

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CropLife International Applauds Science- and Evidence-based Decisions at the 2018 Biodiversity Convention**

#### ***Industry Recognizes Productive Negotiations and Continued Progress to Protect International Trade, Genetic Resources, and Biodiversity***

**Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt — 30 November 2018** — CropLife International and the Global Industry Coalition (GIC) applaud the significant efforts of Parties that went into the 2018 Biodiversity Convention negotiations held this month in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, including the Fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-14), the Ninth meeting of the Conferences of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP-8), and the Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP-MOP-3).

The plant science industry participated in the Biodiversity Convention negotiations and implementation discussions through the GIC, which commends the Parties' hard work to advance science-based discussions, including leveraging practical scientific experience into decisions that reflect the need to implement existing obligations instead of creating new workstreams. These decisions work toward effective and efficient implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols in Party states, while preventing trade disruption or limited access to new innovations.

“The Global Industry Coalition has long been an active participant in the Biodiversity Convention discussions and continues to be seen as a strong and valued resource to its Parties, especially those that view these negotiations as a way to support the safe and continued application of modern biotechnology to agricultural solutions, including many Latin American countries,” said Sarah Lukie, Secretariat of the Global Industry Coalition. “The plant biotech industry commends the Parties for engaging in science-based discussions and supporting decisions that are practical, based on experience, and help to ensure uninterrupted international trade and access to sustainable agricultural innovations.”

The GIC delegation, which attended this year's UN CBD meetings was comprised of over 20 individuals representing countries from all agricultural regions of the world.

“The GIC remains committed to engaging with Parties and in continued negotiations around the post-2020 framework and looks forward to working toward global efforts to progress agricultural innovations while conserving natural resources and protect biodiversity, especially as agriculture and biodiversity are dependent on each other,” said Lukie.

Today, biotech crops are grown on nearly 190 million hectares in 24 countries, including several major agricultural exporting countries. Guidelines on the import, transfer, handling, and domestic use of living modified organisms (LMOs), including how to address damage

to biological diversity, can have a significant impact on international trade. In addition, rules on access and benefit sharing need to provide legal certainty and be workable in order to safeguard the sustainable use of genetic resources and effective sharing of benefits. CropLife International and members of the GIC and plant biotech industry look forward to participating in the intersessional meetings scheduled by the Parties to occur before they meet again for their next meeting in China in the last quarter of 2020.

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**Note to Editor:**

CropLife International is the voice of the global plant science industry. It champions the role of agricultural innovations in crop protection and plant biotechnology in supporting and advancing sustainable agriculture; helping farmers feed a growing population while looking after the planet; and progressing rural communities. The world needs farmers, and farmers need plant science. CropLife International is proud to be at the heart of helping farmers grow.

The GIC receives input and direction from trade associations representing thousands of companies from all over the world, as well as coordinates closely with other like-minded coalitions, such as the International Grade Trade Coalition. Participants include associations representing, and companies engaged in, a variety of industrial sectors such as plant science, seed, agricultural biotechnology, food production, animal agriculture, human and animal health care, and the environment.