



Verdant Partners adds Director

*Champaign, Illinois
April 1, 2010*

Verdant Partners LLC is pleased to announce that Paul G. Bennett has joined Verdant as a Director effective April 1, 2010. Mr. Bennett has spent most of his career in senior management positions in the global fresh produce industry. His primary focus at Verdant Partners will be the development of new business in the fresh produce industry.

Mr. Bennett recently retired from Sakata Seed America in Morgan Hill, California where he served as CEO from 1997 through 2009. Mr. Bennett also served on the Global Management Committee of the parent company in Japan.

Prior to joining Sakata Seed America, Mr. Bennett served as the Vice President of Technical Services for Monterey Mushrooms in Watsonville, California. Previous to that appointment, Mr. Bennett served as either CEO or COO of agricultural companies including California Ammonia Company, Hawaiian Holiday Macadamia Nut Company, Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Corporation, and various Dole Food Company overseas subsidiaries.

Fluent in English and Spanish, Mr. Bennett earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and his MBA from Stanford University in California. He served four years in the U.S. Navy and is a Vietnam War veteran. Mr. Bennett is a former Chairman of the American Seed Trade Association.

Mr. Bennett can be reached at paulbennett@verdantpartners.com or 925-297-4133 or 217-359-8470, extension 8844.