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.

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.