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A Weekly Review of Business Opportunities

CTNBio approves three new transgenic events and GM vaccine

On Thursday (Oct. 15) the National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio) approved the cultivation and marketing of three new transgenic varieties in Brazil: 1) insect resistant maize; 2) glufosinate ammonium and glyphosate tolerant and lepidoptera resistant maize; and 3) genetically modified lepidoptera resistant and glyphosate tolerant cotton. With these new three commercial varieties, Brazil has a total of eleven GM maize varieties, six GM cotton varieties and one GM soybean variety. In addition, CTNBio has approved an Escherichia Coli vaccine. According to the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA), 25 countries adopted biotechnology in 2008. Brazil, third in the ranking of biggest GM crop-producing countries, immediately after the United States and Argentina, planted 15.8 million hectares with biotech crops in 2008. **Source: [AgroLink](#), [Agência Brasil](#) and [Folho de Londrina](#) (10/16/2009).**

Bertin, Bunge and Noble in talks to acquire Infinity mill

The recovery of mills in this crop with the rise of sugar and the recent increase in ethanol prices are resulting in intense activity in this market. As well as mill sale and acquisition, companies are betting on partnerships for new projects and technology development. The next negotiation in the sector will be the sale of a mill owned by Infinity Bio-Energy Brasil Participações S.A., controller of five sugar and ethanol facilities in Brazil. The plant under negotiation with the three companies is the Naviraí mill (Usinavi), located in Mato Grosso do Sul state. Bunge, Noble Group and Bertin are seen as potential buyers, and an agreement is expected by end-2009. With a crushing capacity of 3.2 million tons of sugarcane, Usinavi is Infinity's largest industrial plant in Brazil. In the same region as Usinavi, ETH Bioenergia yesterday launched the Santa Luzia mill, located in the Municipality of Nova Alvorada do Sul. The facility has an initial crushing capacity of 3 million tons of sugarcane per crop. **Source: [DCI - Diário do Comércio & Indústria](#) (10/15/2009).**

Wheat futures contracts yesterday reached top level in seven weeks

Farmers may let land lie fallow. Wheat futures contracts yesterday reached a top level in seven weeks due to speculation that US farmers will plant fewer hectares with the winter variety because of late corn and soybean harvest. Instead, they may let the lands lie fallow and choose to plant only in spring. "The focus is still on the current crop and less on winter wheat planting", Louise Gartner, from Spectrum Commodities, said to Bloomberg. Wheat futures for March delivery, traded in Chicago, closed at US\$ 5.3025 per bushel, up by 17 cents. In Kansas, there was a 14.25 cent rise for the same period, to US\$ 5.41. In Paraná, the average 60 kilo bag price was 25.26 reais, down by 1.06%, according to Deral. **Source: [Valor Econômico](#) (10/14/2009).**

Maxys ERP manages 4 billion reais in agribusinesses per year

MAXICON, based in Toledo (Paraná state) and specializing in agribusiness solutions, forecasts a 30% growth for 2009. The company, which has been in the market for ten years, bases its forecast on recent good results: today, the company has, for example, 1,200 direct users of its systems, which are used for managing around 4.8% of the entire soybean production in Brazil. The company's ERP, Maxys, now manages transactions for 3.5 million tons of cereals, representing a volume of more than 4 billion reais, per year. With control tools for areas including production, turnover and growth, the system is used by processing, transport, poultry and hog slaughter companies, among others. MAXICON's current portfolio includes clients from states like Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul, São Paulo, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso, Minas Gerais, Goiás, Bahia, Maranhão, Tocantins and Piauí. **Source: [Baguete.com.br](#) (10/13/2009).**

Embrapa and business incubators provide new opportunities

Entrepreneurs interested in new businesses have an opportunity to work with technologies developed by the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and receive technical and managerial support. A notice was published on Tuesday (Oct. 6) to start registrations for the incubation of businesses to work with products and services created by or adapted to Embrapa's research. This opportunity is the result of a partnership with Unifemm's business incubator. The notice, published regularly, enables the registration of those interested in doing business from the technologies of Proeta, which was created by Embrapa and the IDB, offering a wide variety of products and services. The document is available on the website of Proeta (www.sct.embrapa.br/proeta). **Source: [AgroLink](#) (10/13/2009).**