

SYNGENTA AG
Form 20-F
February 17, 2011

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 17, 2011

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 20-F

REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended: December 31, 2010

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

SHELL COMPANY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission file number: 1-15152

SYNGENTA AG

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

SWITZERLAND

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

Schwarzwaldallee 215, 4058 Basel, Switzerland

(Address of principal executive offices)

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Syngenta International AG

P.O. Box

CH-4002 Basel, Switzerland

(Name, Telephone, E-mail and/or Facsimile number and Address of Company Contact Person)

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class:
American Depositary Shares, each representing
one-fifth of a common share of Syngenta AG,
nominal value CHF 0.10

Name of each exchange on which registered:
New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act: None

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Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report.

94,599,849 Common shares, nominal value CHF 0.10 each

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.
x Yes o No

If this report is an annual or transition report, indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

o Yes x No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

x Yes o No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

o Yes o No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer and large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer x Accelerated filer o Non-accelerated filer o

Indicate by check mark which basis of accounting the registrant has used to prepare the financial statements included in this filing:

U.S. GAAP o International Financial Reporting Standards as issued
by the International Accounting Standards Board x Other o

If this is an annual report, indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

o Yes x No

Introduction

NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Syngenta AG (“Syngenta” or the “Company”) is a world-leading agribusiness that is involved in the discovery, development, manufacture and marketing of a range of products designed to improve crop yields and food quality. In addition, Syngenta is a leader in “Professional Products”, through the development of products for markets such as Lawn and Garden, Professional Pest Management, Vector Control and Public Health. Syngenta is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland and was formed by Novartis AG (“Novartis”) and AstraZeneca PLC (“AstraZeneca”) in November 2000 through an agreement to spin off and merge the Novartis crop protection and seeds businesses with the Zeneca agrochemicals business to create a dedicated agribusiness company whose shares were then the subject of a global offering (the “Transactions”).

The Transactions were completed on November 13, 2000 (the “Transaction Date”). In this annual report, for periods prior to November 13, 2000, the businesses contributed to Syngenta by Novartis are referred to as the “Novartis agribusiness” and the businesses contributed to Syngenta by AstraZeneca are referred to as the “Zeneca agrochemicals business”.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The statements contained in this annual report that are not historical facts, including, without limitation, statements regarding management’s expectations, targets or intentions, including for sales, earnings and earnings per share, constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and are based on the current expectations and estimates of Syngenta’s management. Investors are cautioned that such forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, and that actual results may differ materially.

Syngenta identifies the forward-looking statements in this annual report by using the words “expect”, “would”, “will”, “potential”, “plans”, “prospects”, “anticipates”, “estimated”, “believes”, “intends”, “aiming”, “on track”, or similar expressions negative of these expressions. Syngenta cannot guarantee that any of the events or trends anticipated by the forward-looking statements will actually occur. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the results anticipated in the forward-looking statements include, among other things:

- the risk that research and development will not yield new products that achieve commercial success;
- the risks associated with increasing competition in the industry;
- the risk that the current global economic situation may have a material adverse effect on Syngenta’s results and financial position;
 - the risk that customers will be unable to pay their debts to Syngenta due to economic conditions;
- the risk that Syngenta will not be able to obtain or maintain the necessary regulatory approvals for its business;
 - the risks associated with potential changes in policies of governments and international organizations;
 - the risks associated with exposure to liabilities resulting from environmental and health and safety laws;
- the risk that important patents and other intellectual property rights may be challenged or used by other parties;

- the risk that Syngenta may encounter problems when implementing significant organizational changes;

- the risk that the value of Syngenta’s intangible assets may become impaired;
- the risk of substantial product liability claims;
- the risk that consumer resistance to genetically modified crops and organisms may negatively impact sales;
- the risk that Syngenta’s crop protection business may be adversely affected by increased use of products derived from biotechnology;
- the risks associated with climatic variations;
- the risks associated with exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates;
- the risks associated with entering into single-source supply arrangements;
- the risks associated with conducting operations in certain territories that have been identified by the US government as state sponsors of terrorism;
- the risks associated with natural disasters;
- the risk that Syngenta’s effective tax rate may increase;
- the risks that Syngenta now considers immaterial, but that in the future prove to become material; and
- other risks and uncertainties that are not known to Syngenta or are difficult to predict.

Some of these factors are discussed in more detail herein, including under Item 3 “Key Information”, Item 4 “Information on the Company”, and Item 5 “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects”. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described herein as anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Syngenta does not intend or assume any obligation to update these forward-looking statements.

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PART I

ITEM 1 — IDENTITY OF DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND ADVISERS

Not applicable.

ITEM 2 — OFFER STATISTICS AND EXPECTED TIMETABLE

Not applicable.

ITEM 3 — KEY INFORMATION

Financial Highlights

Syngenta has prepared the consolidated financial statements in US dollars and in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The basis of preparation of the consolidated financial statements and the key accounting policies are discussed in Notes 1 and 2, respectively, to the consolidated financial statements in Item 18.

The selected financial highlights presented on the following page has been extracted from the consolidated financial statements of Syngenta that were prepared in accordance with IFRS. Investors should read the entire consolidated financial statements and not rely on the summarized information. The information includes the results of operations and the net assets of Emergent Genetics Vegetable A/S from June 1, 2006, Conrad Fafard, Inc. from August 1, 2006, Fischer group of companies from July 1, 2007, Zeraim Gedera Ltd. from September 1, 2007, SPS Argentina SA from November 10, 2008, Goldsmith Seeds, Inc. from November 19, 2008, Circle One Global Inc. from May 15, 2009, Goldsmith Seeds Europe B.V. from September 23, 2009, Pybas Vegetable Seed Co., Inc. from December 16, 2009, Synergene Seed & Technology, Inc. from December 23, 2009, Maribo Seed International ApS from September 30, 2010 and Greenleaf Genetics LLC from November 8, 2010. For further information about these and other acquisitions, see Note 3 to the consolidated financial statements in Item 18.

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Selected Financial Data

(US\$ million, except where otherwise stated)	Year ended December 31,								
	2010	2009	2	2008	2	2007	2	2006	2
Amounts in accordance with IFRS 1									
Income statement data:									
Sales	11,641	10,992		11,624		9,240		8,046	
Cost of goods sold	(5,866)	(5,572)		(5,706)		(4,669)		(3,982)	
Gross profit	5,775	5,420		5,918		4,571		4,064	
Operating expenses	(3,982)	(3,601)		(4,038)		(3,070)		(3,190)	
Operating income	1,793	1,819		1,880		1,501		874	
Income before taxes	1,677	1,694		1,714		1,456		843	
Net income	1,402	1,411		1,399		1,135		667	
Net income attributable to Syngenta AG shareholders	1,397	1,408		1,399		1,133		664	
Number of shares – basic	92,687,903	93,154,537		93,916,415		95,973,958		98,165,298	
Number of shares – diluted	93,225,303	93,760,196		94,696,762		97,143,368		99,876,180	
Basic earnings per share	15.07	15.11		14.90		11.80		6.76	
Diluted earnings per share	14.99	15.01		14.77		11.66		6.65	
Cash dividends declared:									