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**Media Release**

**Improved market access and trade facilitation  
are key for future growth**

The plant science industry is interested in every aspect of the WTO negotiations to be held in Cancun, Mexico, that affect the food and agriculture value chain, all the way from farmer to retailer. While there are specific issues such as tariff reduction in chemicals and data protection which are of core interest, the members of CropLife International want to see improved market access and trade facilitation for all related industries to ensure healthy future growth in the trade environment for all participants.

CropLife International firmly believes that a renewed commitment to trade facilitation issues highlighted during the Singapore ministerial is of critical importance. Progress here will not only support the development of the entire food and agriculture value chain, but will be critical for the economic growth of developing countries, particularly those with agriculture-based economies.

CropLife International hopes the high expectations surrounding the Cancun Ministerial will create the political momentum necessary for member states to move beyond the impasse in the discussions on agriculture and provide a springboard for further progress in the market access discussions.

Demands by developing countries for developed countries to reduce or eliminate domestic farm support and export subsidies, the election cycle in the United States, and the ongoing discussion on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy may mean that the negotiation period will need to be extended further.

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CropLife International welcomes the joint agreement on agriculture modalities announced by the European Union and the United States on August 14<sup>th</sup> and hopes this effort will form the basis for real progress at Cancun.

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**Notes to Editors:**

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 and their importance to sustainable agriculture and food production.

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