

Practical Approaches to Insect Resistance Management (IRM) for Biotech-Derived Crops



Since the beginning of agriculture, farmers have always had to find ways to remove insects and other pests that can stunt plant growth, damage crops, and reduce crop quality. Today's farmers have a wide range of insect control tools – from traditional insecticides and biological control agents to seeds with built-in insect protection – which can help increase their productivity and profitability with minimal impact on the environment and other animals. Biotech-derived plants that are insect-resistant have played a large role in helping farmers to more efficiently and effectively control and reduce damaging insects. This allows for higher yields and improved crop quality and reduces the need for pesticide applications – all of which have helped reduce labor and farm operating costs, increased farmer incomes and livelihoods, and provided consumers with higher quality and safer foods.

All farmers are challenged with the simple fact that every insect control method has a limited life span because pests adapt or evolve resistance. The value of biotech-derived crops can be greatly diminished if resistance occurs. To delay the onset of resistance, it is essential that farmers understand and implement Insect Resistance Management (IRM) practices.

Practical Approaches to Insect Resistance Management for Biotech-Derived Crops is a manual developed by CropLife International which provides information about IRM practices to help growers and other individuals working in agriculture to design and implement effective stewardship and IRM plans for insect-protected crops.

This manual addresses the following key concepts and components of IRM in a detailed, yet easy-to-understand way:

- The importance of stewardship and IRM
- Considerations in developing a robust IRM plan
- IRM tools
- The critical role of engagement, education and communication
- Case studies of successful IRM programs



There is no one-size-fits all IRM solution, as insect pressures, farming systems and practices differ from region to region. The IRM manual provides tools to guide the development of plans that are tailored to the realities and needs of individual producers.

CropLife International, its members and affiliates are committed to promoting IRM, as well as stewardship tools, programs and practices which help to preserve the long-term benefits of insect-resistant crops to be realized.

To download *Practical Approaches to Insect Resistance Management in Biotech-Derived Crops* manual in English or Spanish, visit:

www.croplife.org/Insect_resistance_management

To learn more about Insect Resistance Management, visit the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) Web site at: www.irac-online.org

To learn more about product stewardship programs for biotech-derived plants visit: www.CropLife.org and www.ExcellencethroughStewardship.org.