

CropLife International Statement on the Use of Nanomaterials in Plant Science

The use of nanomaterials is an exciting and relatively new area of scientific innovation. Nanomaterials are objects with nano-scale (very small) dimensions. For example, a nanometre is a billionth of a metre. A nanomaterial has at least one dimension smaller than 100 nanometres. At this scale, objects behave differently and can be used differently. They are already being used to develop materials with a wide range of benefits, including faster, lighter and more efficient products in a variety of applications from medicine to renewable energy.

Applying nanomaterials within agriculture has the potential to improve the activity of plant science products, thus generating solutions that help farmers grow more food, create renewables and supply ever more sustainably. In the face of the threats to food security and the need to conserve natural resources, new innovations are in demand to provide improved solutions for farmers. Currently, the use of nanomaterials in plant science is limited to certain crop protection formulations.

CropLife International recognizes that there are concerns around the use of nanomaterials. As with all technologies, we fully support the need for sound, science-based risk analysis and appropriate regulation to ensure human health and safety and to protect the environment. Any assessment should also take into account the potential benefits of nanomaterial applications for society.

We further support the development of harmonized assessment concepts, as well as efforts by international organizations such as the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to develop international standards related to nanomaterials and an agreed testing framework. CropLife International members believe in the importance of dialogue and engagement, and are contributing to the work of the OECD and ISO in this area. CropLife members are also in dialogue with regulatory authorities to help define the appropriate regulatory framework for assessment and testing of products based on nanomaterials.

CropLife International and its members are fully committed to the lifecycle approach to stewardship of all products, from R&D stages to eventual disposal. This approach to stewardship aims to ensure that products are consistently handled safely, responsibly and with respect for the environment.

Further information:

BASF Questions and Answers on Nanotechnology

<http://www.basf.com/group/corporate/en/sustainability/dialogue/in-dialogue-with-politics/nanotechnology/questions>

Bayer Position on Nanotechnology

<http://www.sustainability2007.bayer.com/en/Bayer-Position-on-Nanotechnology.pdf>

DuPont Position Statement on Nanoscale Science and Engineering

http://www2.dupont.com/Media_Center/en_US/position_statements/nanotechnology.htm

!

Cefic Introduction to Nanomaterials

<http://www.cefic.org/en/Nanomaterials.html>