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Media Release

CropLife Africa Middle East facilitates harmonization of regulations on pesticide registration in its region

Casablanca, Morocco 29th Sept. 2005 CropLife Africa Middle East Annual Regional Conference on regulatory harmonization amongst Middle East/North Africa countries concluded its deliberations yesterday. The conference was held under the patronage of the Ministry of Agriculture of Morocco and co-organized by CropLife Africa Middle East and the Arab Organization For Agricultural Development together with the Moroccan national association, AMIPHY.

Delegates representing pesticide regulatory and registration authorities of 18 countries in the region participated in the conference together with representatives of 12 national industry associations from Middle East and North African countries.

CropLife Africa Middle East regional coordinator, Mr. Ali Mohamed Ali, announced that the registrars' conference had concluded specific recommendations to harmonize legislative, statutory and procedural measures amongst the countries of the region.

These included the adoption of a harmonized master file for the registration of pesticides together with a harmonized registration certificate. Harmonized measures have been agreed on pesticide labeling and quality control requirements aimed at the improvement of the quality of agricultural production so as to encourage fresh produce exports from the region to global markets.

In addition, the conference witnessed the signing of an updated Memorandum of Understanding between CropLife Africa Middle East and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, aimed at expanding areas of Cooperation between the two organizations.

Dr. Rudolf Guyer, President of CropLife Africa Middle East and Vice-President Mr. Michel Chartouni, said that their organization will continue to support the regulatory harmonization initiative in the region despite the fact that this process often moves far too slowly or even suffers serious set-backs in some countries. They also confirmed the commitment of the Plant Science Industry to continue in their support for the removal of obsolete stocks from the African continent and to help authorities and other stakeholders to avoid the build-up of new obsolete stocks. An important tool for a continued improvement of pesticide regulation and management by all stakeholders is the last year's published FAO Code of Conduct. CropLife Africa Middle East will actively join all efforts for the implementation of this code and will also participate in the planned regular reporting on achieved progress at individual country level. CropLife Africa Middle East also expressed its satisfaction about the close cooperation with the Arab Organization For Agricultural Development who has joined our efforts many years ago and who continues to offer its network and resources to achieve the common goal for improved product stewardship in all Arab countries.

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