

Brussels, 7 August 2003

PRESS RELEASE

Plant Science Industry pledges up to \$30 million to clear up obsolete stocks of crop protection products in Africa

CropLife International announced today that the plant science industry will commit up to US\$30 million dollars to the African Stockpiles Programme (ASP)* over the duration of the project, representing a doubling of the anticipated contribution under the current policy.

The leading companies of CropLife International have already committed to fund the cost of incinerating obsolete stocks that they originally manufactured. The increased contribution being offered to the ASP focuses on making safe particularly hazardous stocks and on the provision of expertise in the management and coordination of disposal operations.

"CropLife International has been an active partner in the ASP since its inception and we are pleased to be able to announce this increase in our contribution," said Christian Verschueren, CropLife International Director General. "For this issue to be tackled effectively it must be done in partnership."

In addition to working with the ASP, CropLife International has collaborated with over 30 organisations in the disposal of 3000 tonnes of third party owned stocks in developing countries; during 2002 the industry contributed to the destruction of 400 tonnes from Mozambique. A further 5000 tonnes of farmer owned stocks have been collected in OECD countries.

-more-

“Our industry is experienced in executing these highly specialised operations and we are offering our expertise to ensure the ASP succeeds with this ambitious programme,” explained Verschueren. “We would like to see the 15 year timeframe currently proposed for the project to be reduced if possible, and we will explore ways of achieving this with our partners.”

-End-

Notes to Editors:

*The African Stockpiles Programme (ASP) is an unprecedented partnership between international organisations, non-governmental organisations, governments, industry, and multi-lateral funds to eliminate obsolete stocks of crop protection products from Africa and prevent further accumulation.

ASP Partners include: the African Development Bank, the African Union, the Basel Convention Secretariat, Canada, CropLife International, the European Union, the Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO), the French Republic, the Global Environment Facility, Japan, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), the Pesticides Action Network *Africa*, the Pesticide Action Network *UK*, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), The United Nations Institute for Training & Research (UNITAR), The World Bank, The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

CropLife International is the global federation representing the plant science industry. It supports a network of regional and national associations in 85 countries, led by companies such as BASF, Bayer CropScience, Dow AgroSciences, Dupont, FMC, Monsanto, Sumitomo and Syngenta. CropLife International promotes the benefits of crop protection and biotechnology products, their importance to sustainable agriculture and food production, and their responsible use through stewardship.

For further information contact:

Stephen Weller,
Communication Manager
Tel : +32 2 541 1663
Switchboard: +32 2 542 0410
Email : stephen@croplife.org

Or

Keith Jones,
Manager, Stewardship & Sustainable Agriculture
Tel : +32 2 541 1665
Switchboard: +32 2 542 0410
Email : keith@croplife.org