



## Sylvean Biotech (Pty) Ltd – Company Profile

### **a. Introduction**

Biotechnology is the application of knowledge about living organisms, and their components, to make new products and to develop new industrial processes. It has been around for centuries in baking bread, brewing beer and wine, making cheese and compost. Modern biotechnology was the result of the discovery of the structure of DNA, also called the building blocks of life. This led to an explosion of genetic research and the development of many new technologies.

Biotechnology has the potential to greatly affect the global economy and the rift between developed and developing countries. What effect the biotechnology revolution will have on the rift will to a large extent depend on different countries' policy initiatives to enable and stimulate the growth of their respective biotechnology sectors. Many countries – mostly from the developed world – have since set in motion far-reaching policies to rapidly develop and expand their biotechnology industries. Biotechnology can be a powerful catalyst to improve the human condition through improved health care, sufficient nutrition at low cost, job creation, and environmental sustainability.

It is against this background that Sylvean Biotech was established in 2005 as the corporate vehicle for realising innovative biotech ideas.

### **b. Vision**

Modern biotech offers amazing opportunities to enrich our lives and Sylvean sees itself as on the cutting-edge of conceptualising and exploiting these opportunities.

Our vision is to enrich people's lives through the innovative use of modern biotechnology.

To this purpose, Sylvean is proactively building strategic and operational partnerships with other biotech players.

### **c. Values**

Sylvean recognises that all beings are interdependent and every form of life has value regardless of its worth to human beings. We therefore strongly support global efforts to improve biosafety, as articulated in the Cartagena Protocol.

Sylvean believes in the inherent dignity of all human beings and in the intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity. We especially value the human capacity of creative imagination, and believe that it should be specially nurtured.

Sylvean affirms that with increased freedom, knowledge, and power comes increased responsibility to promote the common good. Humanity may therefore never ignore modern technology or create the ignorant fiction that modern technology does not exist; humanity has the responsibility to use modern technology to improve the human condition in the present and future generations.

### **d. Directors**

Sylvean Biotech's board of directors boast not only with a very strong technical skills base, but also with impressive entrepreneurial and business skills:

**Donrich Jordaan** and **Janhendrik Oosthuizen** are entrepreneurs who have together established two multi-million-turnover high-tech business ventures, Trydian Interactive and Blueberry Creative. In Sylvean Biotech, Donrich and Janhendrik act as co-managing directors. Donrich used to practise as an advocate at the Pretoria Bar, and has a particular interest in biotechnology law. His prolific research in this field has led to several academic articles in both local and international accredited journals. He has recently been appointed Head of the Research Unit for Policy Studies at the University of Pretoria, where he plans to focus the Unit's activities on biotech policy development. Within Sylvean Biotech, Donrich is strategically complemented by his fellow director, Janhendrik: while Donrich is inclined towards process management and dealing with legal matters, Janhendrik's forte is high-level strategic management. Janhendrik holds degrees in both actuarial science and economics and is currently completing a Masters degree in International Business Management. He has extensive management experience in the corporate world and in the SMME environment. Together, Donrich and Janhendrik form a young and dynamic entrepreneurial synergy that will spearhead the business development of Sylvean Biotech.

**Anton Jordaan** is the innovating force in Sylvean Biotech. His wide and in-depth knowledge of genetics is matched only by his contagious passion for innovation. As director for research and development, Anton conceptualises Sylvean's projects, meticulously plans and drafts the research protocols and guides the research processes. He is an archetypal renaissance man whose interests and knowledge range from genetics and neuroscience to animal psychology, applied mathematics and music composition. Anton possesses an impressive array of six degrees and is currently completing a PhD in zoology.

**Prof Eugene Cloete** is the Head of the Department of Microbiology and Chairperson of the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Pretoria. He has published 110 scientific papers in Science Citation Indexed journals, and is the author and editor of four books and holds nine patents, of which four are international. During the past ten years, Eugene received four awards for academic excellence from the UP and two awards for research from industry. He has presented more than 50 papers at international conferences and promoted 45 students at the MSc and PhD level. He was also recently elected as Vice-President of the International Water Association (IWA) and Chairman of the IWA Strategic Council. Eugene was appointed interim CEO of BioPAD. Eugene is a non-executive director of Sylvean Biotech and provides the board with regular advice and strategic vision.

#### **e. The Innovation Hub**

Sylvean Biotech is 'naturally' headquartered in Africa's first internationally accredited Science Park, The Innovation Hub.

The Innovation Hub is a community of development-orientated, knowledge-intensive and technology-rich companies, located in a peaceful, landscaped precinct in Pretoria, in the centre of Africa's financial and commercial heartland.