ABOUT US

CropLife International is a global network of plant science companies and regional and national crop protection and biotechnology associations that share the common goal of creating and promoting solutions for sustainable agriculture.

For us, sustainable agriculture means employing a wide range of solutions incorporating nature and technology, which can:

> Meet the world’s growing food needs;
> Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base;
> Make efficient use of technologies, renewable resources, and on-farm resources while integrating natural biological cycles;
> Sustain the economic viability of the farm and farmers; and
> Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society.

CropLife International’s mission is to encourage a dialogue that will help foster the understanding that nature and technology are not mutually exclusive, but rather complementary and synergistic. In fact, the plant sciences industry has made an impact on everything in our lives from the food we eat, to the clothes we wear, to the fuel we can use in our cars. Even more, innovations developed by the plant sciences industry have revolutionised the lives of the more than 2.5 billion farmers around the globe and reduced agriculture’s footprint by, for example, reducing the amount of land and water resources needed to grow crops and making crops more resistant to pests and drought.

Together with our global network of partners, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), farmer groups, agriculture and biotechnology experts, and regional associations, CropLife International serves as a catalyst for information sharing and discussion about the latest innovations in agriculture.

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WE INVITE YOU TO EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT, AND SEE WHAT PLANT SCIENCE IS DOING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY.

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**Feeding Nine Billion**

In 2011, the world’s population reached seven billion people, and by 2050 it will surpass nine billion. This means farmers will need to produce 70% more food on less land than ever before. Crop protection products and plant biotechnology can improve yields to help farmers meet this goal.

**Improving Yields**

- Better Yields
- Reducing Losses
- More Food

**Sustainable Livelihoods & Stronger Communities**

Are created by making agriculture more productive.

**Herbicides Reduce Strenuous Handweeding**

Herbicide use could eliminate the need for 90% of strenuous handweeding in Africa.

**Disease-Free Harvests Boost Incomes**

In Kenya, using pesticides to produce disease-free fruit means a four-fold income increase for small-scale passion fruit farmers; and extra income for avocado farmers.

**Higher Yields Improve Livelihoods**

In India, BT cotton is boosting yields, leading to higher farm incomes and quality of life improvements.

**Since 1961 Yields for Rice Have More Than Doubled**

- 1961: 1.2 MT more soybeans
- 1999: 110.2 MT more soybeans
- Today: 195.6 MT more corn
- 2011: 6.6 MT more canola
- 2011: 311.8 million tonnes (MT) more

**Crop Protection Practices Prevent Nearly 1/2 of These Crop Losses**

- Pests could destroy 50% of the world’s wheat crop.
- Biotech crops help farmers grow more food per acre.

**This Can Save 24 Billion Hours and Produce an Additional 40 Million Tonnes of Crops**

**$12.6 Billion in Farm Income Gains from 2002 to 2011**

- Improved access to telephone systems, drinking water and economic infrastructure
- More maternal health care, higher school enrolment and vaccination rates
**FIGHTING POOR NUTRITION**

In the developing world, an estimated one in three children suffers from malnutrition. At least half of the 10.9 million child deaths each year could be prevented with improved nutrition. Plant science can help by producing more food for a growing population and creating plant varieties with higher nutritional values.

**CREATING HEALTHIER DIETS THROUGH NEW VARIETIES AND ABUNDANT FOOD CHOICES**

**Higher nutritional value**

The Africa Biofortified Sorghum project is using biotechnology to develop sorghum with higher levels of essential nutrients such as vitamin A, iron and zinc.

**More fruits & vegetables**

Yield loss prevented by fungicides:

- Without fungicides, which protect plants from disease, it's estimated that yields of most fruit and vegetables would fall by 50-95%.
- With fungicides, yield loss is prevented by 14% for maize, 14% for beans, 44% for sorghum, and 86% for cassava.

**Healthier staples**

BT corn contains built-in protection from insect damage, lowering the levels of mycotoxins (harmful fungal toxins).

This enhances safety of corn-based feed and food staples.

**Conserving water**

In the next 20 years, it's predicted that nearly half of the world will be living under severe water stress. Today, with every calorie we eat requiring about one litre of water to produce, agriculture accounts for 70% of global water use. New technologies can help us change the way water is used and managed.

**Reducing water needs through plant science technologies**

**Water efficient crops**

One pound of cotton can now be produced with about 1/2 the irrigation water required 20 years ago.

**Conservation tillage**

Herbicides and biotech crops reduce the need for tillage, leaving more moisture in the soil for the growing crop.

**Drought tolerant crops**

Drought tolerant corn in Africa has the potential for 20-35% higher yields under drought conditions.
IN LESS THAN 40 YEARS, IT'S ESTIMATED THAT HALF OF THE CURRENT LAND WE USE TO GROW CROPS WILL BECOME UNUSABLE DUE TO DESERTIFICATION AND LAND DEGRADATION. THIS LOSS OF SOIL PRODUCTIVITY AND PLANT COVER IS PRIMARILY CAUSED BY UNSUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES SUCH AS INTENSIVE TILLAGE, AND PROLONGED DROUGHT. BY USING BIOTECHNOLOGY AND CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS, FARMERS CAN EMPLOY CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE, PROTECTING LAND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

IN CANADA, 64% OF FARMERS PLANTING HERBICIDE-TOLERANT CANOLA ARE USING ZERO AND MINIMAL TILLAGE PRACTICES – 86% HAVE REDUCED SOIL EROSION AND 83% INDICATED GREATER SOIL MOISTURE*.

IN CHINA, USING HERBICIDES INSTEAD OF TILLAGE IN TEA FIELDS CAN REDUCE SOIL EROSION BY UP TO 80%.

IN ARGENTINA, THE INTRODUCTION OF HERBICIDE-TOLERANT SOYBEANS INCREASED NO-TILL ADOPTION FROM ABOUT 33% TO MORE THAN 80% BETWEEN 1996 AND 2008*.

SAVED 108.7 MILLION HECTARES

HIGHER YIELDS IF HIGHER YIELDING BIOTEC CROPS HAD NOT BEEN AVAILABLE FROM 1996 TO 2011, AN ADDITIONAL 108.7 MILLION HECTARES OF FARMLAND WOULD HAVE BEEN NEEDED TO MAINTAIN GLOBAL PRODUCTION LEVELS*.

DEFENSE AGAINST INVADERS FORESTS AND OTHER NATURAL HABITATS CAN THRIVE WHEN PESTICIDES ARE USED TO CONTROL INVADING PLANTS OR INSECTS THAT THREATEN NATIVE SPECIES.

CONSERVATION TILLAGE CONSERVATION TILLAGE LEAVES CROP STUBBLE IN THE FIELD, IMPROVING HABITAT AND FOOD SOURCES FOR INSECTS, BIRDS AND OTHER ANIMALS.
MANAGING OUR CHANGING CLIMATE
THROUGH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS ALREADY SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED GROWING CONDITIONS AND WEATHER PATTERNS, AND IF CURRENT TRENDS CONTINUE, IT’S PREDICTED THAT TEMPERATURES WILL RISE BY 2-3°C OVER THE NEXT 50 YEARS, LEADING TO SERIOUS IMPACTS. FARMERS MAY FACE EVEN MORE DROUGHT, FLOODING AND EXCESSIVE HEAT AS THEY ARE CHALLENGED TO PRODUCE FOOD FOR AN INCREASING WORLD POPULATION. PLANT SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES CAN HELP FARMERS MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEAL WITH ERRATIC WEATHER PATTERNS.

NEW TRAITS
PLANT SCIENTISTS ARE DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND TRAITS THAT CAN ALLOW CROPS TO THRIVE IN HARSH GROWING CONDITIONS LIKE DROUGHT, FLOODING OR EXTREME HEAT

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE
HERBICIDE-TOLERANT BIOTECH CROPS REDUCE THE NEED FOR TILLAGE- USING LESS FUEL AND KEEPING CARBON IN THE SOIL. IN 2011, THE AMOUNT OF CO2 SAVVED BY BIOTECH CROPS WAS EQUAL TO REMOVING 10.2 MILLION CARS FROM THE ROAD FOR ONE YEAR*

HIGHER YIELDS
BY INCREASING YIELDS, FARMERS ARE UNDER LESS PRESSURE TO CONVERT CARBON-RICH FORESTS TO FARMLAND, REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. SINCE 1961, HIGHER-YIELDING CROPS HAVE PREVENTED 590 BILLION TONNES OF CARBON EMISSIONS*

REFERENCES
17. Brookes and Barfoot. 2013. Forthcoming

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