

CropLife International Supports Outcome of Cartagena Biosafety Protocol Discussions

Global Industry Coalition Engagement with Parties Contributes to Productive Negotiations Which Protect International Trade and Biodiversity

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CropLife International and the Global Industry Coalition (GIC) applaud the productive negotiations that took place at this week's Conference of the Parties serving as the seventh Meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP-7) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (BSP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The plant biotechnology industry commends the Parties' hard work to advance discussions on a number of Articles of the BSP this week, including environmental risk assessment, shipping documentation requirements for commodities, and the role of socio-economic considerations in decision-making.

"The plant biotechnology industry congratulates the COP/MOP-7 delegates for the significant progress made in many key areas for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety," said Sarah Lukie, Secretariat of the Global Industry Coalition. "Progress made during these negotiations will help ensure the transboundary movement of living modified organisms (LMOs) continues to protect biological diversity, while maintaining uninterrupted international trade."

The plant science industry participates in the BSP negotiations and implementation discussions through the Global Industry Coalition (GIC). The GIC delegation attending COP/MOP-7 was comprised of over 40 individuals representing 16 countries from all regions of the world.

"The Global Industry Coalition appreciates the opportunity to participate in the negotiations, as the outcomes impact food and nutrition security worldwide, access to agricultural innovation for farming communities, improvements to farmer livelihoods and economic development, all while supporting the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices which conserve natural resources and protect biodiversity," continued Lukie. "The GIC's collaboration with the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) enhanced industry's active engagement with delegates and Parties on key issues, which led to productive outcomes at COP/MOP-7."

The GIC receives input and direction from trade associations representing thousands of companies from all over the world. Participants include associations representing, and companies engaged in, a variety of industrial sectors such as plant science, seed, agricultural biotechnology, food production, animal agriculture, human and animal health care, and the environment. Members of the GIC look forward to participating in the numerous intersessional meetings scheduled by Parties to occur before they meet again for their eighth meeting in Mexico in 2016.

Today, biotech crops are grown on more than 175 million hectares in 27 countries, including several major agricultural exporting countries. Guidelines on the import, transfer, handling, and

domestic use of living modified organisms, including how to address damage to biological diversity, can have significant impact on international trade.

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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.