

Press Release

Plant Science Industry Reiterates Its Call for a Consistent, Science-Based Regulatory Framework

Brussels, 3 June 2004 --- The Plant Science Industry has reiterated its call to governments worldwide for a consistent and science-based regulatory framework for the research and use of its products in agriculture and the food and feed chain.

"Our vision is for a regulatory system that favors investment and innovation. We will stifle innovation if our framework fails to provide sufficient financial rewards to justify continued investment," said Michael Pragnell, President, CropLife International and CEO, Syngenta, at the CropLife International Annual Conference in Brussels, Belgium. The Conference gathered consumers, politicians and representatives from civil society, business and industry for a wide-ranging discussion on the role and impact of plant science on the world food agenda.

The Plant Science Industry reiterated its principles for a sound regulatory and policy environment:

- Reliable, consistent, science-based regulation
- Respect and encouragement of intellectual property
- Public endorsement of the industry and its research.

"Our industry plays an essential role in keeping up with the increasing food and fibre demands of the world's growing population," stated Mr. Pragnell. "We are committed to further developing sustainable agriculture and to do this efficiently, international regulation must be guided by good science and not political expedience."

Recent efforts to harmonise regulations and standards within the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OECD are encouraging. The Plant Science Industry, represented by its global federation CropLife International, remains committed to supporting these developments. CropLife International encourages governments to ensure that current regulations are implemented according to their intended spirit. Examples include:

- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)*: Industry strives to ensure that national and international interpretation is consistent with the articles of the Convention, including risk management procedures in determining future POPs.
- The Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC)**: Industry calls for open, transparent interpretation of the Convention wording, especially in criteria for notifying potential chemicals.
- The Cartegena Protocol on Biosafety (the Biosafety Protocol)***: Industry is concerned with key outstanding issues in the Protocol text, particularly in relation to development of a specific liability and redress regime and documentation requirements for the trade of biotech organisms.

CropLife International is already working with international institutions and governments to ensure protection of human health and the environment, while also maintaining science- and risk-based, transparent, workable standards. CropLife International's *Reference Guide on Biosafety Frameworks Addressing the Release of Plant Living Modified Organisms* and its recent publication on *Water Matters for Sustainable Agriculture* are prime examples of industry's activities in this regard.

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Note to Editors:

CropLife International is the global federation representing the plant science industry. It supports a network of regional and national associations in 88 countries, and is 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 activities.

*The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) entered into force 17 May 2004 as an international, legally-binding treaty. It establishes control measures regarding the global production, import, export, disposal and use of POPs, which are chemicals that resist natural degradation, tend to bioaccumulate, are toxic to humans and/or wildlife and travel long distances by air or water. More information can be found at <http://www.pops.int/>.

** The Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) entered into force on 24 February 2004. It is a mechanism for importing countries to make informed decisions about future imports of certain hazardous chemicals in international trade. More information can be found at <http://www.pic.int/>.

***The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety entered into force 11 September 2003. It is an international agreement regulating the movement between countries of living modified organisms (LMOs). More information can be found at <http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/default.aspx>.

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