

**Brussels, 25 February 2003**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Plant science industry reaffirms commitment to improve rural livelihoods and environment through Integrated Pest Management**

CropLife International released a new publication today outlining the plant science industry's commitment to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in line with the newly revised FAO definition of Integrated Pest Management.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has recently completed the revision of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides [http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Code/PM\\_Code.htm](http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Code/PM_Code.htm). Included in the new Code is an updated definition of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which is fully supported by CropLife International and its members.

"The new definition from the FAO is in line with advances in new technologies, such as biotechnology, and IPM strategies which have been made in recent years and we will continue to work together with other organisations to promote IPM as a sustainable farming system," said Keith Jones, CropLife International Manager for Stewardship and Sustainable Agriculture.

IPM is a site-specific strategy for managing insect, weed, disease and other pests in the most cost effective, environmentally sound and socially acceptable way. IPM is not a rigidly defined form of crop protection, but a dynamic system that adapts and makes sensible use of local resources and the latest research, technology, advice and experience.

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IPM, as a farming system, is supported by consumer and environmental groups as well as aid and donor agencies, agricultural development NGOs, farmers and many national governments.

The adoption of IPM principles is catching on fast in developing countries and being incorporated into regulatory policies and strategies of governments, donor and development agencies. Legislation is also increasingly being used to support the integration of IPM into farming practice.

Farming according to IPM principles has many advantages for both farmers and society. Consumers can be reassured that the food they eat has been grown to the highest standards, ensuring high quality and environmental protection. The farmer has more stable, reliable and quality yields, the severity of pest infestations is reduced, as are potential problems of pest resistance to treatments. Perhaps most significantly the agricultural environment will be secured for future generations.

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Notes to Editors:

Copies of the CropLife International publication "Integrated Pest Management, The Way Forward for the Plant Science Industry" can be obtained by contacting CropLife International or can be viewed on-line at [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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