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**Cargill Dow LLC and Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. Announce
Collaboration on PLA Business Development**

Tokyo – September 26, 2001 – Cargill Dow LLC and Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. have announced a collaboration for business development of PLA; a new polymer material made from renewable resources. Cargill Dow, the global leader in commercialization of PLA, and Mitsui Chemicals, a leading Japanese chemical company have signed a collaboration agreement to accelerate market development for PLA in Japan and the rest of the world. Under the terms of the agreement, there will be an exchange of intellectual property and technical information relating to PLA application development. Through this arrangement, customers for both parties will be in a position to proceed with business development without concerns of potential intellectual property restrictions from Cargill Dow or Mitsui Chemicals portfolios. Mitsui Chemicals will receive exclusive business development-rights to sell PLA resin in Japan.

“Japan is the most developed region in the world for PLA,” said Randy Howard, president of Cargill Dow LLC. “The agreement with Mitsui Chemicals is an ideal agreement for both companies. It marks another significant step in the development of the new industrial revolution where annually renewable resources replace petroleum-based materials.”

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PLA is a naturally based resin made from plant sugars derived from feedstock such as corn in United States. The development and manufacturing of PLA relies on basic fermentation and distillation as its core chemical process, followed by simple polymerization to make the polymers. A world-scale production facility for Cargill Dow's resin, NatureWorks™ PLA*¹, is under construction in Blair, Neb. Construction will be completed in late 2001 and when at capacity the facility will be able to produce 140,000 metric tons of PLA annually.

“Mitsui Chemicals is very delighted to sign a collaboration agreement with Cargill Dow, a global leading company of PLA.” said Dr. Hiroyuki Nakanishi, president of Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. “The synergy of Cargill Dow's and Mitsui Chemicals' expertise will accelerate the PLA market expansion.”

Mitsui Chemicals has developed PLA technology and market using LACEA® PLA*² resin produced in the pilot plant. It was confirmed that material, processing and application technologies for LACEA® PLA can be applied to PLA resin produced by Cargill Dow. Mitsui Chemicals will use PLA resin from Cargill Dow for the marketing under the LACEA® name.

Currently, Japanese market is the leader in the development and commercialization of PLA. Cargill Dow has worked with and will continue to supply NatureWorks™ PLA to pioneering Japanese companies like Kanebo Gohsen, Kuraray, Mitsubishi Plastics and Unitika. The applications of PLA in the Japanese market range from packaging & container, agriculture & civil engineering, composting to fibers including sportswear and bedding.

In order to expand the market opportunity, Cargill Dow and Mitsui Chemicals will cooperate to continue studying Life Cycle Assessment of PLA, and to obtain positive list status in Japan Hygienic Olefin and Styrene Plastics Association for food contact application. In addition, the companies will help promote the GreenPla*³ certification system and logo developed by Biodegradable Plastics Society in Japan and harmonize globally the certification system of biodegradable plastics.

Founded in 1997, Cargill Dow LLC is based in Minnetonka, Minn. It is the first company to offer its customers a family of polymers derived entirely from annually renewable resources with the cost and performance necessary to compete with packaging materials and traditional fibers. The company has achieved this breakthrough by applying its unique technology to the processing of natural plant sugars to create a proprietary polylactide polymer (PLA). Future applications of the technology could include use in injection blow molded bottles, foams, emulsions and chemical intermediaries. It is estimated that the PLA global market will be 4,000,000 metric tons annually in 2010.

For more company information, please visit the Cargill Dow web site at <http://www.cargilldow.com>.

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. is a diversified chemical company in Japan, headquartered in Tokyo. Mitsui Chemicals is engaged in various businesses such as petrochemicals, basic chemicals, functional polymeric materials, and functional chemicals & engineered materials. In 2000 consolidated sales were 939.8 billion yen, and consolidated operating income was 54.5 billion yen. The LACEA[®] PLA business development unit, one of Mitsui Chemicals' Strategic Business Development Units, has aggressively developed production, material, processing and application technologies and market for PLA.

For more company information, please visit the Mitsui Chemicals web site at <http://www.mitsui-chem.co.jp/english/index.htm>.

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*1 NatureWorks is Trademark of Cargill Dow LLC.

*2 LACEA is Registered Trademark of Mitsui Chemicals.

*3 GreenPla is the nickname of biodegradable plastics in Japan.