

NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**G:BOX EF Imaging System used at Major Plant Breeding Centre
To Safely Analyse DNA and RNA from Essential Forage Crops**

Cambridge, UK: Syngene, a world-leading manufacturer of image analysis solutions, is pleased to announce its G:BOX EF gel documentation system is being used by scientists in a prestigious plant breeding centre at Aberystwyth University in Wales to help map the DNA and RNA from commercially important forage crops.

Molecular biologists at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) at Aberystwyth University are using a G:BOX EF imaging system to accurately analyse agarose gels containing red and white clover DNA and RNA stained with GelRed™ Nucleic Acid Gel Stain. The information from the gels is being used to map clover genes and is in the long term, helping scientists at the IBERS to produce new varieties that can tolerate environmental stresses and are more nutritious feed stocks.

Mrs Charlotte Jones, Laboratory Manager at IBERS said: "Clovers are very important as they are primarily used in high quality animal feed but are also a good source of pollen for bees to make honey from. To analyse specific genes from the new varieties we breed, we visualise small amounts of DNA and RNA stained with GelRed™. We prefer to use GelRed because it is safer than Ethidium bromide but not as sensitive."

Mrs Jones added: "We purchased a G:BOX EF because the system is easy to programme and the camera detects the GelRed bands well, allowing us to see 5-20 nanogram amounts. The GeneTools software is great, as we can set up our own results folders and the printer also reproduces precise pictures of all the different coloured images from the screen. In short, the system is perfect for our research."

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News Release

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Laura Sullivan, Syngene's Divisional Manager commented: "We are delighted the G:BOX EF is suited to the precise gene mapping tasks being carried out at the IBERS. Their endorsement of the imager's superior performance shows scientists who demand accurate results without compromising staff safety, that they can realise this challenging objective by using a G:BOX EF gel documentation system."

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Note to Editors
About Syngene

Syngene is a world-leading supplier of integrated imaging solutions for analysis and documentation of gel-based information. Syngene's systems are used by more than 10,000 research organisations and over 50,000 individual scientists world-wide and include many of the world's top pharmaceutical companies and major research institutes.

Syngene, founded in 1997 is a division of the Cambridge based Synoptics Group. The Group's other divisions, Syncroscopy and Synbiosis, specialise in digital imaging solutions for microscopy and microbial applications respectively. Synoptics currently employs over 40 people in its UK and subsidiary operation in Frederick, USA.

About the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences

The Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) was established in April 2008 following the merger of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research, formerly part of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), with Aberystwyth University. The IBERS continues to receive significant funding for research from the BBSRC and benefits from financial support from the Welsh Assembly Government, DEFRA and the European Union.

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G:BOX EF Imaging System used at Major Plant Breeding Centre press release continued....

Its vision is to be one of the top three land-based University departments in the world. A major feature of this vision is a commitment to rejuvenate agriculture in the UK and support the sustainability and viability of the rural economy through establishing direct links between farming communities, business and academics.

The IBERS employs 350 staff, has an annual turnover of £25 million and represents the largest land-based science department in the UK. A major investment of £55 million is underway to help realise this vision.