

**FUTURAGENE PLC (“FuturaGene” or the “Company”)
FUTURAGENE’S WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARIES, CBD TECHNOLOGIES,
LTD. AND FUTURAGENE CONSULTING (BEIJING) TO COLLABORATE
WITH THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF FORESTRY**

24th October 2007

FuturaGene, which develops environmentally friendly solutions that enable plants to grow in hostile conditions and to stabilise and improve crop yields, announces that its wholly owned subsidiaries CBD Technologies Limited (“CBD”) and FuturaGene Investment Consulting (Beijing) Co., Ltd. (“FuturaGene China” and together the “FuturaGene Group”) have entered into a development programme with the Research Institute of Tropical Forestry (“RITF”), a research and development institute of the Chinese Academy of Forestry.

Under the terms of the agreement, FuturaGene Group and RITF will seek to develop new varieties of Eucalyptus specifically for the Chinese domestic market which will incorporate the CBD technology to significantly enhance the yield and fibre properties. Under the Agreement, the parties will share equally the commercialisation rights in the Chinese domestic market.

The development of the varieties will be carried out at the RITF transformation facility in Longdong, Guangzhou with the technical assistance of FuturaGene Group. Following the transformation process, which is expected to take approximately two years, RITF will conduct extensive field trials for the selection of elite lines to commercialise. The trials will be conducted in a number of geographic sites in southern, sub-tropical China. The trial costs are to be paid for by RITF.

Dr Stanley Hirsch, Group CEO of FuturaGene commented:

“We are delighted to enter into this agreement as RITF is at the forefront of development of the clonal eucalyptus industry in China, with strong relationships with the rapidly developing industrial producers. They have also moved actively on developing their biotechnology expertise. We have looked carefully at how to leverage our eucalyptus know how in one of the most exciting fibre markets in the world and by partnering with RITF and the Chinese Academy of Forestry, we are confident that we have put ourselves in the mainstream of development in China.”

Dr. Xu Daping, Director and Chief Research Scientist of RITF stated:

“China’s annual demand for fibre is projected to grow to approximately 60 million tons by 2010. Fast growing eucalyptus is a vital component of this supply chain. By working with leaders in this technology, such as FuturaGene, we are helping to develop sustainable solutions for a major national need”

According to RITF, the industrial planting of eucalyptus in China amounted to more than 1,1 million ha in 2003, making this the second largest industrial estate in the world after Brazil. Planting in Guandong Province alone has increased from 373,366 ha in 2003 to 677,000 in 2006. Chinese government programs envisage the establishment of an additional 6 million hectares of plantation forestry to feed the pulp and paper industry. A significant portion of this planned area will be eucalyptus.

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About FuturaGene PLC

FuturaGene is a leading agricultural biotechnology company focused on research, development, and commercialisation of technologies that play key roles in substantially improving agronomic traits of value in plants. In particular the Company is focused on the development and commercialisation of genetically modified plants for improving yields, processability and environmental sustainability in the forestry, biofuels and agricultural sectors. FuturaGene has actively licensed intellectual property from leading universities in the field of abiotic stress and is exploiting the synergies of these technologies with the cell wall modification platform of its wholly owned subsidiary, CBD Technology Inc (“CBD Tech) in forestry, biofuel, fibre and food crops.

CBD Tech has pioneered a modality for altered cell walls, resulting in enhanced growth and biomass, increased cellulose, improved fibre properties, improved digestibility and processability, and increased yield properties and has secured broad intellectual property covering plants with modified cell walls showing such altered properties.

About RITF

The Research Institute of Tropic Forestry (RITF) is one of the regional scientific research institutes within the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) under the State Forestry Administration (SFA), China. Established some 45 years ago, RITF is one of China’s leading forestry research institutes and aims to become a leading international research institute for tropical forestry in the next 15 years by optimising its resources, increasing its innovative ability and enhancing its scientific and technological operations.

The mission of RITF is to conduct research to support the development of forestry in tropical and southern subtropical China. It has a number of research facilities: a national key field scientific experimental station, a SFA key open laboratory, the Hainan Chenlonggou nature reserve administered by the SFA, Jianfengling tropical forestry experimental station and Yangxi experimental base in Guangdong Province.