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PRESS RELEASE

Feed a Growing World Sustainably Earth Day 2009 Promotes a Sustainable Future

Brussels – 20 April, 2009 —As our population grows and natural resources become scarcer, finding ways to feed the world sustainably is more important than ever. The plant science industry is committed to meeting this goal and highlights the contribution that its technologies can make to a more sustainable future as we approach Earth Day 2009. Innovative plant science technologies are already helping to reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture and will continue to contribute to a more sustainable use of Earth's limited resources.

If we are to preserve the Earth's natural resources while ensuring a plentiful supply of nutritious food, innovative agricultural solutions will be required. The plant science industry is dedicated to reducing the footprint of agriculture in terms of natural resource use as well as climate impact. Considerable progress has already been made – for example, 65 percent less energy is needed to grow a bushel of soybeans today than was needed 20 years ago; a bushel of corn can now be grown using 37 percent less land*.

Plant science solutions, such as crop protection products, have contributed to these sustainability advances. Crop protection products protect plants from attack by pests and disease, significantly reducing crop losses both before and after harvest, and thus enable more food to be grown on less land. Reducing crop losses is key to preventing the encroachment of agriculture onto unfarmed land and preserving crucial carbon sinks. Herbicide use and biotech crops have allowed great increases in reducing tillage farming, helping to reduce soil erosion, conserve soil moisture, and reduce emissions from agricultural equipment as fewer passes across the field are required - soil loss through corn cultivation has fallen by almost 70 percent per bushel since 1989*.

Plant biotechnology also plays an important role in helping to feed more people with less land through biotech crop varieties that produce increased yields, thus reducing the land footprint of farming. Plant biotechnology holds great promise for shrinking the water footprint of agriculture, with drought-tolerant seed due to be available for commercial use within five years - regulatory application for a drought-tolerant corn has already been made. Plant biotechnology may also remediate land that is currently unsuitable for agricultural production through a process called phytoremediation, whereby crop plants can be used to clean up soils that are contaminated with industrial waste.

The plant science industry continues to invest heavily in developing evermore innovative and sophisticated solutions to help us make agriculture increasingly

sustainable while feeding more people on less land. With some US\$4 billion invested by the top 10 plant science companies in R&D annually, the industry is one of the most research-intensive in existence.

Earth Day (April 22) is celebrated annually across the world with the aim of promoting a healthy, sustainable environment. CropLife International fully supports this aim and the role that sustainable agriculture has to play in providing for a healthy, sustainable future.

* All statistics relate to U.S. agriculture in the period between 1987 and 2007 unless otherwise indicated. See Keystone Center site: <http://www.fieldtomarket.org>.

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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.