



St. Louis, MO
June 9, 2025

The KWS Gateway Research Center Celebrates 10 Years of Innovation

A Decade of Scientific Excellence

On June 5, 2025, the KWS Gateway Research Center (GRC) proudly commemorated a decade of innovation. This milestone represented ten years of scientific advancement, and collaborative efforts. It provided an opportunity to reflect on KWS' GRC journey, articulate their future vision, and express gratitude to the colleagues, partners, and supporters who have contributed to their success.

The decision to establish the North American research center in St. Louis in 2014 was driven by the city's geographical centrality and the advantageous environment offered by the Bio Research & Development Growth (BRDG) Park. The BRDG Park's unique combination of state-of-the-art facilities, comprehensive services, advanced equipment and a location at the heart of a research campus next to the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center proved ideal for KWS' research endeavors. In addition, St. Louis region offers one of the world's highest concentrations of plant scientists and over 400 biotech companies, creating a dense, innovation-driven ecosystem.

The event marks a significant chapter in KWS' journey and underscores their commitment to scientific excellence in advancing new genomic techniques that will shape the future of plant breeding and seed innovation.

In celebration of this milestone, the GRC hosted an event that showcased its achievements and upcoming projects at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center.

The celebratory ceremony featured remarks from distinguished individuals, including Felix Büchting, CEO and Spokesperson of the Executive Board at KWS, Hongwu Jia, Head of GenEd Trait Development and GRC Managing Director; James Carrington, President and CEO of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center; Thomas Ehrhardt, Global Head of Research & Development and Services; and keynote speaker, Michael DeCamp, Executive Chairman at Confluence Genetics.

"As we celebrate this decade of remarkable accomplishments, we remain steadfast in our pursuit of groundbreaking research and innovation. The future holds boundless possibilities, and together, we will continue to shape the frontier of scientific discovery." said Hongwu Jia, Head of GenEd Trait Development and GRC Managing Director.

About KWS

KWS is one of the world's leading plant breeding companies. Nearly 5,000 employees* in more than 70 countries generated net sales of around €1.68 billion in the fiscal year 2023/2024. A company with a tradition of family ownership, KWS has operated independently for almost 170 years. It focuses on plant breeding and the production and sale of seed for sugarbeet, corn, cereals, vegetables, oilseed rape and sunflower. KWS uses leading-edge plant breeding methods to continuously improve yield for farmers and plants' resistance to diseases, pests and abiotic stress. To that end, the company invested more than €300 million last fiscal year in research and development.

*excl. seasonal workforce

More information: www.kws.com. Follow us on LinkedIn: [LinkedIn_KWS Group](#)

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Photo Cutline

Featured attendees and speakers from left to right: Michael DeCamp, Executive Chairman at Confluence Genetics; Felix Büchting, CEO and Spokesperson of the Executive Board at KWS; James Carrington; President and CEO of

the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, Thomas Ehrhardt, Global Head of Research & Development and Services;
Hongwu Jia, Head of GenEd Trait Development and GRC Managing Director.
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