



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **EPA Approves BioNik™ Plant Growth Regulator for use in Corn Seed Production**

LIBERTYVILLE, IL., December 11, 2011 – Valent BioSciences Corporation (VBC) announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has granted registration approval for *BioNik*™ Plant Growth Regulator for use on corn seed.

*BioNik* is a 25% formulation of s-abscisic acid (s-ABA), one of the five classes of plant growth regulators naturally present in plants. Abscisic acid regulates numerous plant processes including dormancy, maturation, growth, and response to stress conditions.

Hybrid corn seed producers will use *BioNik* to delay germination and better synchronize the flowering of male and female parents, capturing flexibility, efficiency, and reducing risk. Typically, pollen shed from the tassels of the male line plants does not completely overlap the receptivity period of the silks from the female line plants and fertilization is not maximized. To get the most value from their female line plants, seed producers typically make a second planting of the male line to ensure that pollen is available throughout the silking period.

Now, seed producers will have a new tool. When s-ABA is applied to the seed of the male line, germination is delayed. By treating their male line seed with *BioNik*, seed producers can extend the overall germination period and expand the pollen shed window from a single planting. This provides significant benefits to seed producers in terms of flexibility and cost-savings.

"*BioNik* is a good example of how a strong research effort can address a very specific market need and deliver value to a production system looking for innovative solutions," said Mike Donaldson, president and CEO of Valent BioSciences.

*BioNik* is the first release from VBC's new Physiological Seed Enhancement business platform, under its plant growth regulator umbrella brand *MASSIVO*™, and is the second release from VBC's new s-ABA franchise.

"Our first registered s-ABA product, *ProTone*® Plant Growth Regulator has been extremely successful promoting the development of fruit color on red table grapes. VBC



is continuing to expand its research with s-ABA into several more areas within the horticulture, agronomic, and ornamental crop segments,” Donaldson said.

*BioNik* can be applied along with or on top of standard seed treatment products using standard seed treatment equipment. It can be applied months or hours prior to planting, with no effect on performance. In 2012, the product will be available on a semi-commercial basis as use patterns are fine-tuned through large scale trials conducted with key corn seed producers. The first wide scale commercial use is planned for 2013.

VBC is developing *BioNik* in other regions including Europe, Argentina, and Chile. Research is also ongoing in hybrid seed production for other crops such as sunflower, canola, and sorghum.

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**About Valent BioSciences Corporation**

Headquartered in Libertyville, IL, Valent BioSciences Corporation is a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sumitomo Chemical Company. VBC is the worldwide leader in the development, manufacturing and commercialization of biorational products, with sales in over 90 countries around the world. For additional information, visit the company’s website at [www.valentbiosciences.com](http://www.valentbiosciences.com).

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