



## **Daschle chairs DuPont advisory committee on agricultural innovation & productivity**

**By AgriPulse Staff**

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Wilmington, Del., Feb. 11 – DuPont announced Thursday that it has launched an “Advisory Committee on Agricultural Innovation & Productivity for the 21st Century,” chaired by the former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle. The company’s stated goal is to support “DuPont’s core goals of meeting the increasing demand for food productivity; protecting people and the environment; decreasing dependence of fossil fuels; and supporting the growth of emerging markets.”

DuPont’s new advisory committee “will build upon existing research, while examining the best public-policy mechanisms to ensure that by 2050 the world’s farmers will have the tools to increase current agricultural production in order to fill the looming global food needs.”

“The world is facing increasing demands on its limited resources, while the global population continues to grow. It is critical that we find sustainable, science-based solutions that work for both the planet and for the global farming community,” said DuPont Executive Vice President James Borel who leads the company’s production agriculture businesses Pioneer Hi-Bred and Crop Protection.

In launching the initiative, Daschle, a Democrat who represented South Dakota in the Senate, said “The world's population is expected to grow to more than 9 billion people by 2050. As a result, agricultural innovation and any successful solution to the threatened food gap must empower scientific and technological advances; an open competitive marketplace; collaboration among researchers, farmers, governments and corporations; governmental leadership; and the global farming community.”

The advisory committee will meet with DuPont’s senior leadership, including Borel and Pioneer President Paul E. Schickler. The committee will present its public-policy recommendations to DuPont in March, 2011. The committee will be supported by ex-officio member Dean Oestreich, former Pioneer chairman, among others who will be named in the coming weeks.

DuPont's view is that the U.S. is entering into a period where farmers will see the largest gains ever from its research. Through its Pioneer Hi-Bred business, DuPont predicts that it will be able to increase yields by 40 percent in corn and soybeans over the next decade through advances in trait development. Currently, Pioneer Hi-Bred provides customized solutions for farmers, livestock producers and grain and oilseed processors. Headquartered in Johnston, Iowa, Pioneer provides access to advanced plant genetics in nearly 70 countries.

Pioneer's DuPont parent company operates in more than 70 countries, offering a range of products and services for markets including agriculture and food; building and construction; communications; and transportation.

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