

Performance Plants Inc. Corporate backgrounder

Performance Plants Inc. (PPI) is an elite Canadian plant biotechnology company. Based in Kingston, Ontario, with research facilities in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, the company has developed and holds global patents for breakthrough gene technologies¹ that:

- enhance (15-25%) crop yields through drought resistance in species such as corn, canola and soybeans (YPT™)
- protect crops against heat stress (HEAT)
- enable plants to use available water more effectively (WET)
- improve biomass for bio-fuels crops (BET)
- enhance the enzyme conversion of biomass cell-wall sugars (ECT)

The company (www.performanceplants.com) licences its technologies to several of the world's largest seed and crop corporations. These companies control almost half of the North American seed market. Seeds enhanced with PPI's technologies will become available beginning in 2011. The company is privately held and earns revenue from licences and royalties.

Performance Plants offers these technologies to a world badly in need of them. Global climate change is reducing the planet's ability to produce enough food to feed its growing population. The problem, mostly, is water. There isn't enough to both nourish the world's expanding crops and replenish the supply. Today, 70% of the world's water is used in agriculture. As it is being consumed, the world's aquifers are drying out.

At the same time, 65% of the world's food production is hampered by yield volatility. Countries such as Canada and the US, dependant on large 'dryland' growing areas (the US mid-west and Canadian prairies), face yield uncertainty on the order of 14-46%. Canadian and US grain yield can be cut in half by bad weather.

With the world food supply at a tipping point, practical, affordable and workable solutions to these problems cannot help but have a dramatic impact on crops, the farmers who grow them and an economy that, with bio-fuels, will be increasingly agriculture-dependant.

Biotechnology is that solution.

Performance Plants is at the forefront of this biotech revolution and the market for PPI's technology is significant -- \$5 billion (US) a year and growing at an annual rate of 15%.

¹ For more information on these technologies see PPI's bio-tech media backgrounder)

The company was incorporated in 1995 based on biotechnology developed by its founders. It has since focused exclusively on gene discovery and crop development from an ever-expanding portfolio of technologies it continually discovers. The company has three significant competitive advantages. Of greatest significance is its breakthrough technology which is unrivalled by any global competitor in terms of effectiveness and crop yield enhancement. It works better than anything else offered by anyone else, anywhere.

Secondly, Performance Plants leads in speedy lab-to-market development of its patented technologies. It has the proven ability to create valuable, commercially viable genetic traits and bring them quickly through the testing and regulatory processes to the marketplace.

Finally, the company's Bio-mass Enhancing Technology (BET) has revolutionary implications for bio-fuels production. Plants offer an almost limitless and renewable energy source. The problem in acquiring that energy has been creating plants that have both enough bio-mass to hold a rewarding amount of the sun's energy and that will easily release it in the form of bio-fuels. PPI has the technology - BET that answers both needs. PPI is currently exploring partnerships in the North American bio-fuels sector.