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CropLife South Africa and SABO Announces Collaboration in Support of Sustainable Food Production in South Africa.

CropLife South Africa (SA) and the South African Bioproduct Organisation (SABO) recently agreed to a collaboration between the two bodies in support of promoting the principles of integrated pest management (IPM), which ultimately contributes to sustainable agriculture in South Africa.

CropLife SA represents what is usually considered the traditional or chemical crop protection industry, while SABO represents the agricultural bioproduct industry. There is often a misconception that the choice of biological or chemical crop protection solutions is an either/or situation, however, the best strategy for success lies in a combination of these approaches. This falls perfectly within the principles of IPM, meaning the focus is on managing pests effectively rather than just eliminating them with one form of control. Successful IPM entails a combination of various suitable strategies or techniques to keep pests, diseases and weeds below levels that cause unacceptable crop loss, so that farmers can keep up with the growing global food demand while safeguarding human health and the environment.

“IPM has been a significant part of the CropLife SA stewardship strategy for many years, and the merging of biological pest control methods into the mainstream provision of plant protection solutions is well advanced, meaning there is an increasingly weaker distinction between different pest control methods. IPM via the use of a wide range of plant protection solutions is the way forward,” says CEO of CropLife SA, Rod Bell.

Biological and chemical methods of pest management play an essential role in effective IPM, and both are regulated in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act (Act No. 36 of 1947). This means that there is a significant overlap in many activities of the two organisations that can be streamlined through participation and coordination of the particular working groups.

“Both SABO and CropLife SA find themselves serving the common needs of their respective members, so it makes perfect sense for both associations to collaborate at all stages of the development of plant protection solutions,” notes Sean Thackery, SABO President.

The organisations agree that the responsible use of any crop protection solution, whether cultural, chemical, biological or mechanical, remains key in sustainable farming, and they will therefore continue focusing on education and stewardship as main pillars of their activities going forward.

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Note to editor:

The South African Bioproducts Organisation (SABO)

SABO was established in 2013 to represent the bioproduct industry as a whole in its dealings with local and international role players in the industry.

SABO is a link between the Government – Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and the Department of Health (DOH) – and the bioproduct industry. SABO representatives cooperate and liaise with DALRRD, with special reference to Agricultural Inputs and Plant Health.

SABO aims to grow the industry by promoting general public knowledge of the benefits of the products and

services available in the industry and to promote research, development and training in the industry.

CropLife South Africa

CropLife SA is a non-profit industry association that serves and represents responsible manufacturers, suppliers and distributors of sustainable crop protection, public health and plant biotechnology solutions in South Africa.

CropLife SA enables its members to be providers of environmentally compatible solutions that ensure sustainable, safe and affordable food production, and therefore food security, in South Africa by offering a wealth of resources, training, regulatory assistance and industry updates to its members. In addition, it is the leading industry voice for its members in matters pertaining to crop protection and plant biotechnology in South Africa.

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