



## **Gerardo M. Ramos Tombo**

Head of Research & Development, Syngenta Crop Protection AG

### **Biography**

Gerardo M. Ramos Tombo is the Global Head of Research & Development of Syngenta Crop Protection. He was born in Rosario, Uruguay and studied chemistry in Montevideo (B.Sc., 1976) and at the ETH, Zürich (Diploma, 1979 and PhD 1983). His PhD work on mechanistic organic chemistry was recognised with the ETH Medal in 1983. In that year he joined the Central Research Laboratories of Ciba-Geigy Ltd. in Basel, where he worked on the application of enzymes as stereoselective catalysts in organic synthesis. Most of this work in the 80s concentrated on the application of whole cells or purified enzymes from microorganisms, many of them isolated from chemistry waste water, for stereoselective transformations in organic as well as in aqueous media. He was also instrumental in the development and introduction of combinatorial chemistry and high throughput biological screening in agrochemical industrial research. In 1996, after the merger of Ciba and Sandoz to form Novartis, he was appointed Head of Research of the Business Unit Fungicides and became Head of Lead Discovery two years later. Since the creation of Syngenta through the merger of Novartis Crop Protection and Zeneca Agrochemicals in November 2000 he held various roles within Crop Protection Research and Development in Switzerland and the UK.

Gerardo is author of more than 70 scientific papers and patents. In 1990 he was invited lecturer at the Institute of Organic Chemistry of the University in Zürich. In 1991 he received the Award of the Association of Swiss Chemists for his contributions in the field of the stereoselective synthesis of agrochemicals. In 1993 he was appointed Ciba Fellow, the highest scientific honour of the former Ciba, for his outstanding contributions in the field of chiral technologies. During the last years he has been collaborating with several organisations which support the development of Chemistry and young chemists: from 1995 to 2005 he was Chairman of the Editorial Board of CHIMIA, the official journal of the Swiss Chemical Society. From 1990 to 2008 he was member of the Board of the KGF, a sponsoring organisation funded by life science companies in Switzerland. Since 1998, he is a member of the Board of the Novartis Foundation (former Ciba-Geigy Jubiläums Stiftung)