



News Release

JOil (S) Pte Ltd and KF Bioplants entered a strategic alliance for the first ever one million Tissue- Culture derived elite Jatropha plants

23 August 2010, Singapore – JOil (S) Pte Ltd (JOil) is pleased to announce that they have signed a contract with leading Indian plant biotech company KF Bioplants Pvt.Ltd. (KFB), a producer and world- wide exporter of more than 40 million ornamental tissue culture plants a year.

In this contract, KFB will produce and deliver an initial volume of one million tissue-culture derived elite *Jatropha curcas* plants using JOil's proprietary tissue culture technology. The mother plants which will be used for the tissue culture is one of the elite varieties developed by JOil through their traditional breeding program

JOil, being a leader in *Jatropha* plant science research, is using material from its own global germplasm collection. JOil has developed several high yielding, self branching and smaller statured varieties.

Though a few success stories of lab-scale tissue culture regeneration of *Jatropha curcas* have been reported, none of them proved to be commercially viable as *Jatropha* is one of the plants that is not amenable to such techniques.

JOil with a strong scientific back up from Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL) has successfully developed a protocol which enables the production of millions of true to type clones through tissue culture. This protocol has been successfully tested on a small scale at KFB and other international tissue culture facilities, and is currently in a stage to be taken to the next level of initial commercial production. This is the first ever commercial production of *Jatropha curcas* using tissue culture technology.

These tissue culture plants will be produced and delivered by KFB to JOil by 2011 and will be used for the Indian/or international markets.

Dr. Srinivasan Ramachandran, GM (Production & Technology) of JOil said "We are very happy to see the progress of our tissue culture protocol with KF Bioplants as we have overcome majority of the *Jatropha* tissue culture challenges. With an experienced and renowned partner like KF Bioplants, I have no doubt that we can produce and market large volumes of tissue culture plants in the years to come."

Mr. Manish Jain, Managing Director of KF Bioplants commented "It is a pleasure collaborating with JOil as their tissue culture technology is quite advanced for producing *Jatropha* seedlings. We look forward to a long-term relationship with JOil."

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About JOil (S) Pte Ltd

Based in Singapore, JOil (S) Pte Ltd (JOil) is a joint venture company incorporated by Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory, Tata Chemicals (through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Tata Chemicals Asia Pacific Pte Ltd) and other investors in 29 Aug 2008. Its main business activities include the development, propagation and sale of elite *Jatropha* seedlings and improved genetically-modified seedlings for commercial cultivation as well as to engage in agronomy research and provision of agronomy advisory. JOil is positioned as a responsible company that provides a sustainable (both economically and environmentally) solution to the use of plant resources as a feedstock for biofuel.

About KF Bioplants

KF Bioplants Pvt. Ltd. is India's largest plant biotech company. A subsidiary of Kumar Properties, it is a global provider of ornamental plants supplying over forty million plants annually for commercial cultivation all over India & to twenty five countries around the world. Backed by eighteen years' experience, it is associated with leading companies around the world under joint venture and licensee arrangements. KF has a state-of-the art plant tissue culture lab measuring 100,000 sq ft & 12 acres fully controlled green houses for hardening of plants.

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