World Health Day: BASF raises awareness about vector-borne diseases

- BASF strengthens initiatives to stop the spread of vector-borne diseases
- “Dengue Warriors” in Singapore are helping to reduce mosquito transmission of dengue fever with Abate®
- Vector-borne diseases cause one million deaths every year – half of the world’s population is at risk

LIMBURGERHOF, Germany – Small bite, big threat. Under this umbrella theme, the 2014 World Health Day on April 7th focuses on vector-borne diseases. Vectors are small organisms such as mosquitoes, ticks and bugs that are able to transmit diseases from person to person and place to place. BASF’s Public Health business is working with the international community, including international health, government and humanitarian organizations to provide innovative vector control products and programs that help combat vector-transmitted diseases such as dengue, guinea worm, river blindness and chagas. “We are constantly improving our integrated pest control solutions to combat vectors. This is a very important topic in our research portfolio”, says Dr. Egon Weinmüller, head of BASF’s Public Health business.

In 2012, dengue was declared the fastest spreading, vector-borne, viral disease with epidemic potential. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than 100 million dengue infections occur every year. With Abate® larvicide, BASF and its distribution partner Bentz Jaz are supporting pest control operators, construction firms and environmental health & safety managers in Singapore to contribute to the fight against dengue. Abate controls vector-borne diseases by controlling mosquito larvae before they reach maturity, preventing them from breeding and...
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spreading disease through new generations of insects. Dengue became a major problem in Singapore and its neighboring country Malaysia following a dramatic surge in infections in 2013. More than 22,000 people were affected in Singapore alone.

In a "Dengue Warrior"-seminar in Singapore, organized by BASF and Bentz Jaz, over 600 participants learned why more integrated pest management programs are needed to combat dengue effectively, including effective mosquito control products as well as the right monitoring tools to detect mosquito activity. The problem of breeding spots on construction sites was also on the agenda. Stagnant water and well hidden areas provide ideal conditions for mosquitoes to breed. “The rise in dengue cases needs to be stopped by collective efforts. With decades of experience, BASF is a very important partner in helping and cooperating constantly with research institutions and local universities to find solutions against the spread of dengue fever”, says Prof. Dr. Hidayatulfathi Othman, University Kebangsaan Malaysia, a leading academic in Public Health topics and vector-borne diseases in South East Asia.


For further information on World Health Day, visit the WHO web pages: http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2014/event/en/
About BASF’s Crop Protection division
With sales of more than €5.2 billion in 2013, BASF’s Crop Protection division provides innovative solutions in crop protection, seed treatment and biological control as well as solutions to manage water, nutrients and plant stress. Its portfolio also includes products for turf and ornamental plants, pest control and public health. BASF’s Crop Protection division is a leading innovator that supports growers to optimize agricultural production, improve their business efficiency and enhance the quality of life for a growing world population. Further information can be found on the web at www.agro.basf.com or through our social media channels.

About BASF
BASF is the world’s leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products and crop protection products to oil and gas. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Through science and innovation, we enable our customers in nearly every industry to meet the current and future needs of society. Our products and solutions contribute to conserving resources, ensuring nutrition and improving quality of life. We have summed up this contribution in our corporate purpose: We create chemistry for a sustainable future. BASF had sales of about €74 billion in 2013 and over 112,000 employees as of the end of the year. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at www.basf.com.