

Eight Steps to Better Regulations

The plant science industry is committed to helping farmers achieve better yields and quality in a safe and sustainable way. CropLife Asia reaches out to thousands of farmers in 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, equipping them with essential skills on Good Agricultural Practices, including Integrated Pest Management and using crop protection products responsibly.

But this is not enough. The industry is also committed to achieving better regulations that enable the responsible use of pesticides, promote investment in new crop protection solutions and ensure

timely access to new technologies, whilst providing assurance of safety and fostering shared responsibility and compliance in pesticide management. CropLife Asia supports regulations that help address the goals of an abundant food supply while protecting the health of consumers, farmers as well as the environment.

Adoption of better regulations by the relevant authorities in Asia will ensure growers have access to new technology with quality assurance backed by R&D efforts. The eight steps are:

- 1 The registration requirements and the evaluation and decision-making criteria and processes must be clearly defined.** A clear process improves public confidence and allows all applicants to understand what is required to achieve regulatory approval. Dialogue between competent regulators and registrants will assure full understanding of the regulatory data package. Mutual acceptance of data from neighboring countries with similar agro-climatic conditions supports harmonization, streamlines processes and saves resources.
- 2 Regulatory decisions must be objective and based on sound scientific principles using a transparent decision making process.** In this way, openness and transparency are ensured and public confidence will be improved. It also promotes harmonization in the sense that a common set of data requirements and risk assessment processes can be defined without compromising the ability of countries to make independent decisions in the local context.
- 3 The pesticide active ingredient and formulated product must be defined and the specifications shown to be equivalent to those used in the generation of the regulatory data provided.** This principle will ensure the safety of the product and prevent untested products entering the market that may not work correctly and may cause an unacceptable risk. This step can minimize or eliminate the trade of substandard or spurious products in the market place.

- 4 Pesticide products must be efficacious in use and safe for the crop.** Adherence to this principle ensures that there is a demonstrable benefit to the grower in using the product.
- 5 Protection of human health and the environment takes priority over crop protection.** There should be no unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.
- 6 The pesticide-treated crops must be fit for local consumption and export.** Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) should be established and a dietary risk assessment conducted at national or regional level to ensure consumption of residues is within acceptable limits. Where international trade takes place, MRLs should be established in importing countries, consistent with those in exporting countries.
- 7 All applicants for approval of pesticides should be treated equally.** This ensures a level playing field and fair competition.
- 8 Intellectual property rights must be respected.** The respect for IPR should cover the recognition of patents established for new innovations, the Protection of Regulatory Data (PRD) and Confidential Business Information (CBI). Regulatory agencies need to respect and protect new innovations, regulatory data and confidential business information that is submitted by the applicants during regulatory approval process.

About CropLife Asia:

CropLife Asia promotes the benefits and responsible use of crop protection and plant biotechnology products, as well as sound regulatory frameworks in support of sustainable agriculture in the Asia Pacific region. As a regional unit of CropLife International – a global federation of the plant science industry in 91 countries – CropLife Asia supports the work of 15 member associations and is led by member companies at the forefront of crop production research and development.

www.croplifeasia.org

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