FACT SHEET

# MANDATORY LABELLING TO ENHANCE RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT

Providing farmers with essential information

CropLife INTERNATIONAL

## WHAT IS RESISTANCE?

When a pest control method is used to control a weed, insect or fungus, a small proportion of the population may survive due to their distinct genetic makeup. These individual organisms pass along the genes for resistance to the next generations.

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF RESISTANCE?

Resistant pest populations reduce a pesticide's long-term effectiveness and farmers lose valuable tools to protect their crops.

INSECTICIDES HELP TO CONTROL MORE THAN **10,000** SPECIES OF PLANT-EATING INSECTS THAT CAN ATTACK CROPS.

HERBICIDES ALLOW FARMERS TO INCREASE THEIR CROP YIELDS BY AN AVERAGE **34%**.

FUNGICIDES HELP FARMERS SAVE **125M TONS** OF FOOD EACH YEAR – ENOUGH TO FEED **600 MILLION** PEOPLE.

## HOW CAN FARMERS MANAGE RESISTANCE?

Resistance management integrates multiple pest control strategies – including pesticides – to reduce the ability of pests to develop resistance. A pesticide's mode of action is the way in which the active ingredient works to control the target pest. The more frequently farmers use the same mode of action, the more likely resistance will occur. Using pesticides with different modes of action to tackle the same pest is therefore one of the most effective ways to delay or avoid resistance.

# HOW CAN REGULATORS HELP?

To effectively manage resistance, farmers need to be aware of a pesticide's mode of action. But currently, mode of action labelling is only a legal requirement in a handful of countries, including Australia (see box).


**We are calling on regulators to help farmers tackle resistance by making mode of action labelling mandatory.**

## WHAT ARE AUSTRALIAN GROWERS SAYING?

**Chris Groves** farms in Australia, where mode of action labelling has been mandatory since 1996.

"Mode of action labelling provides guidance that helps me to select the most appropriate crop protection product to effectively control insect pests, weeds and disease. It is a very useful tool for delaying the development of resistance."

# HOW CAN INDUSTRY HELP?

CropLife International members have made a voluntary commitment to include mode of action information on all product labels by 2023, where legally permissible.

We are also encouraging all other pesticide manufacturers – outside of our membership – to adopt voluntary mode of action labelling on their products.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

and to download CropLife International's mode of action labelling guidance visit **croplife.org**

CropLife International, together with its Fungicide, Herbicide and Insecticide Resistance Action Committees (RACs), is committed to advancing the understanding and adoption of responsible resistance management practices.

FRAC

HERBICIDE RESISTANCE ACTION COMMITTEE

IRAC