



# MOVING FORWARD WITH FARMING – THE BIGGEST JOB ON EARTH



## Let's move forward together

While farming is the biggest job on earth, farmers are not facing the challenge alone. We support productive, sustainable agriculture, allowing farmers to protect the land they hold in trust for future generations while meeting the demands of modern society.

We pledge to:

- Invest in the right solutions to enable farmers to grow more quality food, more efficiently.
- Share our expertise to help farmers to make a better life for themselves and their communities.
- Never compromise on safety to allow farmers work in a safe environment and produce safe, healthy food.

In everything we do, we will play our part in leaving a positive environmental inheritance.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with farmers. Together, we will move forward on our journey.

## Product Stewardship

### We never compromise on safety

Using and managing our crop protection products in a responsible way is an essential part of sustainable agriculture. Product Stewardship is designed to safeguard farmers, the environment and public health. Our focus is on maximizing the benefits and minimizing the risks associated with crop protection products.

#### ■ Our commitment

We promise to adhere to the responsible and ethical management of all our crop protection products from discovery through distribution, use, recycling and disposal.

We comply with the principles of Responsible Care®, the FAO's\* international code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides. However, we go beyond mandatory compliance to help farmers use our products in a more responsible way with due care for both human health and the environment.

## Our Global Product Stewardship







Our Product Stewardship work has a solid infrastructure, based on regulatory risk assessment, modeling evaluation and our own global incident monitoring program.

We have a network of Product Stewardship experts

worldwide.

Our 4 key focus areas are:

Water Protection , Human Health , Biodiversity  and Crop Residue management 

Our daily job is to identify  vulnerable situations and areas where our products and services are used and to provide  farmers with the necessary advice and information to ensure responsible use.

# By 2025



, all our products and services will feature BASF Product Stewardship guidance.

“Product Stewardship is non-negotiable. The development, distribution, use and disposal of our products should always be gold standard. This is what BASF stands for.”

Jürgen Oldeweme, Senior Vice President  
Global Product Safety and Registration, BASF Crop Protection

## ■ Shared responsibility

We all share responsibility for product stewardship. It is incumbent upon all of us who are part of the product lifecycle – manufacturers, retailers, farmers, and waste disposers – to work together to reduce any environmental impacts associated with the use of our products.



## ■ Research & Development

Our R&D-process is focused on solving real problems that farmers encounter. Apart from developing new active ingredients, we enhance existing products through improved formulations, packaging and delivery.

We constantly work to develop innovative products that are biologically efficient, environmentally sound, user-friendly and economically viable. This requires time and considerable investment – to bring a new product to market takes eight to ten years and costs around €200 million.



## ■ Manufacturing

Safety underlines everything we do. Environmental protection, health and safety are priority values and core business principles. Our involvement in the chemical industry's Responsible Care™ program reinforces the importance we place on corporate social responsibility and sustainable business practices in Environmental Protection, Product Stewardship, Occupational Health and Safety, Process Safety, Distribution Safety, Communication, Security and Emergency Response.



## ■ Storage, transport and distribution

The storage, transport and distribution of our product is important. We demand high standards from our suppliers that exceed the industry norm and conduct regular audits to ensure compliance. We provide extensive training to our transport contractors, distributors and retailers. In the event of any accident, rapid response plans are in place.



## ■ Safety on the farm

The correct packaging plays an essential role in the safe delivery of our products from our factory to their final point of use on the farm. We use

prominent, easy-to-understand symbols and pictograms on our labels and screw caps, which help to transcend language and literacy barriers. This minimizes the risk of instructions being ignored, mislaid or misunderstood.

BASF promotes the use of personal protective equipment and supports regular safety training for farmers, distributors and agricultural advisors.

One of the biggest problems on the farm is how to safely dispose of empty product containers. We listened carefully to farmers to understand their concerns. In response, we pioneered a closed-transfer systems, the multi-use Ecomatic®, which ensures safe and easy handling of crop protection products throughout the mixing, loading and rinsing phases.

As part of our strong commitment, we also work with associations and governments to implement container disposal and recycling programs around the globe.

## ■ Everyone wins



- Our Crop Protection stewardship program protects the health of farmers, and secures their incomes by delivering high yields, promoting safety, conserving natural resources and protecting the environment.
- For our employees, product stewardship promotes a safe working environment and instills pride in our company's values, principles and business ethics.
- For consumers, it means buying and eating affordable, healthy and quality-assured food.
- For food manufacturers and retailers, it helps to address consumer concerns about the safety of food, for example, residues in food, water quality and ethical trade.
- For all stakeholders, it translates into quality products and services, care of the environment and a positive contribution to local communities.

## CONTACTS

### BASF SE

#### Volker Laabs

Global Sustainability & Product  
Stewardship – Crop Protection  
Phone: +49 621 60 28844  
E-mail: volker.laabs@basf.com

### BASF SE

#### Katharina Fischer

Global Communications –  
Crop Protection  
Phone: +49 621 60 27034  
E-mail: katharina.fischer@basf.com

\*United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization