World leader in commercial forest products industry joins WBCSD

Geneva, June 20, 2011 – The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) today announced that ArborGen, a world leader in the development and commercialization of technologies that improve the productivity of trees for wood, fiber and energy, has become its newest member.

Bjorn Stigson, President, WBCSD, said: "I am pleased to welcome to the WBCSD this internationally renowned company whose expertise in commercial forestry products is underscored by solid research and development. Sustainable management of forests is crucial if we are to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding global population within the resources of our planet. ArborGen will prove invaluable in addressing the associated issues with our Sustainable Forest Products Industry working group."

These issues include taking a proactive approach to conflict resolution, contributing to community well-being, being responsive to local sustainability concerns about company operations, and cooperation with other stakeholder groups to develop and promote sustainable forestry practices.

ArborGen's WBCSD membership will help it further explore ways in which to balance the expanding demand for forestry goods and services with methods for enhancing ecological, landscape and social values. It will also harness the WBCSD as an advocacy platform to lead innovation in sustainable forest management practices.

ArborGen is revolutionizing productivity in commercial forestry. It is the largest global supplier of seedling products to the commercial forestry industry, as well as the leading developer of biotech seedlings. Through innovations in both conventional breeding and biotechnology, ArborGen is developing high-value products that significantly improve the productivity of a given acre of land. These products enable ArborGen's customers to grow trees that yield more wood per acre with greater consistency and quality in a shorter period of time. ArborGen's work is improving the sustainability of working forests while helping to meet the world's growing need for wood, fiber and energy.