



Press Release

Illegal pesticides – Hazards of the environment, life and economy of Vietnam

(Ho Chi Minh City – 12/09/2011) – Today at the Movenpick hotel in HCM City, EuroCham CropLife Vietnam held a conference concerning the crisis of counterfeit and illegal pesticides threatening farmers and the food chain.. This is the event to begin the Pesticide Anti-Counterfeiting Features week (ACF) from the 12th to 16th of September, to increase the awareness and to find the resolutions for illegal and counterfeit pesticides. The conference was held with the attendances of the representatives of Governmental offices such as Plant Protection Department – the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, General Department of Vietnam Customs, Economic Police agency, Vietnamese Market Control Authority and pesticide companies from CropLife Vietnam. Industry and the government will work together to protect the food chain, farmers, and crops from counterfeiters and counterfeits.

Pesticides are one of the most regulated industries in the world, due to ongoing pesticide industry and government cooperation in ensuring the highest quality pesticides are provided to farmers to help them grow crops to feed the citizens of Vietnam. However criminals making counterfeits and illegal pesticides have bypassed the government regulatory system in Vietnam and elsewhere, and are exploiting farmers by selling them illegal and counterfeit pesticides. These criminals are not only exploiting the farmers, but are damaging the food chain and environment. The counterfeiters will ruin Vietnam's reputation for high quality export crops, as international buyers will not buy crops treated with illegal chemicals.

According to Mr. Robert Hulme, the Chairman of CropLife Vietnam: “Counterfeit plant protection products are the form of defying the law, defeating the benefits of farmers, consumers, the environment and legal values of makers and exporters. These breach and systematic criminal networks can create high profits, but they are very hazardous. In fact, illegal products can cause unexpected damages to all levels of creature system and destroy the fields, also have adverse impacts on the economies of exporting countries.”

The conference has addressed different topics concerning illegal pesticides, including how police and customs should deal with criminal that are supplying counterfeit and illegal pesticides, registration of legal pesticides, identification of illegal pesticides, , reporting illegal pesticides to the police, and how customs can stop the import of illegal pesticides entering Vietnam from foreign countries.

Mr. D’Arcy Quinn, anti-counterfeiting expert from CropLife International, based in Brussels (Belgium), presiding over the conference, said: “CropLife’s concept is that illegal pesticides in Vietnam can be eliminated in co-operation with the most important agencies in the Government and CropLife Vietnam companies, by building awareness to the population of Vietnam via the media, as we are doing today with you in the press and TV. Criminals selling counterfeit and illegal pesticides need to be identified in the rural communities, and prosecuted by police and



the courts, before they do any further harm to farmers and food. It is also most important that the government regulators and CropLife join hands to assist the farmers through training programs on how to guarantee they only use legally registered pesticides approved by the government of Vietnam.

About CropLife Vietnam

CropLife Vietnam, the local unit of CropLife Asia/ CropLife International, is the Regional Committee of Eurocham in Vietnam, operating in accordance with principles and regulations of the Regional Committee of Eurocham Vietnam. List the names of the companies in CropLife Vietnam.

About CropLife International

CropLife International, based in Brussels, is an International Federation of agrochemical companies with affiliates in more than 90 countries in the world. Member companies of CropLife International commit to contribute to the sustainable agriculture through innovation in plant protection, agricultural biotechnology and seed production.

To deal with the increasing worldwide crisis of counterfeit and illegal pesticides CropLife International and member companies have established an anti-counterfeiting task force. They work with the international police [Interpol, World Customs Organization] to confiscate counterfeit and illegal pesticides, arrest counterfeiters, increase the awareness of Government and regulators, and train everyone in the legitimate distribution chain to avoid criminals selling illegal and counterfeit pesticides.

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