

FuturaGene submits genetically modified eucalyptus for commercial approval

Sao Paulo, Brazil, 15 May 2014. A dossier comprising the results of eight years of field evaluations of the yield enhanced genetically modified eucalyptus of FuturaGene is under evaluation by the Brazilian National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio), the agency responsible for biosafety regulation in Brazil. The document was submitted in January in order to obtain approval for planting on a commercial scale.

In trials to date, the eucalyptus which is the subject of the submission has produced approximately 20% more wood than conventional trees. This increase in productivity is expected to bring a number of benefits: increased competitiveness and environmental and socio-economic gains through higher productivity using less land and therefore overall lower chemical inputs and lowered carbon release, as well as making land available for food production or conservation and enhancing the income of outgrowers.

If approved, Suzano Pulp and Paper will introduce this new eucalyptus into planting cycles on a graded basis, in line with current forest management practices, and products may reach the market in about six years. The improved eucalyptus will also be shared with Suzano's outgrowers, in line with current germplasm practices.

The request for approval of the genetically modified eucalyptus is a pioneering initiative. FuturaGene is the first private Brazilian company to submit a plant for commercial approval.