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USMCA Dispute Panel Requested on Mexico's Agricultural Biotechnology Measures

Important steps taken in support of fair, open, science- and rules-based trade

Brussels, Belgium - CropLife International extends its support to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai on her decision to request the formation of a dispute resolution panel regarding Mexico's agricultural biotechnology measures under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). This request exemplifies the commitment to science-based trade, innovation, and collaborative problem-solving. In a world facing numerous challenges, including climate change and food security, it is imperative that innovation is encouraged and supported through policies based on science and fair trade.

Ambassador Tai's announcement highlights the importance of basing policies on science, safeguarding food security, and promoting agricultural innovation. USTR's commitment to these principles demonstrates the value of partnerships that transcend borders and ideologies, working toward a common goal of responsible and sustainable trade practices. Mexico has long been a vital trading partner for the United States, and the desire to resolve this issue reflects the dedication to fostering a conducive environment for fair and science-driven trade.

The United States has consistently communicated concerns about Mexico's plant biotechnology policies, emphasizing the importance of basing regulations on scientific evidence and international standards. The implementation of Mexico's Presidential Decree banning genetically modified (GM) corn imports will have far-reaching consequences for the farmers already facing food security challenges. Not only will the ban decrease crop productivity for North American farmers, but it will add increased volatility to the corn value chain for supply and pricing, exacerbate existing supply chain challenges, and contribute to existing food insecurity in Mexico.

CropLife International commends the American authorities for their dedication to resolving this dispute through the mechanisms made available in the USMCA. The need for a dispute resolution panel reinforces the importance of open dialogue, adherence to international standards, and the promotion of innovation for the betterment of agriculture, trade, and global well-being.

As this process extends, let us continue to champion innovation, fair trade practices, food security, and the power of collaboration in shaping a sustainable and prosperous agricultural future.

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About CropLife International: As a global voice and leading advocate for the plant science industry, we champion innovative technologies that help farmers grow more food on less land sustainably. We represent six of the world's leading multinational R&D companies in the plant science sector by protecting intellectual property to foster a culture of innovation; advocating for trade and regulatory policies that facilitate access to new technologies; and ensuring the responsible and effective use of plant science innovations.

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