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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Plant science industry welcomes Jo'burg Summit agreement and partnership opportunities

CropLife International welcomes the final agreement at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg and is pleased that throughout the process sustainable agriculture was seen as central to sustainable development.

Christian Verschueren, Director General of CropLife International said, "Overall we are pleased with the conclusions of the Summit. We have been given an opportunity to explain our contribution to sustainable agriculture and our willingness to engage in real partnerships with clear goals and achievable targets. We are heartened to see recognition of the central role sustainable agriculture plays in sustainable development. Food security is vital to any development and this has been reflected throughout the process."

During the Summit three new partners signed up to support the agLe@rn project, a web-based educational tool designed to improve the knowledge and skills related to sustainable agriculture amongst agricultural professionals. The agLe@rn project is a type 2 initiative submitted by CropLife International, the Asia Pacific Regional Technology Centre and WorldView International\*.

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CropLife International also gave out the first agLe@rn scholarship to Bavilele Mda, a local small-holder farmer from Tembisa, a suburb on the outskirts of Johannesburg. Bavilele grows vegetables for his family on a small plot of land and thanks to his agLe@rn scholarship he will now be able to access the internet from his local community center and learn more about sustainable farming practices to improve his yields and protect the environment.

CropLife welcomes the recognition by most of the Summit participants that the private sector is a key partner in solving the challenges facing sustainable development.

The Summit has provided the opportunity for CropLife International to continue its active dialogue and strengthen links with international governmental organisations, other stakeholders and civil society.

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Notes to Editors:

\*WorldView International Foundation is a non-profit organisation dedicated to using media technology to disseminate environmental information in developing countries.

For more information on the agLe@rn programme visit: <http://www.aprtc.org> For more information on CropLife International's activities at WSSD, case studies of sustainable agriculture and its partnership initiatives, visit: [www.croplife.org](http://www.croplife.org)

CropLife International's member companies strongly support the implementation of Integrated Pest Management and have a long-standing commitment to farmer and distributor training. Initiatives such as the Safe Use Projects, container management schemes and 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 nearly 100 regional and national associations and their member companies worldwide, led by companies such as BASF, BayerCropScience, 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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