

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Plant Biotech Industry Welcomes Procedure to Avoid Conflicts of Interest in Expert Groups Convened Under the Convention on Biological Diversity**

***New Policies Will Ensure Continued Productive Discussions to Support Sustainable Farming Innovations***

**Brussels — 16 July 2018** — CropLife International congratulates the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SBI) on a decision that recommends to the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that they adopt a decision outlining a procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest by members of expert groups established under the Conventions and its subsidiary Protocols. The SBI, which is a body established to provide advice to the Parties on issues related to implementation of the Convention and its subsidiary Protocols, discussed the issue of conflicts of interest in expert groups during its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting the week of 9-13 July 2018. The SBI decision invites Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to submit their views on the proposed procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups as contained in the annex to the proposed SBI decision, which will then be considered by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at their 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in November 2018.

“CropLife International appreciates the opportunity for private sector engagement within the Convention on Biological Diversity discussions, and believes subject matter experts can provide unique insights and counsel to expert groups, such as ad hoc technical groups (AHTEGs),” said Howard Minigh, president and CEO of CropLife International. “The SBI initiative to transparently and proactively address possible conflicts of interest protects the scientific integrity of expert groups and ensures their conclusions and recommendations still take into account the best available and unbiased advice while remaining credible, evidence-based and balanced. The plant biotech industry applauds the SBI for this progressive proposal, and will support its adoption at the 2018 Biodiversity Convention in November. CropLife International looks forward to continuing to contribute to the negotiations and implementation process.”

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Note to Editor:

CropLife International is the voice of the global plant science industry. It champions the role of agricultural innovations in crop protection and plant biotechnology in supporting and advancing sustainable agriculture; helping farmers feed a growing population while looking after the planet; and progressing rural communities. The world needs farmers, and farmers need plant science. CropLife International is proud to be at the heart of helping farmers grow.