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MEDIA RELEASE

US Case against EU de facto Moratorium on Import Approvals for Genetically Enhanced Products

Position

CropLife International believes that the request for a WTO dispute settlement by the United States concerning the de facto European Union moratorium on approvals of imports of new genetically-enhanced products should be resolved expeditiously and in a manner that will result in minimal further negative consequences for bilateral trade and investment.

Rationale

Bilateral consultation has regrettably so far been insufficient to resolve differences between the United States and European Union regarding the moratorium. However, given this situation, a dispute case handled according to WTO rules and principles is preferable to unilateral action by either party.

CropLife International believes that a positive resolution of this dispute will underscore the potential this technology represents for sustainable agriculture. Resolving this case according to established WTO principles and timetables will clarify for all member countries the terms under which trade in genetically-enhanced products may proceed and help to build a stable and predictable regulatory environment for this important technology.

This trade dispute must be resolved. Uncertainty over the outcome hurts developing countries whose trade with both U.S. and E.U. is important for their continued economic development.

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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.