

CropLife International welcomes USMCA dispute settlement ruling

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Brussels, 20 December 2024: CropLife International, the trade association representing the plant-science industry, has today voiced its support for the outcome of the United States-Mexico-Canada free-trade agreement (USMCA) dispute settlement process in which Mexico is formally requested to repeal its Decree prohibiting the use or import of GM corn.

The terms of the USMCA set out a science-based, transparent and predictable regulatory pathway which underpins not only trade, but also the availability of the agricultural innovations which are critical to addressing ongoing food security challenges. In the issuance of a Presidential Decree in December 2020 stating its intention to restrict the import of genetically modified corn, Mexico put the global innovation pipeline at risk and prevented farmers from accessing agricultural innovations that enhance production.

The U.S. Government, with the full support of the Canadian Government as a third party to the action, filed a formal dispute asserting that Mexico’s actions violate the terms of the USMCA. Today’s panel ruling in favour of the U.S. Government’s claims confirms that Mexico placed itself in non-compliance with the terms of the USMCA. CropLife now strongly supports ongoing discussions among the USMCA Parties that lead Mexico to return to a fully-functioning crop approvals system as set out under the USMCA obligations, and re-establish and maintain open technical dialogue for the submission of new scientific technologies.

Emily Rees, President and CEO of CropLife International, said: *“This is the clearest of signals that upholding free-trade agreements delivers the stability needed for innovation to flourish and to anchor our food security. I applaud the U.S. and Canadian Governments for taking steps to ensure that the commitments and obligations under free-trade agreements are upheld and look forward to a resumption of access for all parties to the agricultural innovations so crucial to lives and livelihoods alike.”*

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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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