



*Santa Fe New Mexico, USA and Wageningen, the Netherlands, June 14, 2011*

## **NCGR and KeyGene in agreement to boost genome sequence assemblies**

Today, the NCGR Sequencing Center and KeyGene announced they have entered into a non-exclusive licensing agreement that will enable NCGR to market and execute sequence-based physical mapping projects using the proprietary KeyGene® Whole Genome Profiling (WGP™) technology.

The agreement enables NCGR to combine its sequencing and informatics capabilities with KeyGene's physical mapping technology to deliver superior quality genome assemblies. Under the agreement NCGR and KeyGene collaborate to provide customers with a fast and comprehensive solution for genome sequencing projects.

KeyGene's WGP technology is based on generating short read sequences of pooled BAC clones produced by its partner Amplicon Express. Sequence tags are used to assemble these BAC clones at high stringency based on shared regions containing identical sequence tags. A WGP map forms a high quality scaffold for the assembly of whole genome sequence data. It has been shown to be a considerable improvement on the genome assembly for a diverse set of organisms, including those with very large and complex genomes.

"We're excited!", said NCGR President Gregory May. "Many of our de novo genome projects will benefit from the WGP platform through guiding the order and orientation of our next-generation DNA sequencing-based scaffolds. We have witnessed the power of KeyGene's technologies in improving de novo genome assemblies. We are looking forward to interacting with KeyGene's scientists as their expertise greatly augments that of ours. Although NCGR is a non-profit research organization, this collaboration builds on our tradition of establishing partnerships with industry leading companies such as KeyGene", May said.

Mark van Haaren, KeyGene's US based VP Business Development, said: "KeyGene and Amplicon Express are very pleased with this new collaboration and the fact that NCGR has the ambition to apply the power of the WGP assembly process in their genome projects. As a company with a focus on plant breeding we are happy to collaborate with partners that can promote our technologies in their broader networks. We believe that this agreement will give a much larger customer base access to better genome assemblies that can be used as reference genomes and to support molecular breeding activities."

### **About NCGR**

Located in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the National Center for Genome Resources (NCGR) is a private, non-profit life sciences research institute. The NCGR mission is to improve human health and nutrition by genome sequencing and analysis. NCGR objectives are improved diagnosis, control and cure of disease, and better nutrition. [www.ncgr.org](http://www.ncgr.org)

### **About KeyGene**

KeyGene is a privately owned, innovative molecular genetics Ag Biotech company with a primary focus on the improvement of 6F (Food, Feed, Fiber, Fuel, Flowers and Fun) crops. KeyGene's passion is a Green Gene Revolution approach to explore and exploit existing and induced natural genetic variation in vegetable and other 6F crops. KeyGene delivers sustainable responses to the world's needs for yield stability & quality of vegetable and field crops. We help our strategic partners with cutting edge breeding technologies and plant based trait platforms to meet their needs. We perform strategic and applied research with more than 135 employees from all over the world, with state of the art facilities and equipment. KeyGene has its headquarters in Wageningen, the Netherlands, a subsidiary in Rockville, USA and a Joint Lab with the Shanghai Institute of Biological Sciences in Shanghai, China. For additional information, please visit: [www.keygene.com](http://www.keygene.com).

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