Press Release

World Food Day 16 October 2005

Plant science industry delivering new technologies across borders and between cultures to meet world food needs

Brussels, 13 October 2005 - The plant science industry celebrates this year's World Food Day theme, "Agriculture and Intercultural Dialogue", asserting its role as an important partner in cross-cultural exchange to improve agriculture globally. On this, the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's World Food Day, CropLife International pledges to continue its work to spread agricultural best practices, beneficial new products and technologies and expertise and experiences around the world, for the benefit of farmers everywhere.

"Agriculture is the powerhouse of most developing country economies," said Christian Verschueren, CropLife International Director General. "Growth in this sector is dependent on the sharing of information and best practices, across borders and between cultures. Our industry is committed to being open and transparent, as well as a trusted dialogue partner. These are some of our core values."

With members and regional offices in over 90 countries, the organization embodies the spirit of this year's theme. CropLife's commitments to improving crop protection and production, while minimising environmental impacts, ensures agricultural technologies are implemented in a culturally-sensitive and geographically-specific manner, and relies on intercultural dialogue and exchange to share knowledge, expertise and experience to accomplish this. Some examples include industry's work to:

- Protect natural wildlife habitats within and around the farm within Integrated Crop Management Systems*
- Promote conservation technologies and practices across borders and markets, including no-till agriculture, which has enabled the recovery and restoration of farmland degraded by more destructive tillage processes;
- Develop culturally-relevant stewardship programmes, including education and training of developing country farmers in the safe use of crop-protection products
- Developing pictograms that provide essential use and safety information on products that can be understood by farmers and others unable to read.
- Carry out programmes to remove and destroy safely obsolete and improperly stored stocks of pesticides, which may cause environmental or health issues.
- Support the appropriate science-based implementation of international conventions and national polices in order to encourage innovation, development and capacity building for agricultural technologies that are necessary for sustained economic growth and poverty reduction.

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"No matter which culture we belong to, we all have a vested interest in global agricultural issues, such as soil conservation, protection of biodiversity and pest management. Cross-cultural dialogue and exchange is essential to ensure that this will happen in an economically viable and socially acceptable way," said Mr Verschueren.

"CropLife applauds the FAO for highlighting the importance of intercultural exchange for sustainable agriculture, and looks forward to continuing to work with them to make available the best new technologies and help achieve safe and healthy food production and, by extension, improved livelihoods throughout the world."

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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 over 90 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.

*Integrated Crop Management is management of the whole crop to produce economic yields of high quality produce in an environmentally-responsible way (includes Integrated Pest Management, crop rotation, soil management and crop nutrition, waste reduction.


Or visit the CropLife web site at [www.croplife.org](http://www.croplife.org).

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