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**DuPont Pioneer Hybrid Maize Study Shows Strong Yield Advantages to Help
Farmers Weather Drought**

Optimum® AQUAmax® Hybrid Seeds Increase Yield by an Average of 6 Percent in Water-Stressed Environments

BRUSSELS, Belgium, March 26, 2015 — DuPont Pioneer today announced that the *Journal of Crop Science* has published the results of a multi-year study conducted to evaluate maize hybrids under drought-stress, or water-limited conditions. Findings scientifically demonstrate the efficacy of Pioneer® brand Optimum® AQUAmax® hybrids, which help farmers achieve more stable yields under drought-stress conditions and high-yield potential in favorable growing conditions.

“Through these and related research efforts, DuPont Pioneer is making real progress in understanding what contributes to drought tolerance. This will help continue to deliver strong maize hybrids to growers around the world and in Europe,” said Jeff Rowe, Regional Director, DuPont Pioneer Europe.

The international community faces the challenge of growing food sustainably, which involves meeting the demands of a growing population in the midst of adverse environmental changes. Globally, water is the most limiting factor to agricultural and food productivity, causing annual crop losses of \$13 billion due to drought. Also in the European Union, water scarcity and drought is an increasingly frequent and widespread phenomenon. As the Environment Directorate General of the European Commission reports, water scarcity is putting the cost of droughts in Europe over the past thirty years at EUR 100 billion. The Commission expects further deterioration of the water situation in Europe if temperatures keep rising as a result of climate change. Water is no longer the problem of a few regions, but now concerns all 500 million Europeans.

Key Findings from the Study

The multi-year study included comprehensive managed-environment research experiments, on-farm industry evaluation experiments and planting density studies. More than 10,700 U.S. farms provided extensive data comparing 78 of the Optimum® AQUAmax® hybrids to a sample of 4,200 industry-leading hybrids used by growers throughout the Corn Belt.

- In the on-farm experiments, the Optimum® AQUAmax® hybrids were, on average, 6.5 percent higher yielding under water-limited conditions and 1.9 percent higher yielding under favorable growing conditions.
- Under water-limited conditions, the Optimum® AQUAmax® hybrids yielded better in higher plant population situations (i.e., more plants per hectare) when compared to the other hybrids. The yield advantage of Optimum® AQUAmax® hybrids compared to other hybrids became greater as plant populations increased.

“Pioneer researchers conducted this comprehensive study as a part of our continued commitment to maintain or improve yield potential, minimize risk to growers when moisture is limited, and help meet global food and feed needs in a sustainable system,” said Arlo Thompson, Maize Research Director, DuPont Pioneer Europe.

“In Europe, we have been selling Optimum® AQUAmax® products since 2012 with great success,” said Rowe. “Over this time more and more customers have recognized the benefits of our products and agronomy support; demonstration that European farmers appreciate having access to innovative solutions provided by our new industry-leading breeding programs.”

The demand of Optimum AQUAmax® hybrids in Europe is expected to remain strong as the products continue to perform rain or shine.

DuPont Pioneer is the world's leading developer and supplier of advanced plant genetics, providing high-quality seeds to farmers in more than 90 countries. Pioneer provides agronomic support and services to help increase farmer productivity and profitability and strives to develop sustainable agricultural systems for people everywhere. Science with Service Delivering Success®.

DuPont (NYSE: DD) has been bringing world-class science and engineering to the global marketplace in the form of innovative products, materials, and services since 1802. The company believes that by collaborating with customers, governments, NGOs, and thought leaders, we can help find solutions to such global challenges as providing enough healthy food for people everywhere, decreasing dependence on fossil fuels, and protecting life and the environment. For additional information about DuPont and its commitment to inclusive innovation, please visit www.dupont.com.

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