

PRESS RELEASE

Leading Seed Producers Announce Plan against the Use of Child Labor in Agriculture

Plan Recognizes UN World Day against Child Labor

Brussels –12 June 2009 — CropLife International announced today that leading multinational seed producers will work to eliminate child labor in contracted seed-growing operations and other supply chain activities around the world. In a joint position paper, CropLife’s seed industry members — Monsanto, Syngenta, DuPont, Bayer CropScience, BASF, and Dow AgroSciences — outline a common approach to further the effort to eliminate the use of exploitive child labor by suppliers and other business partners within the seed supply chain.

“Our concern is for the welfare of young people in the communities supporting seed production,” said Howard Minigh, President and CEO of CropLife International. “Key principles include measures to help give children the opportunity to complete their education and exclude young workers from hazardous work and ensure the benefits from the protections provided by local labor laws and as reflected in the conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO).”

The companies recognize the need to build the capacity of partners in the supply chain if those partners are to operate without engaging in exploitive child labor practices. Participants believe that global companies can have more effective influence if they cooperate with each other and work with their partners to achieve industry-wide standards. Their approach includes measures such as contractual agreements with suppliers, monitoring and control, reporting on key indicators, and ongoing support of educational initiatives in rural communities.

“By working together, we hope to accelerate the elimination of exploitive child labor through shared insights, cooperative programs, and an aligned voice in the seed industry,” continued Minigh.

In defining its approach, seed industry participants worked through CropLife International, a trade association. They received input and guidance from a multi-stakeholder process convened by Norges Bank Investment Management (NBIM), responsible for managing the international assets of the Norwegian Government Pension Fund

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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 91 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.