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media release

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Syngenta regrets to announce the death of former Chairman Heinz Imhof

It is with great sadness that the Syngenta Board of Directors and Executive Committee announce the death of Heinz Imhof, former Chairman of the Board of Syngenta AG. Heinz Imhof passed away in Geneva on October 10, aged 66, after a long and serious illness. He led the Syngenta Board from its creation in November 2000 until his resignation in 2005.

After reading Agronomy at the ETH Zurich, Heinz Imhof joined Sandoz. His distinguished international career culminated in nomination to the company's senior management. Following the merger to form Novartis, Heinz Imhof initially became Head of Seeds. He subsequently took over the entire agribusiness and joined the Novartis Executive Committee.

The highpoint of his career was election to the Chairmanship of Syngenta AG, formed by the merger of the Novartis and AstraZeneca agro divisions in 2000. Heinz Imhof's business foresight and untiring commitment made possible the new company's successful launch. Under his leadership the strategic foundations were also laid for today's strong performance worldwide.

"The Board, Executive Committee and all employees are all deeply indebted to Heinz Imhof. We have lost a fine personality and a good friend, who will be remembered with great honor. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Jacqueline, their children and grandchildren", said Martin Taylor, Chairman of the Board.

Syngenta is a world-leading agribusiness committed to sustainable agriculture through innovative research and technology. The company is a leader in crop protection, and ranks third in the high-value commercial seeds market. Sales in 2007 were approximately \$9.2 billion. Syngenta employs over 21,000 people in more than 90 countries. Syngenta is listed on the Swiss stock exchange (SYNN) and in New York (SYT). Further information is available at www.syngenta.com.