

Joint Press Release of National Research Council of Canada  
Centre for BioSystems Genomics (CBSG2012), The Netherlands  
Netherlands Genomics Initiative (NGI)

July 24, 2009

**The National Research Council of Canada's Plant Biotechnology Institute (NRC-PBI) and the Centre for BioSystems Genomics (NL) sign international research cooperation agreement on plant genomics**

**The National Research Council of Canada and the Centre for BioSystems Genomics (CBSG2012) in The Netherlands have signed a cooperation agreement in the field of *Brassica* and *Arabidopsis* (Thalecress) genomics research. With this agreement, the partners aim to combine knowledge and expertise to create additional critical mass in order to enhance the quality and pace of their research.**

Within the cooperation, the partners have chosen to focus on a number of strategic topics. The consortium will jointly study the genetics of the lipid metabolism in plants. Lipids are a valuable raw material for both food and non food industry. The second focus of the cooperation is the dissection the genetic basis of seed quality and vigour - traits with great agricultural impact. The third research topic aims to identify the signalling pathways that are involved in the formation of haploid embryos. Better understanding and use of this process will help plant breeders to improve their breeding process. This initiative further broadens CBSG's aim to establish additional internationalization activities.

**The National Council of Canada**

Recognized globally for research and innovation, the National Research Council Canada (NRC) is a leader in the development of an innovative, knowledge-based economy for Canada through science and technology.

The NRC Plant Biotechnology Institute (NRC-PBI) is a major research centre for plant biosciences in Canada, with expertise in genomics, metabolic pathways, gene expression, genetic transformation, structured biology, and natural product chemistry. NRC-PBI performs research and innovation in plant biotechnology in partnership with key stakeholders, to improve and diversify Canadian industry and strengthen Canada's competitive position in the global knowledge-based economy.

**CBSG2012**

CBSG was established in 2002 as a Centre of Excellence under the auspices of the Netherlands Genomics Initiative (NGI). CBSG2012 entered its second five-year phase in 2008.

The Centre for BioSystems Genomics (CBSG) is a consortium of major Dutch and international companies and top plant scientists working on potato, tomato, *Arabidopsis* and *Brassica*. CBSG2012 carries out plant genomics research using the latest, state-of-the-art technologies. The consortium covers the entire production chain from (pre)breeders to processors in both the food and non-food industries.

**NGI**

The Netherlands Genomics Initiative (NGI) is the main financier of CBSG. This governmental taskforce aims to get the best from genomics by providing excellence in genomics. NGI was established by the Dutch government in 2002 and is now entering its second phase: (2008-2012). The overall objective of NGI is to ensure that society and economy benefit from the breakthroughs enabled by genomics in important fields like health, agro-food, sustainability, enabling technologies and society.

---

For more information, please visit CBSG Web site <http://www.cbsg.nl/> or visit NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca> or contact:

**Erik Toussaint**

Senior Communications advisor  
Centre for BioSystems Genomics  
Tel: +31 317 480867  
[erik.toussaint@wur.nl](mailto:erik.toussaint@wur.nl)

**Pamela Marfleet**

Communications Assistant  
NRC Plant Biotechnology Institute  
Tel: (306) 975-5571  
[Pamela.Marfleet@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca](mailto:Pamela.Marfleet@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca)