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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Innovation in Plant Science Enables Sustainable Agriculture**

**World Intellectual Property Day 2009 Promotes Green Innovation**

**Brussels – 24 April, 2009** — On World Intellectual Property Day, CropLife International joins the international community in celebrating the recognition of human ingenuity. This year's theme, "Promoting Green Innovation," draws attention to the importance of advancing innovative technologies which enable a sustainable future.

Plant science solutions are continuously being developed and applied to feed more people using less land and fewer natural resources. The plant science industry invests heavily in developing solutions to ensure food security for a growing population.

Scientists are developing plant varieties to assist farmers growing crops in difficult environmental stress conditions, such as water scarcity, salinity, and heat. Plant science products are also important in the fight against malaria and in combating locusts.

Agricultural innovation has doubled the production of world food calories since 1960 and increased per-capita food supplies in the developing world by 25%. Plant science tools, such as crop protection products and plant biotechnology have contributed to these gains.

"One-third of all agricultural research is now conducted by private sector companies. Intellectual property protection provides the incentive for these companies to develop improved crop protection products and better plant varieties, which can make a valuable contribution to sustainable productivity in agriculture," said Howard Minigh, President and CEO of CropLife International.

As we approach World Intellectual Property Day 2009, CropLife International reaffirms the role intellectual property rights play in ensuring that technology continues to help agriculture improve yields sustainably.

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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.