

CropLife International Statement on the Conclusion of ICCM4

Geneva - 2 October

The International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), a United Nations process within the framework of the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM), concluded today agreeing to guidelines for meeting the 2020 goals for sound chemicals management. CropLife International President and CEO Howard Minigh led a crop protection industry delegation at the conference. He has issued the following statement:

"The crop protection industry was part of a robust private sector delegation at ICCM4 to support a market-based approach to the sound management of crop protection products and other chemicals.

"Through our engagement with national governments, CropLife International forged a consensus among SAICM member states to introduce sound scientific language on the approach to Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) that insists on risk management and risk mitigation. Our leadership was also key in the defeat of an NGO-initiated movement to form a Global Alliance to Phase-out HHPs. The Alliance would have been a duplication of efforts on the management of HHPs already being undertaken by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and supported by voluntary industry commitments and actions.

"On the issue of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) the crop protection industry united with the International Council of Chemical Associations and the US Council for International Business to highlight to delegates that the science on EDCs remains very contentious. This was noted in the final report where industry stated that the 2012 WHO-UNEP 'State of the Science Report' is not an accurate perspective on the current science. Risk assessment was also reaffirmed by many countries as the preferred approach to manage EDCs, and the industry successfully supported governments in avoiding a call for the development of lists of EDCs and/or potential EDCs.

"CropLife International will continue to advocate on behalf of the crop protection industry regarding issues related to sound chemical management. We are proud of our accomplishments at ICCM4 that could not have been achieved without the strong representation from our member companies and associations."