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## **AgraQuest Issues a Call to Action on Biopesticides**

**DAVIS, Calif. (June 3, 2010)** – AgraQuest CEO Marcus Meadows-Smith was invited by the EPA to discuss “Biopesticides in the Green Ag Revolution” at EPA’s Celebration of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and the founding of the Environmental Protection Agency on April 25th, 2010.

During his visit to the nation’s capitol, Meadows-Smith met with federal legislators and other key influencers to U.S. agriculture and food production where he highlighted the need for legislative support to expand the adoption of biopesticides in mainstream food production. During meetings with EPA officials, key trade associations, journalists, senior staffers of key agriculture committees and Congressional staff, Meadows-Smith laid out his vision for accelerating the Green Agricultural Revolution.

“We sit at the convergence of demands – a growing population which must be fed, consumers who want diverse, healthy foods with low residue at affordable prices, and the need to protect and improve the environment. This means a new sustainable, Green Ag approach is needed,” said Meadows-Smith in his conversations with legislators and staff. “We believe the best approach balances the use of innovative and effective biopesticides with the use of the best conventional pesticides to deliver maximum pest control and yield, while minimizing chemical residues and ensuring growers can comply with global MRLs (maximum residue limits) on food. At AgraQuest, we refer this approach as ‘low chem’ agriculture.”

In his meetings, Meadows-Smith challenged the legislators along three themes:

- A combination of regulatory, economic, and public policy mechanisms to expand the use of sustainable agricultural practices;
- A new “low-chem” or sustainable classification of produce, unique from organic, that recognizes the efforts of growers to produce high-yielding crops with much reduced pesticide residues;
- And, transparency of pesticide residue limits (MRLs) both within the US and in export markets, so that American growers can effectively compete in global food networks.

Meadows-Smith urged action in three these areas to accelerate development and adoption of effective biopesticides. During these sessions, specific future actions were defined and AgraQuest was invited to participate in upcoming discussions with key influencers like House and Senate Agriculture Committees, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency to make further advancement along these three themes.

“While we are envisioning how to feed the global population - which is expected to exceed 9 billion people in the next 40 years - we must recognize that the answer is a low-chem approach that uses the best technologies of biopesticides and conventional pesticides to maximize yields and minimize pesticide residues,” said Meadows-Smith.

For more detail on the Green Agriculture Revolution and suggestions for sustainable food production, visit <http://sustainability.agraquest.com/>.

### **About AgraQuest, Inc.**

*AgraQuest is a biotechnology company that focuses on discovering, manufacturing and marketing highly effective pest management products for agricultural, institutional and home markets. The company holds a large portfolio of its own proprietary products, as well as actively in-licenses technology that fits into its low chem portfolio. As a leader in green agriculture and the emerging low chem sector, AgraQuest works to provide growers with solutions that offer best in class control while reducing the chemical load on the environment and creating sustainable agriculture opportunities. The Agrochemical division of AgraQuest offers a global portfolio of products - recognized as safer to beneficials, workers and the environment - that includes SERENADE®, SERENADE® Garden, RHAPSODY®, SONATA®, AND BALLAD® fungicides and BARITONE® AND REQUIEM® insecticides. AgraQuest’s BioInnovations division provides the company an avenue to take biological and low-chemical*

*technology created for the agriculture industry and discover innovative uses for it in related markets. The BioInnovations division identifies both appropriate market segments and opportunities for AgraQuest's intellectual property, while seeking industry leaders in ancillary markets to partner in the commercialization and distribution process. AgraQuest has received several environmental awards including the Presidential Green Chemistry Award from the U.S. EPA for the discovery and commercialization of SERENADE. It also received the prestigious Global Frost & Sullivan Growth Leadership Award in 2009 for the biopesticides market. For more information visit [www.agraquest.com](http://www.agraquest.com).*

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