



**Breeding Scientific Innovations, Harvesting Global Commercial Breakthroughs**  
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## Three Alumni Companies Share Insights for Entrepreneurial Success

In its short history, the Ag Innovation Showcase already has an impressive track record in selecting and highlighting innovators that have resulted in fast-track growth and visibility. Three alumni companies that presented at previous Showcase events will testify to this impact and discuss their companies in a special panel that explores roadblocks they encountered and their strategies to raise capital and build their teams.

- SG Biofuels ([www.sgbiofuels.com](http://www.sgbiofuels.com)), based in San Diego, CA, is a bio-energy crop company using breeding and biotechnology to produce elite seeds of Jatropha. According to Kirk Haney, President and CEO of SG Biofuels, whose company was among that presented at the 2010 Ag Innovation Showcase, the conference offered extraordinary access to strategically ag focused industry leaders and investors. “The intimate setting of the venue not only makes it easy to meet and have conversations with individuals who are sincerely interested in exploring opportunities with entrepreneurial companies in the ag-bio sector. Many explorations of possible connections among Showcase participants continue to flourish after the event,” said Haney.
- Kuehnle AgroSystems ([www.kuehnleagro.com](http://www.kuehnleagro.com)), Inc. (KAS), based in Hawaii, has in the past year evolved from research and development to a commercial company producing and selling product. Using natural and genetic methods, KAS develops and supplies algae for a variety of markets, saving customers time and money from trying to select and optimize algae on their own. According to Adelheid (Heidi) Kuehnle, President & CEO of Kuehnle AgroSystems, Inc., the Ag Showcase offered incredible resources. Dr. Kuehnle further noted, “It was great to have confirmation that our company was definitely of interest to top tier strategic and venture investors.”
- Divergence Inc. ([www.divergence.com](http://www.divergence.com)), acquired by Monsanto earlier this year, also was a presenter at the first successful Ag Innovation Showcase in 2009. “Since then, Divergence, a leader in developing products for the control of parasites in agriculture, has gone from an independent company exploring strategic alternatives and the potential of working with different companies to a mutually beneficial deal. Monsanto is taking our products forward and also utilizing our team in various additional projects,” said Derek Rapp, now Business Development Lead, Chemistry, for Monsanto and former CEO of Divergence.

In addition to a robust schedule of company presentations, keynote addresses and interactive panels, the Showcase offers participants opportunities for dialogue and discussion, as well as deal-making across the spectrum of ag-bio, food and nutrition, biofuels, sustainable materials, clean-tech, informational technology and animal health.