

**Phytowelt GreenTechnologies (Germany) and Pastoral Genomics  
(New Zealand) expanded their research alliance on forage plant species in  
January 2006**

Cologne, January 2006

After successful cooperation in 2005, Phytowelt GreenTechnologies (Germany) and Pastoral Genomics (New Zealand) extended their work, in January 2006, on the development of ameliorated plant varieties. "Our program for the generation of new species for pastoral usage has been widened, exploiting the genetic potential of natural biodiversity" explains Peter Welters, CEO of Phytowelt. "Our company applies its know how in plant improvement, including somatic hybridization by electrofusion of isolated protoplasts and the ISTR\* marker technology. Our partner Pastoral Genomics contributes with its extensive genome knowledge and its selection of forage plant traits with a high value to the New Zealand pasture based industries."

Pastoral Genomics -- a joint venture of Fonterra subsidiary ViaLactia Biosciences (NZ) Ltd, Meat and Wool New Zealand, DEEResearch and the Crown Research Institute AgResearch -- is applying biotechnologies to pasture plant performance, with a view to lifting the productivity of the farming sector.

Phytowelt GreenTechnologies was founded in January 2006 as a merger of Phytowelt GmbH and GreenTec GmbH; a Spin off company of the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research in Cologne (Germany). The company offers services in plant biotechnology, including contract research, studies and project coordination and management. The key expertises are plant breeding and the development of improved methods, like several tissue culture technologies and genetic engineering, for sustained production, e.g. of fine chemical substances. Based on its long year practical experience, the company has a large technological knowledge, especially with the handling of challenging plant material.

\*ISTR: Inverse Sequence Tagged Repeats

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