals:

## M I L L E N N I U M D E V E L O P M E N T G O A L S

1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

**Reaffirming** the significance, in this context of these goals, of the inter-connected issues highlighted during recent deliberations at the *World Food Summit: five years later*; the Bali Ministerial Roundtable on *Agriculture for Food Security and Sustainable Rural Development*; and the preparatory meetings for the forthcoming *World Summit on Sustainable Development*, namely,

- agricultural innovation as a catalyst of sustainable development;
- agricultural research as the basis of agricultural innovation and development;
- the importance of local institution and capacity building, especially in the private sector in developing countries;
- the need for institutional reforms and enabling environments for investments by the private sector.

**Conscious** of that fact that the attainment of these goals requires an integrated effort by diverse institutions;

**Recalling** the commitment by the international community to develop a global partnership for reaching the Millennium Development Goals;

**Aware** of the great strides made by the private sector in many endeavors, especially in the biological sciences, that are relevant to sustainable agricultural growth;

**Conscious** of the fact that access to technologies and products developed by the private sector can promote economic growth which is an integral component of sustainable development;

Hereby,

**Reaffirm** the critical importance of partnerships in the pursuit of development;

**Underscore** the need for public and private sector institutions in North and South to seek the most effective means of sharing knowledge in support of research for sustainable agricultural development;

**Urge** that the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) should continue its role of leadership in exploring and implementing opportunities for such collaboration;

**Recommend** that the international community as represented at the forthcoming *World Summit on Sustainable Development* endorse and support these ideas and efforts in every way possible.

SIGNED THIS 21ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2002.

**B. R. Barwale**, Chairman  
Mahyco  
INDIA

**Alan Reade**, Executive Chairman  
Merial Limited  
ENGLAND

**Sam Dryden**, Managing Director  
Emergent Genetics LLC  
USA

**Hans W. Reiners**, President  
Agricultural Products Division  
BASF AG  
USA

**A. Charles Fischer**, President & CEO  
Dow AgroSciences  
USA

**Alfonso Romo**, Chairman & CEO  
Seminis  
MEXICO

**Heinz Imhof**, Chairman  
Syngenta  
SWITZERLAND

**Warren R. Staley**, Chairman & CEO  
Cargill, Inc.  
USA

**Howard L. Minigh**, Group Vice President  
Agriculture and Nutrition  
DuPont  
USA

**Hendrik Verfaillie**, President & CEO  
Monsanto Company  
USA

**Jochen Wulff**, Chairman  
Management Board  
Bayer CropScience AG  
GERMANY