

Economic activity attributable to crop protection products

Agriculture has played a central role in Australia's modern history and it remains vital to our nation's economy and future food production capability. There is a high demand for Australian produce, both domestically and internationally, but the dry and often extreme climate, multitude of pests and problematic soil in many parts of Australia have presented challenges to farmers from the very beginning. Fortunately, Australian agriculture is resilient and the nation's farming sector is supported by a raft of strong, crucial sectors like the plant science industry, that have delivered essential products and new technologies to the nation's farming sector.

Through innovative, modern agricultural practices, such as the use of chemical crop protection products, Australian agriculture continues to significantly contribute to our country's economic output, both directly and indirectly. More importantly, the nation's farming effort delivers nearly all of our population's food requirements and Australian farmers also export around 60 per cent of what they grow. In 2011–12 agricultural exports accounted for 13.8 per cent of all Australian produce exports.

The data presented in this landmark study demonstrates the crucial role of crop protection products in the current and continued success of Australian agriculture, as well as the importance of the plant science industry to the Australian economy as a whole. This is particularly significant in a public policy sense as chemical crop protection products are some of the most tightly regulated products in Australia; undergoing a rigorous registration process similar that that for human pharmaceuticals.

This study, 'Economic Activity Attributable to Crop Protection Products in Australia' details a conservative analysis of the positive impacts of the crop protection industry on the Australian economy; not only in raising crop values, but as an important job creator. Just a few examples of the economic advantages gained in Australia from the use of crop protection products outlined in this report:

- Up to \$17.6 billion of Australian agricultural output is attributable to the use of crop protection products, or up to 68 per cent of the total value of crop production
- The crop protection product sector creates 9250 full time equivalent jobs across Australia
- It would be almost impossible to commercially grow carrots, peanuts, onions, grapes and many other crucial crops in Australia without crop protection products.

The findings of this study support and complement similar data from around the world. Other international studies show that the value of crop protection products extends beyond agricultural production and employment figures. Crop protection products also directly improve the cost of living for consumers as well as the environmental sustainability of modern farming. A recently released study conducted in the US by economist Mark Goodwin indicated that crop protection products provide a 47.9 per cent saving on grocery bills for a family of four in the US. This study also showed that crop protection products decrease the need for tillage operations, thereby reducing fossil fuel use in the US by 2.1 million kilolitres per year. These benefits are also reflected in the Australian economy and community.

CropLife Australia presents the information in this report to highlight not only the visible benefits of modern agriculture, such as increased food production, but also to convey the multiple contributions the crop protection industry makes to the economy in areas including employment, exports, manufacturing and trade. Through investment in and support of modern agriculture, Australia can continue to thrive in today's economy, improve farming profitability for the future, and build towards a more food secure tomorrow.

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Crop Protection

Crop Biotechnology

Industry Stewardship

meeting challenges in a growing world

- CroLife Australia (CroLife) is the peak industry organisation representing the agricultural chemical and biotechnology (plant science) sector in Australia. CroLife represents the innovators, developers, manufacturers, formulators and registrants of crop protection and agricultural 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.
- CroLife is focused on three key areas of modern farming: crop protection (pesticides), crop biotechnology (GM crops) and industry stewardship.
- CroLife's members represent 85 per cent of crop protection and 100 per cent of the crop biotechnology products used by Australia's farmers.
- CroLife ensures the responsible use of the industry's products through its code of conduct and has set a benchmark for industry stewardship through programs such as **drumMUSTER**, ChemClear® and Agsafe Accreditation and Training.
- CroLife Australia is part of the CroLife International Federation, representing the industry in 91 countries around the world.
- The plant science industry is worth more than \$17.6 billion a year to the Australian economy.
- The crop protection product sector creates 9250 full time equivalent jobs across Australia.
- Crop protection chemistry and biotechnology are crucial tools to help us meet the significantly increased food production demands of the next 50 years.

