



For Immediate Release
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FUNDING FOR USDA PROGRAM TO PROMOTE SOUND USE OF PESTICIDES THREATENED; CLA RALLIES CONTINUING SUPPORT

Washington, D.C. April 18, 2008—CropLife America (CLA) is attempting to rally support for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Integrated Pest Management Pest Information Platform Extension and Education program. According to CLA President and CEO Jay Vroom the program, which grew out of the necessity to respond quickly to the discovery of Asian Soybean Rust in the U.S. in 2004, is in danger of losing its long-term funding support at the federal government level. Funding stoppage for the program—known as ipmPIPE—was discussed yesterday during a USDA summit in Washington, D.C.

“As this is one of the finest examples of private/public partnership in support of effective and responsible use of pesticides, we must strive to gain long-term and stable federal funding for this program,” Vroom stated.

Growers and crop consultants clearly communicated the value of ipmPIPE for management of Asian soybean rust to an audience of some 40 government and private-sector policy makers yesterday. It provides proven scientific tools for informing pest management decisions on a real-time basis. Since the program began less than 4 years ago, it has also been deployed for another significant soybean pest – the soybean aphid – and is quickly becoming the model for similar pest management and monitoring efforts for other crops. Additional projects being initiated for management of downy mildew in cucurbit crops (melons squash, cucumbers) and other pest problems were featured in presentations at yesterday’s summit.

“Our crop protection industry has always been a strong supporter of integrated pest management, and our partnerships over the years with USDA, EPA and other federal agencies, as well as our farmer customers, have provided benefits to all,” Vroom said.

“The ipmPIPE effort requires only about \$2.7 million dollars a year at the federal level to sustain at current operational levels. That modest amount is highly leveraged through the cooperation of government and academic researchers, state governments, crop consultants, commodity organizations, and industry, resulting in savings to growers of as much as 100 times that amount. Given the funding troubles, we ask everyone to join us in communicating to Congress and federal agencies with a stake in IPM to step forward and guarantee that this effort is sustained and positioned to grow beyond the few crops it serves today.”

For additional information, contact CLA 1156 15th Street, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20005. Tel: 202/296-1585.

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Look for CropLife America on the World Wide Web at www.croplifeamerica.org

Representing the Pesticide Industry

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Established in 1933 and headquartered in Washington D.C., CropLife America is the nation's largest trade organization for agriculture pest management. We represent more than 80 developers, manufacturers, formulators and distributors of virtually all the crop protection products used by American farmers and growers. We are the voice of the industry that ensures the responsible and effective use of pesticides to provide a safe, affordable and abundant food supply. For more information visit www.croplifeamerica.org.

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