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PRESS RELEASE

Plant Science Industry Supports World Day Against Child Labour

Brussels – June 12, 2008 – CropLife International and its member companies support the United Nation’s efforts to highlight concerns about child labour on World Day Against Child Labour.

“CropLife wholeheartedly backs our member companies’ programmes to reduce the use of child labour on farm and give children the chance for an education,” said Howard Minigh, president and CEO of CropLife International. “It is an issue that CropLife and its member companies take very seriously.”

Many plant science companies have programmes to address the use of child labour. Syngenta’s contracts with seed producers clearly forbid the use of child labour and state that the company will terminate their contracts if they use children as workers. The problem of child labour on seed farms – particularly cottonseed – in India was first highlighted in 2003 with rates above 40% at that time. Since then Syngenta has worked with the Fair Labor Association to combat the problem. The company also supports the Child Labour Eradication Group, an industry task force created by India’s Association of Seed Industry and the NGO MV Foundation of Andhra Pradesh.

In hybrid cottonseed production, Monsanto Company implemented a child labour - free and worker safety programme with its suppliers to raise awareness and make improvements in these critical areas. The programme involves local contract growers, villages, workers and NGO stakeholders committed to improving the lives of children. Village level meetings were held and documented grower trainings were completed. As a constant reminder of the no child labour contract clauses and Monsanto’s expectations, billboards and posters were displayed throughout the villages. An incentive programme was developed to reward growers for consistently demonstrating child labour-free farms based on independent third party monitoring. The results of this multi-year effort are significant. Third-party audits for the 2007 growing season revealed that child labour levels were less than 0.5%, a dramatic improvement over prior reports.

Bayer CropScience also is strongly committed to the observing of the rights of children. As a consequence of this commitment Bayer does not tolerate "the use of child labour. Commercial success at the expense of humanitarian principles is not an option for the company." Bayer holds not just itself, but also its subcontractors to this commitment. An example of this commitment is the "Child Care Program" the company has developed in India. One element of this program is the support the company provides to "Creative Learning Centres" that help prepare children and former child laborers for enrolment in state-run schools.

As part of the company's values and written into BASF's global compact is a commitment to abolish the use of child labour. It states that there should be "no use of or benefit from child, forced or compulsory labour".

"CropLife International agrees with UN International Labour Organization that children should not be doing certain kinds of work on the farm - including working with and applying pesticides," said Minigh.

"Plant science solutions help farmers improve their living standards thus enabling them to send their children to school rather than working in the field," adds Minigh. That includes reducing the need for hand weeding and providing higher yielding crops. "Children need protection and education on-farm and off."

-End-

Notes 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.

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