Annual Activities Report 2008/2009

CropLife INTERNATIONAL

Plant science helps to:

Grow food

- Protect against pests and diseases.
- Innovative technology grows more crop per hectare.
- Plant science provides secure, varied, affordable and healthy diets.

Create renewables

- Agriculture grows much more than food.
- There is a growing need for food, feed, fibre and fuel.
- Plant science enables crops to be the ultimate renewable resources.

Supply sustainably

- Protect natural habitats by improving production.
- Preserve soil and water.
- Plant science improves life quality in developing nations.

Meeting Challenges in a Growing World

Affordable, high quality food and a greener economy – these are goals we all share. To do its part, plant science offers ways to improve and protect crop yields in a sustainable manner. Plus, plant science helps grow much more than food. Crops can be the ultimate renewable resource for fibre, fuel and bioproducts.

With increasing global demands for agricultural products, plant science helps farmers grow more crop per hectare while reducing agriculture's environmental footprint. Practices and technologies such as conservation tillage help preserve soil and water, and future crops that use water and nitrogen more efficiently are under development. The goal is to help to protect natural habitats, increase biodiversity, and allow wildlife and forests to thrive.

In the end, plant science is all about meeting the challenges for supplying food, fibre, fuel and bioproducts in a sustainable way.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Putting Farming First

The world faces critical challenges:

- 1.7 billion more mouths to feed by 2030;
- increasing dietary demands for meat, fruit and vegetables;
- the ratio of arable land to population declining by 40-55%.

As a result, there is greater recognition that farming is the primary way to achieve meaningful economic development for millions and food security for all.

G8 leaders' $20 billion funding commitments to agriculture development represent a crucial step forward in addressing the causes of world hunger. The human value of this funding will be measured in the lives of the farmers and rural communities whom it lifts away from hunger and out of poverty. CropLife applauds world leaders in recognising the importance of agriculture.

We invite national governments and development institutions to work closely with all farming stakeholders to build on existing expertise and experience.

Most subsistence farmers are essentially farming without inputs like good quality seeds, fertilizers and crop protection. If given the opportunity to have access to technology and training, smallholder farmers can grow more food on their available land, free their children to go to school and expand their horizons. We need to increase access to these tools and to the many programmes which work to spread the use of best practices, such as Integrated Pest Management. For its part, CropLife and its members invest millions in training farmers around the world every year.

What can you do:

- Visit **www.farmingfirst.org** and click on "I support"
- Forward the ***Farming First*** video to your friends and colleagues
- Give a speech on ***Farming First***
- Recruit new partner organisations

These measures, along with others, can help transform the world's subsistence farmers into small-scale entrepreneurs.

Farmers need accessible agricultural resources, locally relevant knowledge and functional markets. To achieve these gains sustainably, they also need environmental performance incentives, protection from unnecessary harvest losses and a pipeline of R&D which supports regions and crop-types most vulnerable to climate change. That is why CropLife joined the *Farming First* coalition.

Closing the ten-fold productivity gap between the developed and developing worlds holds the key to future food security. We need a concerted, collaborative and comprehensive response to achieve it.

Friedrich Berschauer, Ph.D.
Chairman of the Board
CropLife International

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Reducing the Footprint

As the world's population grows and the impact of climate change becomes increasingly tangible, it is clear we must act to achieve food security.

With modern agriculture, farmers have doubled the production of world food calories since 1960, tripled the output of key foods, and increased per-capita food supplies in the developing world by 25%. And we've maintained a stable area of agricultural land since 1950, despite a global population that has more than doubled. Still, there is a great deal more to be done and agriculture must rise to the top of the policy agenda. We need to ensure food security while protecting natural resources.

An important step is measuring agriculture's environmental footprint. The *Field to Market* report by the Field to Market alliance measures resource use in U.S. agriculture over the past 20 years (1987-2007). The findings show progress in many important areas.

LIMITING LAND USE

Our population is growing and arable land is declining. To preserve biodiversity and wildlife habitats, farmers need to be able to grow more on less land.

- The land needed to grow a bushel of corn has **dropped by 37%** in just 20 years.
- A bushel of soybeans can be produced today using **26% less land** than was used 20 years ago.

SAFEGUARDING SOIL

Soil is a vital natural resource that needs to be protected and conserved for future generations.

- Wheat cultivation can be susceptible to soil loss through wind erosion. The past 2 decades have seen **soil loss through wheat cultivation fall by 50% per bushel**.
- Soil loss through corn cultivation has **plummeted 69%** per bushel in the past 20 years.

ESTABLISHING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Energy efficiency is at the centre of efforts to tackle climate change and address dwindling resources.

- A **fall of 65% in the energy** needed to produce a bushel of soybeans has been achieved since 1987.
- Cotton production is a full **66% more energy efficient** per pound today than it was 20 years ago.

USING WATER WISELY

With water becoming ever scarcer, water efficiency is fundamental to conserve this critical resource.

- **50,000 fewer gallons of water** are needed to grow an irrigated acre of corn today, compared to 20 years ago.
- Traditionally one of the thirstier crops, water use for every irrigated acre of cotton has **dropped by 32%**.

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change threatens the ability to grow food. Greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced to minimise this threat.

- Greenhouse gas emissions from soybean farming have **fallen 38%** per bushel in 20 years.
- Since 1995, cotton cultivation has **shrunk its carbon footprint by 33% per pound**, helping reduce the impact of farming on climate change.

The plant science industry has played a part in enabling these achievements. For instance, preserving topsoil through conservation tillage is enabled by herbicides and biotech crops, as well as direct seeding equipment. Herbicide tolerance also saves fuel due to fewer passes of farm equipment over the field. Pesticides have reduced losses to weeds, insects and plant diseases, making agriculture more productive and more efficient in use of land, water and other resources. Plus, since the introduction of biotech crops in 1997, there has been a marked increase in yield consistency.

Future rises in food prices will be exacerbated without the techniques and technologies we have now being applied more sustainably in all regions. In addition to this, we need to continue developing new technologies to further food production in an environmentally responsible, socially sensitive manner. Conducting studies like this one in the United States will help the entire agriculture sector better set priorities to produce food with the smallest possible footprint.

Howard L. Minigh
President & CEO
CropLife International

Highlights of our year

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

FARMING FIRST

In a move to bring agriculture to the forefront of international policy making, CropLife International is among the founding partners in a new policy platform entitled *Farming First*. It is a call to action for policy-makers and practitioners to develop a locally sustainable value chain for global agriculture. It emphasises the need for knowledge networks and policies centered on helping subsistence farmers to become small-scale entrepreneurs. The framework proposes the following six interlinked imperatives in policy and practice:

1. Safeguard natural resources
2. Share knowledge
3. Build local access
4. Protect harvests
5. Enable access to markets
6. Prioritise research imperatives

farming first

Currently, seven industry organisations are signatories to *Farming First*:

- International Council for Science
- International Federation of Agricultural Producers
- International Fertiliser Industry Association
- International Institute of Refrigeration
- International Seed Federation
- World Federation of Engineering Organizations
- CropLife International

Farming First was launched at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development on 24 February and is a focus for discussion at many other forums. Learn more and offer support for the platform at www.farmingfirst.org.

Visit **www.farmingfirst.org** and click on "I support" on the home page.

Les Hillowitz with Her Excellency, Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union.

MALAWI CITATION

CropLife co-sponsored the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) Food Security Policy Leadership Award offered to the President of Malawi in recognition of his country's progress toward food self sufficiency. As part of the award, Idrissa Mwale of the Agriculture Department was chosen by His Excellency, the President, to travel to New York, Washington and London to engage in outreach with international organisations. Mwale spoke about the successes of raising productivity in Malawi in a number of forums including BBC.

View an interview with Idrissa Mwale on Malawi's Farm Subsidy Programme at **www.farmingfirst.org/videos/**

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) had several Working Group meetings on Access and Benefits Sharing. CropLife International gave input to the discussion of the Technical Experts Group through the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) delegation, which represents the wider business community at the CBD. CropLife also held a side event: "Industry Perspectives: Compliance Issues in the ABS International Regime" in partnership with ABSA and ICC in April.

FAO CONFERENCE ON PLANT BIOTECH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

CropLife has been invited to participate in a Steering Committee for the upcoming FAO conference, "The Use of Biotechnologies for Food and Agriculture in Developing Countries." Attendees discussed plans for a conference to address topics such as food safety, environmental safety/biodiversity, regulatory issues, consumer interests, technology transfer issues and capacity building. Participation on the Steering Committee provides a significant opportunity to engage with other stakeholders and to ensure the role of biotechnology for development is discussed. The conference is expected to take place in 2010.

UN EVENTS ON THE FOOD CRISIS

The UN Private Sector Forum on the Millennium Development Goals and Food Security on 24 September included roundtable discussions on agricultural inputs and infrastructure. Howard Minigh, CropLife's President and CEO, and representatives of several member companies also attended FAO's related meeting on smallholder agriculture in Africa in the context of the food crisis. In addition, Croplife prepared a briefing pack for all the permanent representatives on the issue of agriculture, sustainability and productivity which was sent ahead of the opening of the UN General Assembly.

WORLD FOOD PRIZE SYMPOSIUM

The World Food Prize was presented to former U.S. Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole in October 2008 for their efforts in fighting world hunger through the McGovern-Dole International School-Feeding Program. The Borlaug Dialogue, which hosts the ceremony, featured over 40 speakers who discussed rising food prices, food security, hunger in Africa, and the threats of climate change and biodiversity loss. Plant Biotechnology Strategy Council Chair Sarah Hull (Syngenta) and member Jerry Steiner (Monsanto) were featured on the panel "The Role of the Private Sector in Global Food Security and Development."

G8 AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING

The first ever meeting of G8 agriculture ministers was followed by the G8 discussion on food security. CropLife and the *Farming First* coalition contacted ministers in advance of both meetings to encourage them to focus on practical steps to further food security in the long term. The coalition was delighted when $20 billion in funding for agricultural development was announced by the G8.

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

CropLife International co-hosted a side event during the UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland to highlight the role agriculture can play in mitigating and adapting to climate change. This well-attended event, held on 8 December, was addressed by Dr. David Dennis, CEO of Performance Plants, who presented on "The potential for conservation tillage and plant biotechnology in climate change mitigation and adaptation." This event marked an important step forward in the engagement of the agricultural sector in the debate on climate change.

GREEN REVOLUTION CONFERENCE

Howard Minigh, CropLife's President and CEO, attended the African Green Revolution Conference in Oslo, 28-29 August. Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General and Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), also participated in the conference and was joined by key decision makers and experts from business, academia, government, non-profits and NGOs. The conference, limited to 150 participants, focused on delivering concrete commitments and action plans on how to help transform African agriculture towards a sustainable modern economy.

world food prize symposium

From top left: Jay Vroom, CropLife America; Howard Minigh, CropLife International; Jim Borel, DuPont; World Food Prize recipient Senator Robert Dole; and Dean Kleckner, Truth About Trade and Technology.

Resources

CLICK!

The CropLife International Centre of Knowledge (CLICK!) was launched on 8 December, providing the CropLife network with a state-of-the-art web-based tool to enable efficient and continuous knowledge-sharing and access to information.

CLICK! is a central resource for the entire CropLife network, including member companies and associations.

By combining the collective expertise and documents from across the global network, CLICK! will help increase the efficiency and impact of our work by facilitating information sharing and a timely and consistent response to issues, while avoiding duplication of work.

SHARING THE STORY

CropLife embarked on a proactive new media initiative, Sharing the Story, to help tell the positive human-interest side of the crop inputs story. Working with a global team of writers, photographers and videographers, CropLife captured farmer stories from each region that tell, from a first-person perspective, why farmers need and embrace the technologies of plant science – both crop protection and biotechnology. Videos, photos, print profiles and quotes are available on the CropLife multimedia library and CLICK! for the following countries: Vietnam, Indonesia, China, India, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Brazil and Argentina.

INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT E-LEARNING TOOL

An e-learning tool to improve knowledge of the FAO Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides is now available online at www.croplife.org in English, as well as on CD in English, German, Arabic, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Mandarin. It is accompanied by a guide for industry.

TELL ME MORE

In addition to the interesting facts and figures and useful talking points, CropLife International's Tell Me More web site now has several new tools available to support member companies' employees in their work as representatives of the plant science industry:

- Employer branding tool kit to assist companies' recruitment efforts, including a sample job advertisement and a guide to holding career events.
- Core messages presentation for employees of the plant science industry to use externally, which encapsulates the core messages on the benefits of plant science.
- Speaking notes on the important role for conventional agriculture in helping ensure food security, and its role in light of organic agriculture.
- Speech from the CropLife Foundation on the benefits of herbicide use in reducing handweeding in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Farming has been a way of life for Guntupalli Sai Vara Prasad's family in Andhra Pradesh, India for generations. "Prior to adopting the techniques of crop protection, all those who were dependent on agriculture had little income," Guntupalli remembers. **"Now, due to higher yields, we have better income and we are witnessing better health, education and improvement in the overall quality of life."**

NEW COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKITS

New Communications Toolkits on Biotech and Crop Protection have been introduced by CropLife International as a resource to support effective communications on plant biotechnology and crop protection and their benefits. The Toolkits are a "living" resource that contain information about core messages for industry; issue alerts and talking points; best communications practices from around the world that provide "do-it-yourself" instructions on how to replicate programmes; farmer profiles; contact databases of third party experts from around the world; and turnkey media pieces.

BIOTECH PRODUCTIVITY LITERATURE REVIEW

The Plant Biotechnology Communications Committee completed a literature review of peer-reviewed studies addressing the productivity impacts of currently commercialised biotech crops. The literature review covers 77 publications reporting the results of farmer surveys (38 peer-reviewed), 36 publications reporting the results of field trials (32 peer-reviewed) and 74 secondary studies (33 peer-reviewed). The studies included in the literature review are available on the Biotech Benefits Database on the CropLife web site.

IPM BROCHURES

In an acknowledgement of the quality and usefulness of the Integrated Pest Management materials developed by CropLife, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has asked to use CropLife's IPM materials for their own programmes. The Foundation is currently carrying out a project with coffee-growing households in East Africa with a key component of the project focusing on sustainable agronomic practices, including IPM. Two other organisations have also recently contacted CropLife about the use of its stewardship materials, a very positive development.

IPR VIDEOS

Intellectual Property Rights are often seen as a complex topic. Visit CropLife's YouTube channel to see a series of videos that make the issue easy-to-understand.

MULTIMEDIA LIBRARY

CropLife has amassed a multimedia library for its network. Composed of thousands of photos from around the world and several hundred video clips, it is a useful tool to help showcase the industry.

BIOTECH BENEFITS DATABASE

CropLife's Biotech Benefits Database now holds 147 published papers, dating from 2002, which highlights the benefits of plant biotechnology. This online, searchable collection can be accessed through www.croplife.org.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Plant Biotechnology Lifecycle Stewardship – brochure
- Know Your Customer – anti-counterfeiting leaflet
- Sustainable Packaging – leaflet
- Key Sustainability Achievements in Agriculture: Field to Market Report – fact sheet
- Field to Market Report: Key Findings, Crop by Crop – fact sheet
- Biodiversity and Pesticides – fact sheet
- Risks of Counterfeit Crop Protection Products – fact sheet
- Consequences of Counterfeit Crop Protection Products – fact sheet
- The Precautionary Approach in Crop Protection – fact sheet
- Supplying Sustainably – brochure
- Detection Methods – leaflet

Member associations have adapted many of these items to create local versions for use in a wide-array of countries.

Crop protection

ANTI-COUNTERFEITING

CropLife International attended several conferences focused on anti-counterfeiting:

- **Brazil and Paraguay border** – Participants made a presentation on counterfeit and illegal pesticides, originating in China, smuggled from Paraguay into Brazil and succeeded in making the issue a priority for participants. Police action followed.
- **East and South Africa** – CropLife addressed and participated in a 6-day Interpol conference in Nairobi in November, contributing to the recognition by Interpol of counterfeit pesticides as a serious issue. CropLife also obtained a seat at the table of international counterfeiting law enforcement. Following participation at the Interpol training session for East African law enforcement, Uganda's President Museveni pledged to prioritise the issue of counterfeit crop protection products.
- **Middle East/Africa** – CropLife's Anti-Counterfeiting team attended meetings in Tunisia and Cameroon where it presented anti-counterfeiting strategies that could be implemented at the national level. The conference yielded positive results with FAO acknowledging the seriousness of the problem of counterfeit pesticides, and valuable media coverage for the issue.
- **China** – In October, CropLife attended the China High-Level Forum on Pesticides hosted by the China Association of Pesticide Development and Application. The regulatory team's presentation on agricultural productivity also addressed specific challenges facing China, such as regarding MRLs, regulatory harmonisation and anti-counterfeiting. In March, CropLife participated in China's largest pesticide export fair in Shanghai in collaboration with CropLife China, where anti-counterfeiting efforts were reinforced through awareness-raising on the importance of "knowing your customer". During the fair, over 50 intellectual property rights infractions were noted and rectified by local police.

In response to CropLife investigatory work, anti-counterfeiting training sessions and cooperation between enforcement authorities, police and industry, illegal pesticide seizures have been reported in Paraguay, Spain and Egypt. And in a move to strengthen international cooperation in combating trade in counterfeit pesticides, CropLife International and ECPA have jointly become members of a leading international anti-counterfeiting customs organisation, SNB React. React is a leader in anti-counterfeiting border measures, and can also help individual companies register trademarks and make customs notifications for IPR prioritisation in the EU and elsewhere.

Inspection and seizure of counterfeit crop protection products in a Paraguay warehouse. More police raids and seizures, thanks to increased cooperation between CropLife's Anti-Counterfeiting Teams and Paraguay authorities, **mark significant success in the industry's anti-counterfeiting efforts**.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

CropLife attended the OECD Joint Meeting (dealing with Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology) in Paris, where it gave a presentation on the need to balance protection of regulatory data with transparency requirements. The presentation highlighted the common challenges faced by the private sector and pushed for OECD to take a greater role in looking at policy options to address these challenges.

The Protection of Regulatory Data (PRD) Steering Committee continues to promote worldwide consistency in the enactment and interpretation of laws/regulations governing PRD for agrochemicals; working with partners to advance enforcement of PRD through influential trade blocs; and actively representing CropLife's policy position at Aarhus Convention meetings.

The Intellectual Property Biotechnology Steering Committee and Project Teams will continue to increase engagement in Argentina, Brazil, China, India and Geneva by supporting workshops and conferences with key decisions makers. The Committee also continues to augment advocacy efforts internationally where we face a number of challenges to the current set of international IP rules that affect the interests of CropLife's membership.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND INSTRUMENTS

A number of national and international regulations and policy conventions govern all aspects of pesticide manufacturing, distribution, use and disposal. CropLife works on all of the following areas:

- The International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides
- The Codex Alimentarius (Codex MRLs)
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- The Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC)
- The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and formerly the International Forum for Chemical Safety (IFCS)
- The Globally Harmonised System for Hazard Classification and Labelling (GHS)

INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The CropLife Code of Conduct team attended the second FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM) in Geneva on 6 - 8 October 2008, which saw progress achieved on the development of a number of Guidelines to the International Code of Conduct. Some Guidelines in support of the Code have been agreed. Others including Advertising Guidelines and Registration Guidelines are still progressing, and any remaining issues will be closely followed.

BETTER REGULATIONS

The better regulations working team has conducted a global gaps analysis of the regulatory system in many key countries and is now working in teams to examine areas that need good frameworks. As well, the team produced a brochure, "Agriculture Production: The Future Dilemma" which can be ordered from CropLife or downloaded from the web site.

ICCM2

Martin Gibson of CropLife Asia was a featured speaker at the event held by CropLife during the second International Conference on Chemicals Management. His presentation put the considerable effort on stewardship programmes into the context of chemicals management to reduce exposure for applicators and the environment. Howard Minigh, President and CEO of CropLife International, spoke at the High Level segment of the ICCM2 conference.

"At a time when food security is at the top of global concern, SAICM should use its unique position to provide direction and leadership on the best ways concerning regulation of pesticides. **These products can protect global harvests and meaningfully help food supply.** Our industry is the first to agree they need proper, science based regulation and would like to see SAICM and ICCM2 focus on the means to develop fully functioning, sound regulatory systems; and to work with industry, agro-dealers, and enforcement agencies to see that they are properly used when in the hands of farmers."

– Howard Minigh, President and CEO, CropLife International

VECTOR CONTROL PROJECT TEAM

A Project Team has been formed to help bring new and innovative products to the market to reach the Millennium Development Goals and reduce the death toll of malaria. Among their goals is working with international regulatory authorities and in countries to ensure harmonised regulatory frameworks for Public Health insecticides and resistance management efforts. As well, they aim to create a stewardship policy on topics such as disposal, training, code of conduct, responsible use and Integrated Vector Management. The team is comprised of representatives from industries that produce mosquito netting and other related products, as well as several CropLife members.

Plant biotechnology

ACCEPTANCE

Approvals of biotech crops continued to increase worldwide in 2008, with many significant adoption milestones in Africa, Latin America and Asia. In 2008, 13.3 million farmers in 25 countries grew 125 million hectares. This is a 9.4% increase over global biotech crop planted area in 2007. Three new countries – Bolivia, Burkina Faso and Egypt – grew biotech crops for the first time in 2008.

Another major adoption milestone in 2008 was the planting of the two billionth cumulative acre of biotech crops. The increase in approvals and adoption worldwide demonstrates that countries increasingly recognise the benefits plant biotechnology can bring, especially varieties with stacked traits.

Small-holder farmers in developing countries continue to be the primary growers of biotech crops – in 2008, 90% of farmers growing biotech crops were located in the developing world. The fact that 90% of farmers growing biotech crops are repeat growers is a testament to the fact that given the choice, farmers, especially those in developing countries, will grow biotech varieties because of the yield, socio-economic and environmental benefits the technology offers.

The food security and rising food price concerns this year have prompted many Asian countries to increase their support of plant biotechnology, and develop workable regulatory frameworks. Japan and South Korea began importing biotech corn in 2008, and Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam all began developing biosafety regulations.

benefits

Even after a decade of commercialisation, adoption of biotech crops continues to grow at a rapid pace and **farmers of all nationalities and with all sizes of production capacity are benefitting from the technology**.

REGULATORY

The recent rising food prices and questions about food security have placed agriculture in the global spotlight. The advantages of increased crop productivity encouraged governments around the world to refocus on the adoption of biotech crops. This created a scenario where international organisations and national governments turned to the plant science industry for counsel on how to develop and implement regulatory frameworks for plant biotechnology. Instead of asking "what is biotech?" the question for many officials became "how to regulate biotech?" which provided CropLife International with an unprecedented opportunity to share information and help shape science-based regulations around the world.

CropLife continued to hold workshops in Asia and Latin America on a variety of issue areas – environmental risk assessment, combined events, detection methods, discontinued products and stewardship – in response to requests for information to support the development of national frameworks for biotech crops. Several new regulatory projects are focused on helping new adopting countries shape their regulations:

- A project with the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) is focused on gaining greater international harmonisation on data requirements for environmental risk assessments.
- A new position paper on potential effects on non-target organisms in herbicide tolerant crops was developed by the Environmental Risk Assessment Project Team.
- The Combined Events Project Team is working with regulators to develop practical national laws to address simple, as well as complex, combined events. The objective is to enhance understanding among regulators for the type of data package required for products containing combined events.
- The Detection Methods team is developing reference materials for government agencies for the calibration and validation of detection methods, as well as proficiency testing in laboratories. Documents, such as information on reference material requirements and a Best Practices Document, have been developed for individual countries at their request.
- In March 2009, the the Codex Committee on Sampling and Detection Methods (CCMAS) met in Hungary and, among other topics, discussed Proposed Draft Guidelines on Criteria for Methods for the Detection and Identification of Foods Derived from Biotechnology. In preparation for this meeting, the CropLife Task Force on CCMAS conducted outreach in several Codex member countries to gain support for expanding the scope of this document from biotechnology to the use of DNA- and protein-based methods in food testing. A CCMAS Electronic Working Group was convened to work on technical details and a new document which will be a "Guidance to governments for the use of" rather than "Criteria for adoption." The document will be discussed at the CCMAS meeting in 2010.

LOW LEVEL PRESENCE

In July 2008, Codex progressed and adopted the Annex on Food Safety Assessment in Situations of Low-Level Presence of Recombinant-DNA Plant Material in Food. This progression represents a significant positive step forward on the issue of safety assessments in situations of low-level presence. More importantly, it can potentially serve as significant guidance for individual countries developing their low-level presence policies, and will ultimately help to minimise trade disruptions.

COMPACT

As worldwide use of biotech crops continues to grow, questions have been raised about how countries would pursue claims alleging that a specific biotech crop caused damage to biological diversity: How does a country take legal action? Who is responsible for the damage? How is the damage assessed? What resolutions are possible? Right now, most national and international laws do not have clear standards and procedures for answering these questions. In 2008, leading plant biotech companies voluntarily addressed these questions, developing under the auspices of CropLife International standards and a process for evaluating claims alleging damage to biological diversity. The proposed agreement, which is a binding contract among its members, is called the "Compact". The Compact requires a member to provide a remedy if it is proven under the agreement that its biotech crop caused the alleged damage. Since introduced, the Compact has received significant support and valuable feedback from a variety of stakeholders. CropLife believes that countries and others in the international biotech community will find the Compact to be a valuable and effective system for resolving disputes in the unlikely event of damage to biological diversity.

CropLife Presents First LEAAFI Awards

In November, the first ever Leadership and Excellence in Advancing Ag-biotech and Food Issues (LEAAFI) awards were presented. The award will be presented annually to a global priority project team and to an acceptance team that exemplifies the most progress on the plant biotechnology industry's global issues and further adoption of plant biotechnology. This year, the LEAAFI for global priority projects was presented to the Global AP Coalition (GAPC) for its work in progressing and adopting the Codex Annex on Food Safety Assessment in Situations of Low-Level Presence of Recombinant-DNA Plant Material in Food. The 2008 LEAAFI for acceptance was awarded to CropLife Asia's Biotech Team for its Farmers' Exchange Program, which brings together "progressive" farmers, reporters and agriculture specialists from different Asian countries to the Philippines to learn about plant biotechnology from biotech farmers.

sharing

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual property rights are the cornerstone to innovation, and CropLife has continued outreach to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Seed Federation and IP attachés from the trade missions. Discussions have revolved around improvements to UPOV (Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants), disclosure of origin, as well as access and benefits sharing. CropLife has also worked closely with governments in China, Malaysia and India to discuss intellectual property issues in those countries.

Sustainable agriculture

STEWARDSHIP

CropLife International promotes a life-cycle stewardship approach to the management of plant biotechnology and crop protection products. CropLife stewardship programmes are delivered in over 40 countries around the world and train more than 350,000 individuals each year, with about 10% going on to train others.

As part of the Africa Stockpiles Programme and CropLife's ongoing stewardship efforts, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed between CropLife and the governments of Kenya, Malawi, Ghana and Cameroon. These MoU will allow CropLife to expand its stewardship work into these four countries, specifically in identifying obsolete stocks that present a risk to citizens and the environment, as well as the planning of remedial actions.

Responsible use of the technology and life-cycle stewardship have long been essential components of the plant biotechnology industry. In addition to continuing to hold field trial compliance workshops in Asia, Africa and Europe, CropLife is developing training tools on Insect Resistance Management and Integrated Weed Management, as well as informational presentations on Excellence Through Stewardship℠ and CropLife's Product Launch Stewardship Guidance.

Learn more in *Supplying Sustainably*, CropLife International's report on stewardship.

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Commission on Sustainable Development completed an agreement on agriculture, land, drought, desertification, rural development and Africa. CropLife International was actively involved in this process as part of a broader business and industry delegation, and partnered with farmers and scientists to advance a common policy platform, *Farming First*.

The principles of *Farming First* are well reflected throughout the text, with particular emphasis on knowledge based agriculture – a term referenced extensively throughout the document and raised in *Farming First*. Access to training, extension and investment in research and development are frequent themes. The coalition succeeded at its primary goal of achieving recognition for the importance of agriculture. **"Agriculture lies at the centre of sustainable development"**, the agreement says.

There are several mentions of the need to **"boost agricultural productivity"**, including references to improved varieties, drought tolerant varieties and use of pre-and post-harvest loss technologies. The text also emphasises the important role of the private sector in fostering development and the need to create enabling environments to **"stimulate private investment in agriculture"**.

Business and Industry, Farmers and Scientists held a series of events at the UN Headquarters, facilitating roundtable discussions around *Farming First* to draw out concrete examples of successful agricultural programs and suggestions for policies.

The Commission for Sustainable Development hears about *Farming First* from participants, left to right: Robynne Anderson, CropLife International; Arlin Bostian, Bayer CropScience; Doug Nelson, CropLife America; and Howard L. Minigh, CropLife International.

"Most subsistence farmers are essentially farming without inputs like good quality seed, fertilizer, and crop protection. If given the opportunity to have access to technology and training, **small-holder farmers grow more food on their available land and free their children to go to school and expand their horizons**."

– Arlin Bostian of Bayer CropScience, speaking on behalf of business and industry at the UN's Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD).

PROGRESS TOWARD SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The Keystone Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture released its much-anticipated *Field to Market* report in January, demonstrating measurable progress in U.S. agriculture between 1987 and 2007, based on key sustainability indicators. The findings of the report reflect the contribution of plant science to sustainable agriculture and support the industry's sustainability goals:

- Cotton cultivation became 26% more productive over the past two decades, ensuring more cotton is grown on less land.
- 17% more wheat can be grown on the same amount of land in 2007 than in 1987.
- 50,000 fewer gallons of water are needed to grow an irrigated acre of corn today, compared to 20 years ago.

For more highlights, view the "Key Sustainability Achievements in Agriculture: Field to Market Report" fact sheet available at www.croplife.org.

Field to Market also introduced an online calculator to help farmers measure sustainable practices, which is available at www.fieldtomarket.org.

Syngenta has received the 2008 World Business and Development Award for the development and successful introduction of a new sugar beet that can be grown under tropical climate conditions and brings significant advantages to farmers, the environment, the sugar and ethanol industries and the economy.

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