

New guide released to inform about the importance of pesticides

18 March 2021 (Canberra) – The national peak industry organisation for the plant science sector, CropLife Australia, has today launched The official Australian reference guide for organic, synthetic and biological pesticides to ensure better informed and fact-based discussions about the regulation and essential role of pesticides in agriculture, environmental management and human health.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, the Hon. David Littleproud MP, officially launched the Guide at an event at Parliament House as part of Science meets Parliament. CEO of Science and Technology Australia, Misha Schubert, addressed attendees on the importance of effectively communicating science and CEO of CropLife Australia, Matthew Cossey, outlined the Guide.

Mr Cossey said, “The innovations of the plant science industry were at the centre of the Third Agricultural Revolution and it will again be the innovations of the plant science industry that will be at the core of the fourth agricultural revolution. That is what Australia needs to achieve another leap in production and enable farming to become even more environmentally sustainable. Access to new modern pesticides is crucial for Australia to meet its food production goals and aspirations, protect the natural environment from invasive species and safeguard human health from disease-spreading pests, and harmful crop and produce funguses.

“The world needs to produce as much food over the next 50 years as we have since the beginning of humanity, more than 30,000 years ago. That is a staggering challenge requiring a massive effort from the entire agricultural sector. Farmers will need access to all and every safe tool, product and innovation to do it, especially pesticides – be they organic, synthetic, or biologically based.

“In Australia, like the rest of the developed world, food has never been safer and never has there been such variety of produce available to consumers. Still, though, there exists a peak interest in food amongst growing urban populations which correlates with a peak ignorance in how food is produced and farming generally.

“Pesticides have had a hugely positive impact on global food production yet there remains a serious lack of understanding about their safety and importance, not just to farming but to the protection and restoration of our natural environment and human health.

“Without pesticides the world would lose up to 50 per cent of crucial food crops, devastating global food supply.

“Australia’s agriculture sector continues to grow with confidence in the knowledge that advanced crop protection technologies will continue to successfully manage the dynamic, evolving and ever challenging pest risks that farmers face now and will face into the future”, Mr Cossey concluded.

The audience of agriculture, science and industry leaders were joined by several Federal Parliamentarians and public policy specialists at the event.

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[DOWNLOAD the Guide](#)

[DOWNLOAD audio clips](#)

Images available upon request

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About CropLife Australia

CropLife Australia is the national peak industry organisation representing the plant science sector in Australia. CropLife’s members are the world-leading innovators, developers, manufacturers and formulators of crop protection and crop biotechnology products. The plant science industry, worth more than \$20 billion a year to Australian agricultural production, provides products to protect crops against pests, weeds and diseases, as well as developing crop biotechnologies key to the nation’s agricultural productivity, profitability and sustainability. CropLife is part of the plant science industry’s 91 country international federation.