# FEEDING NINE BILLION: THE ISSUES FACING GLOBAL AGRICULTURE





### **ABOUTUS**

CropLife International is a global network of plant science companies and regional and national crop protection and biotechnology associations that share the common goal of creating and promoting solutions for sustainable agriculture.

For us, sustainable agriculture means employing a wide range of solutions incorporating nature and technology, which can:

- > Meet the world's growing food needs;
- > Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base;
- > Make efficient use of technologies, renewable resources, and on-farm resources while integrating natural biological cycles;
- > Sustain the economic viability of the farm and farmers; and
- > Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society.

CropLife International's mission is to encourage a dialogue that will help foster the understanding that nature and technology are not mutually exclusive, but rather complementary and synergistic. In fact, the plant sciences industry has made an impact on everything in our lives from the food we eat, to the clothes we wear, to the fuel we can use in our cars. Even more, innovations developed by the plant sciences industry have revolutionised the lives of the more than 2.5 billion farmers around the globe and reduced agriculture's footprint by, for example, reducing the amount of land and water resources needed to grow crops and making crops more resistant to pests and drought.

Together with our global network of partners, including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), farmer groups, agriculture and biotechnology experts, and regional associations, CropLife International serves as a catalyst for information sharing and discussion about the latest innovations in agriculture. WE INVITE YOU TO EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT, AND SEE WHAT PLANT SCIENCE IS DOING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY.

## THE ISSUES...







# **FEEDING NINE BILLION**

IN 2011, THE WORLD'S POPULATION REACHED SEVEN **BILLION PEOPLE, AND BY 2050** IT WILL SURPASS NINE BILLION. THIS MEANS FARMERS WILL NEED TO PRODUCE 70%

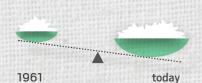


MORE FOOD ON LESS LAND THAN EVER BEFORE. CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS AND PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY CAN IMPROVE YIELDS TO HELP FARMERS MEET THIS GOAL.

## **IMPROVING YIELDS**

THROUGH NEW VARIETIES & PROTECTION FROM PESTS & DISEASES

#### **BETTER YIELDS**



**SINCE 1961 YIELDS FOR RICE HAVE MORE THAN** DOUBLED

#### REDUCING LOSSES



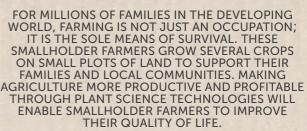
**CROP PROTECTION PRACTICES** PREVENT NEARLY 1/2 OF THESE CROP LOSSES



MORE FOOD

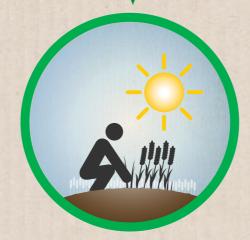
**BIOTECH CROPS HELP FARMERS GROW MORE FOOD PER ACRE** 





# SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS & STRONGER COMMUNITIES

ARE CREATED BY MAKING AGRICULTURE MORE PRODUCTIVE



#### HERBICIDES REDUCE STRENUOUS HANDWEEDING

Herbicide use could eliminate the need for 90% of strenuous handweeding in Africa.



THIS CAN SAVE 24 BILLION HOURS AND PRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL **40 MILLION TONNES** OF CROPS



#### **DISEASE-FREE HARVESTS BOOST INCOMES**

In Kenya, using pesticides to produce disease-free fruit means a four-fold income increase for smallscale passion fruit farmers; and extra income for avocado farmers.



**HIGHER INCOMES** IMPROVE HEALTH. **PROVIDE SCHOOLING** AND CREATE NEW BUSINESS **OPPORTUNITIES** 



# HIGHER YIELDS IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS

In India, Bt cotton is boosting yields, leading to higher farm incomes and quality of life improvements.



# GAINS FROM 2002 TO 2010

**IMPROVED ACCESS TO** TELEPHONE SYSTEMS, **DRINKING WATER AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE** 

MORE MATERNAL HEALTH CARE, HIGHER SCHOOL ENROLMENT AND VACCINATION RATES



# FIGHTING POOR NUTRITION

IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, AN ESTIMATED ONE IN THREE CHILDREN SUFFERS FROM MALNUTRITION. AT LEAST HALF OF THE 10.9 MILLION CHILD DEATHS EACH YEAR COULD BE PREVENTED WITH IMPROVED NUTRITION. PLANT SCIENCE CAN HELP BY PRODUCING MORE FOOD FOR A GROWING POPULATION AND CREATING PLANT VARIETIES WITH HIGHER NUTRITIONAL VALUES.

# **CREATING HEALTHIER DIETS**





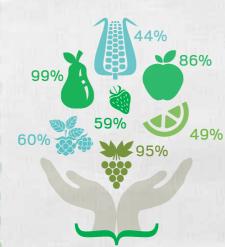
#### HIGHER NUTRITIONAL VALUE

The Africa Biofortified Sorghum project is using biotechnology to develop sorghum with higher levels of essential nutrients such as vitamin A, iron and zinc.



#### **MORE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**

Yield loss prevented by fungicides:





#### **HEALTHIER STAPLES**

Bt corn contains built-in protection from insect damage, lowering the levels of mycotoxins (harmful fungal toxins).



WITHOUT FUNGICIDES, WHICH PROTECT PLANTS FROM DISEASE, IT'S ESTIMATED THAT YIELDS OF MOST FRUIT AND VEGETABLES WOULD FALL BY 50-95%



# **CONSERVING WATER**

IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS, IT'S PREDICTED THAT NEARLY HALF OF THE WORLD WILL BE LIVING UNDER SEVERE WATER STRESS. TODAY, WITH EVERY CALORIE WE EAT REQUIRING ABOUT ONE LITRE OF WATER TO PRODUCE, AGRICULTURE ACCOUNTS FOR 70% OF GLOBAL WATER USE. NEW TECHNOLOGIES CAN HELP US CHANGE THE WAY WATER IS USED AND MANAGED.

REDUCING WATER NEEDS
THROUGH PLANT SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES



#### **WATER EFFICIENT CROPS**

ONE POUND OF COTTON CAN
NOW BE PRODUCED WITH ABOUT
1/2 THE
IRRIGATION WATER
REQUIRED 20 YEARS AGO



#### **CONSERVATION TILLAGE**

HERBICIDES AND BIOTECH CROPS REDUCE THE NEED FOR TILLAGE, LEAVING MORE MOISTURE In the soil for the growing crop



#### DROUGHT TOLERANT CROPS

DROUGHT TOLERANT CORN IN AFRICA
HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR
20-35%
HIGHER YIELDS UNDER

HIGHER YIELDS UNDER DROUGHT CONDITIONS

# **PRESERVING SOIL**

IN LESS THAN 40 YEARS, IT'S ESTIMATED THAT HALF OF THE CURRENT LAND WE USE TO GROW CROPS WILL BECOME UNUSABLE DUE TO DESERTIFICATION AND LAND DEGRADATION. THIS LOSS OF SOIL PRODUCTIVITY AND PLANT COVER IS PRIMARILY CAUSED BY UNSUSTAINABLE

AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES SUCH AS INTENSIVE TILLAGE, AND PROLONGED DROUGHT. BY USING BIOTECHNOLOGY AND CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS, FARMERS CAN EMPLOY CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE, PROTECTING LAND FOR **FUTURE GENERATIONS.** 

# **REDUCING SOIL EROSION**

BY ENABLING CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE AROUND THE WORLD

#### CANADA .....

IN CANADA, 64% OF **FARMERS PLANTING** HERBICIDE-TOLERANT **CANOLA ARE USING ZERO** AND MINIMAL TILLAGE PRACTICES -86% HAVE

REDUCED SOIL **EROSION** AND 83% INDICATED **GREATER SOIL MOISTURE** 

#### **UNITED STATES**

**USING HERBICIDES TO** CONTROL WEEDS IN THE U.S. REDUCES SOIL EROSION BY **AN ESTIMATED** 

356 BILLION **POUNDS EACH YEAR** 

#### **CHINA**

IN CHINA, USING HERBICIDES INSTEAD OF TILLAGE IN TEA FIELDS CAN **REDUCE SOIL EROSION BY UP** TO 80%

#### **ARGENTINA**

IN ARGENTINA, THE INTRODUCTION OF HERBICIDE-TOLERANT SOYBEANS INCREASED NO-TILL ADOPTION FROM ABOUT 33% TO

MORE THAN 80% BETWEEN 1996 AND 2008

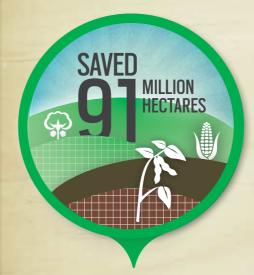
# PROTECTING (3) BIODIVERSITY

BIODIVERSITY IS THE VARIETY OF LIFE ON EARTH. THIS INCREDIBLE WEALTH OF ABOUT 8.7 MILLION DIFFERENT SPECIES FORMS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND LIVELIHOODS. BUT BIODIVERSITY IS UNDER THREAT, DRIVEN LARGELY BY THE CONVERSION OF WILD NATURAL HABITATS TO AGRICULTURE. HOWEVER, WITH THE HELP OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS, FARMERS CAN NOW GROW MORE FOOD ON THE SAME AMOUNT OF LAND - TAKING PRESSURE OFF OF THE NEED TO CONVERT NATURAL HABITATS INTO FARMLAND.

THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE

# SAFEGUARDING BIODIVERSITY

BY REDUCING THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FARMLAND & IMPROVING NATURAL HABITATS



#### **HIGHER YIELDS**

IF HIGHER YIELDING BIOTECH **CROPS HAD NOT BEEN AVAILABLE** FROM 1996 TO 2010, AN

**ADDITIONAL** 91 MILLION HECTARES OF FARMLAND WOULD HAVE BEEN

**NEEDED TO MAINTAIN GLOBAL** PRODUCTION LEVELS



#### **DEFENSE AGAINST INVADERS**

FORESTS AND OTHER NATURAL HABITATS CAN THRIVE WHEN PESTICIDES ARE USED TO **CONTROL INVADING PLANTS OR INSECTS THAT THREATEN NATIVE SPECIES** 



#### **CONSERVATION TILLAGE**

**CONSERVATION TILLAGE LEAVES** CROP STUBBLE IN THE FIELD, **IMPROVING HABITAT** AND **FOOD SOURCES** FOR INSECTS, BIRDS AND OTHER ANIMALS

# RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS ALREADY SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED GROWING CONDITIONS AND WEATHER PATTERNS. AND IF CURRENT TRENDS CONTINUE, IT'S PREDICTED THAT TEMPERATURES WILL RISE BY 2-3°C OVER THE NEXT 50 YEARS, LEADING TO SERIOUS IMPACTS. FARMERS MAY FACE EVEN MORE DROUGHT, FLOODING AND EXCESSIVE HEAT AS THEY ARE CHALLENGED TO PRODUCE FOOD FOR AN INCREASING WORLD POPULATION. PLANT SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES CAN HELP FARMERS MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEAL WITH ERRATIC WEATHER PATTERNS.

# MANAGING OUR CHANGING CLIMATE

THROUGH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES



#### **NEW TRAITS**

PLANT SCIENTISTS
ARE DEVELOPING NEW
TECHNOLOGIES AND
TRAITS THAT CAN
ALLOW CROPS

TO THRIVE
IN HARSH GROWING CONDITIONS
LIKE DROUGHT, FLOODING
OR EXTREME HEAT



## CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

HERBICIDE-TOLERANT BIOTECH CROPS
REDUCE THE NEED FOR TILLAGE - USING
LESS FUEL AND KEEPING CARBON IN
THE SOIL. IN 2010, THE AMOUNT
OF CO<sub>2</sub> SAVED BY BIOTECH CROPS WAS

EQUAL TO REMOVING
9 MILLION CARS
FROM THE ROAD FOR ONE YEAR



#### **HIGHER YIELDS**

BY INCREASING YIELDS,
FARMERS ARE UNDER LESS PRESSURE
TO CONVERT CARBON-RICH
FORESTS TO FARMLAND, REDUCING
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.
SINCE 1961, HIGHER-YIELDING
CROPS HAVE PREVENTED

590 BILLION TONNES OF CARBON EMISSIONS The technologies offered by the plant science industry have a long history in improving agriculture and a critical role to play as we look to the future. Population growth, climate change and the limitations of natural resources means that agriculture must become even more productive, efficient and environmentally sound. The plant science industry is committed to being part of the solution, contributing to sustainable farms around the world.



#### **CROPLIFE INTERNATIONAL AISBL**

326 Avenue Louise, Box 35 1050 Brussels, Belgium Tel +32 2 542 04 10 Fax +32 2 542 04 19

Croplife@croplife.org www.croplife.org

