

Support for sustainable agriculture

CropLife International's support for sustainable agriculture

The plant science industry contributes to sustainable agriculture by delivering crop protection products and technologies that help meet the food, feed and fibre needs of an increasing world population.

CropLife International is committed to encouraging the responsible use of crop protection products. Through collaboration with a range of stakeholders, CropLife International initiates stewardship programmes that work hand-in-hand to foster a start-to-finish approach to the sustainable use of agriculture products.

Effective and appropriate regulation is essential for continued plant science innovations and sustainable business, which underpin industry's contribution to sustainable agriculture. Our efforts in the international regulatory arena seek to:

- achieve science-based, practical regulations, international conventions, policies and standards
- coordinate, manage and represent industry's views on global regulations, conventions, policies and standards
- increase recognition for technology and stewardship as central pillars of sustainable agriculture.

About CropLife International

CropLife International is the global federation representing the plant science industry. It represents a network of regional and national associations in 88 countries and is led by the major R&D-driven plant science companies such as BASF, Bayer CropScience, Dow Agrosciences, DuPont, FMC, Monsanto, Sumitomo and Syngenta.

CropLife International acts as an ambassador for the plant science industry, encouraging understanding and dialogue whilst promoting sound science and agricultural technology in the context of sustainable development.

Prior Informed Consent

The Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent and the Plant Science Industry

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The Rotterdam Convention

What is the Rotterdam Convention?

With entry into force in February 2004, the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) aims to help participating countries make informed decisions about the potentially hazardous chemicals that might be shipped to them, and to facilitate the dissemination of these decisions to other countries.

Key principles of PIC

What are some key principles of PIC?

- International shipment of a pesticide included in the PIC procedure should not proceed contrary to the decision of the importing country.
- In the absence of a decision from an importing country, the export may proceed if the pesticide is registered in the country, or if it has previously been used or imported into the country.
- If an importing country decides not to consent to further imports, the decision must be applied to imports from all sources, and domestic manufacturing and use must cease.

More information on the Rotterdam Convention and PIC procedure can be found at www.pic.int or via www.croplife.org

Supporting PIC

How does the plant science industry support PIC?

- CropLife International has supported the PIC procedure since it was introduced as a voluntary scheme in the FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.
- CropLife International was also active in the development of the legally-binding Rotterdam Convention and is working closely with the Convention's secretariat and national governments to ensure its proper and effective implementation.
- To contribute to this process, CropLife International will continue to:
 - provide industry's extensive knowledge and experience with the PIC procedure in a constructive manner
 - work with Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and all relevant stakeholders to make available all necessary and appropriate scientific data
 - facilitate the gathering of knowledge on the international trade of substances under discussion
 - build internal and external awareness of PIC and its implications.
- Continued and proactive awareness building is important in the overall management of chemicals and crop protection products, and CropLife International is committed to working in partnership with all interested parties.

CropLife International's position

What are some of the main elements of CropLife International's position on the Rotterdam Convention?

- The Rotterdam Convention represents a very useful element in the safe management of chemicals, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
- CropLife International advocates the application of science- and risk-based principles when interpreting relevant criteria for listing.
- CropLife International supports the transparent implementation of the Convention as a means of continuously improving its operation.
- PIC is not a substitute for an effective national chemical regulatory programme. Only with a registration scheme can fully informed decisions be made. CropLife International has been actively assisting individual countries and the FAO to design and introduce regulatory schemes for crop protection products around the world.
- Countries should not consider PIC as a recommendation to ban or severely restrict the use of a chemical or pesticide product.