

CHOICE trips at beginning of deceptive anti-ag pesticide campaign

Wednesday 15 June 2011 – CHOICE, in engaging in a non-factual and alarmist campaign regarding agricultural chemicals in Australia has tripped at the first hurdle. CHOICE's website had stated that "There are more than 80 chemicals and pesticides used every day in Australia that are banned in Europe", a statement that is false and misleading.

To avoid embarrassment and a complete undermining of its credibility, CHOICE has sought to quietly backpedal from this pronouncement regarding the regulatory status of pesticides in Australia and the European Union and overnight changed its official website. Nevertheless, it highlights a serious problem with the integrity and ethical standards CHOICE is bringing to this campaign.

Chief Executive Officer of CropLife Australia, Matthew Cossey said "while the change recognises that these products are not 'banned in Europe', the implication that these products are no longer registered because of health or safety concerns is false, misleading and deceptive. Indeed, many of the chemicals identified in the CHOICE campaign as being banned or no longer registered continue to be used safely and effectively in many European and other countries around the world".

"It is concerning that CHOICE has allowed its own agenda to be high jacked in this way by extreme anti-chemical campaigners. By putting its name to this deceptive anti-pesticide campaign, CHOICE has reduced itself to nothing more than a scaremongering lobby group. In doing so, it has also abandoned a serious position of advocating for consumers. Modern agricultural chemicals are the products that ensure safe, disease free, quality and value for money food for Australian consumers", Mr Cossey said.

Each country has its own unique circumstances of demography, crop production and environment that can mean different pesticides are used. Differences in product availability are often also due to the commercial decisions made by manufacturers and registrants.

"By their own admission in changing the website CHOICE has confirmed their attempt to mislead the Australian public. CHOICE should now formally apologise to Australia's consumers and the Australian plant science industry, and admit that its genuine intent is to inappropriately influence government processes by promulgating discredited reports from activist organisations".

"CropLife calls upon CHOICE to publicly withdraw its support for this campaign so that it can attempt to re-establish its credibility as an independent consumer watchdog". Mr Cossey said.

CropLife and its members are committed to the responsible and sustainable management of agricultural chemicals throughout their lifecycle. Our members invest millions of dollars each year to ensure that products remain safe and present no unacceptable risks to users, consumers or the environment.

<ENDS>

Contact: Thomas Whitty (Communications & Campaigns Officer) Ph (02) 6230 6399, Mob: 0466 466 035

About CropLife Australia

CropLife Australia is the peak industry organisation representing the agricultural chemical and biotechnology (plant science) sector in Australia. CropLife represents the innovators, developers, manufacturers, formulators and registrants of crop protection and agro-biotechnology products. The plant science industry provides products to protect crops against pests, weeds and diseases, as well as developing crop biotechnologies that are key to the nation's agricultural productivity, sustainability and food security. The plant science industry is worth more than \$1.5 billion a year to the Australian economy and directly employs thousands of people across the country.

CropLife member companies spend more than \$13 million a year on stewardship activities to ensure the safe use of their products on the environment and human health. CropLife ensures the responsible use of these products through its industry code of conduct and has set a benchmark for industry stewardship through programs such as **drumMUSTER**, ChemClear[®] and Agsafe Accreditation and Training.

CHOICE website yesterday

CHOICE calls for action on chemical regulation in Australia. - CHOICE - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.choice.com.au/reviews-and-tests/food-and-health/general-health/safety/apvma-wwf.aspx

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Home > Food and health > General health > Safety > APVMA-WWF

Better chemical regulation

It's time for Australia to catch up with other developed countries.

Become a CHOICE member

Join over 200,000 members saving time and money

Why join? [Join now](#)


Article **Your say - 0 comments**

Updated: 9 Jun 2011 | Author: Martin Powley | Member rating

Recommend Share 1 Tweet 0 Share 1

01. Introduction

There are more than 80 chemicals and pesticides used every day in Australia that are banned in Europe. If that's not alarming enough, about 75% were included in our current system 15 years ago as a legacy from previous decades. Some were registered for use back in the 1950s and have not been subjected to a modern safety assessment. See our [2009 investigation on hazardous pesticides](#) for more.



Add to favourites

Related articles

Hazardous pesticides freely available

24 APR 2009 | Cockroach baits, termite treatments, surface sprays and head lice treatments are some of the products containing ingredients that could seriously affect our health and that of our children.

Done

Start Microsoft Office O... CroLife Australia - ... CHOICE calls for acti... TA control of use reg... Improved governanc... Search Desktop 5:00 PM

CHOICE website today

CHOICE calls for action on chemical regulation in Australia. - CHOICE - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.choice.com.au/reviews-and-tests/food-and-health/general-health/safety/apvma-wwf.aspx

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Home > Food and health > General health > Safety > APVMA-WWF

Better chemical regulation

It's time for Australia to catch up with other developed countries.

Become a CHOICE member

Join over 200,000 members saving time and money

Why join? [Join now](#)


Article **Your say - 0 comments**

Updated: 9 Jun 2011 | Author: Martin Powley | Member rating

Recommend Share 1 Tweet 0 Share 1

01. Introduction

There are more than 80 chemicals and pesticides used every day in Australia that are no longer registered for use in Europe. If that's not alarming enough, about 75% were included in our current system 15 years ago as a legacy from previous decades. Some were registered for use back in the 1950s and have not been subjected to a modern safety assessment. See our [2009 investigation on hazardous pesticides](#) for more.



Add to favourites

Related articles

Hazardous pesticides freely available

24 APR 2009 | Cockroach baits, termite treatments, surface sprays and head lice treatments are some of the products containing ingredients that could seriously affect our health and that of our children.

Done

Start Microsoft Office O... CHOICE calls for acti... Document4 - Microsof... Search Desktop 12:21 PM