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PRESS RELEASE

CropLife International seeks more partnerships for sustainable agriculture and food security

Yesterday at the FAO World Food Summit in Rome CropLife International highlighted the contribution made by public/private partnership projects in helping farmers improve agricultural productivity, contribute to food security and alleviate poverty in developing countries.

Per Pinstrup-Andersen from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) opened the side event co-hosted by CropLife International, the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) and the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH).

"Agricultural industries such as the plant science industry, the fertilizer industry and the animal health industry all play a role in helping rural communities to feed themselves," said Annik Dollacker, Chair of the CropLife International World Summit for Sustainable Development Project Team. "Access to complementary agricultural technologies along with training and education on how to use them can greatly improve yields and food security for many poor communities in the world."

Examples of successful public/private partnerships in different regions of the world were presented to stakeholders at the meeting. Nikolaus Schultze from the International Federation for Agricultural Development (IFAD) outlined an initiative run in collaboration with CropLife Latin America in Guatemala. The industry, local authority and IFAD worked together in the Cuchumatanes Highlands reaching out to over 37,000 families to promote the safe use of crop protection chemicals.

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This successful programme has become the cornerstone for additional cooperation in the Dominican Republic and Panama.

"If we are to help rural communities get off the poverty treadmill then we all must work together for sustainable agriculture," said Christian Verschueren, Director General of CropLife International. "We have a role to play in stimulating discussion and deepening future cooperation. Public/private partnerships are the way forward if we are to really make a difference on the ground."

CropLife International has recently published a range of case studies* illustrating the success that can be achieved when organisations work together with the common goal of achieving sustainable agriculture.

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Notes to Editors:

*Copies of the CropLife International publication "Creating Opportunities for Sustainable Agriculture", which outlines various case studies from around the world can be obtained by contacting CropLife International.

CropLife International's member companies strongly support the implementation of Integrated Pest Management and farmer and distributor training. Initiatives such as the Safe Use Projects, container management schemes and individual company global stewardship programmes are practical examples of how the plant science industry is investing in training and education.

CropLife International is the global federation representing the plant science industry. It supports a network of 75 regional and national associations and their member companies worldwide, 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 and their importance to sustainable agriculture and food production.

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