

ACTIONS OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY FOR STEWARDSHIP INCLUDING PRODUCT QUALITY

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Stewardship is understood as the whole agricultural pesticide cycle, including its discovery, synthesis, development, registration, post-registration and correct and safe use, which involves from the diagnosis of the problem and the need for the prescription of the appropriate agrochemical to the proper disposal of eventual leftovers and empty packages.

Pests (insects, fungi, weeds, mites, nematodes, bacteria, virus, etc.) cause approximately 40% reduction in productivity (yield). They are particularly relevant for tropical agriculture, where they take place with greater frequency and severity, demanding more frequent interventions from man through the employing of different management or pests control measures.

The agricultural pesticides are important components of the Integrated Pests Management (IPM). For an agricultural pesticide to be used by farmers, there is the need for a strict technical-scientific project that starts with the synthesis of new molecules and approximately 10 to 12 years of studies in the physics/chemical; agronomical/biological, toxicological and ecotoxicological/environmental areas. In these studies, of approximately 200,000 synthesized molecules, only one overcomes all the evaluations and reaches the market. Approximately US\$300 million are spent for the innovation to have the desired characteristics, or in other words, agronomic efficiency and reducing the impact on man, other living beings and the environment (soil, water and atmosphere). Technical knowledge is also invested in the constant improvement of the formulas, innovating in adjuvant/components that will contribute to the applications' performance.

These products, to be used, have to go through strict evaluations at the registration organ (MAPA – Ministry of Agriculture) and supporting entities (ANVISA – Ministry of Health and IBAMA – Ministry of Environment), in Brazil's case. These studies can take up to 5 years of strict analysis. The products can only be commercialized after obtaining the registration and be enrolled in the States.

Although the quality of the products is better and better, there is the need for caution in the handling and use. There are millions of farmers who use, with greater or lesser intensity and frequency, pesticides as the fundamental objective for their productive activity's sustainability.

In Brazil, ANDEF – Brazilian Crop Protection Association and the Associated and Partners develop relevant education and training and social-environmental responsibility actions.

ANDEF, in the past 20 years of performance qualified approximately 32,000 multipliers, developing 500 events all around Brazil. There are several courses and training, using books, manuals, DVDs, movies, etc., developed for this purpose. These activities approach: (1) acquisition/agronomic prescription; (2) transportation; (3) storage; (4) preparation of the product/reading the label and instructions; (5) application technology; (6) PPE use; (7) destination of leftovers and empty packages.

The ANDEF Associates (Arysta Lifescience, BASF, BAYER, Chemtura, Dow Agrosciences, Du Pont, FMC, Iharabrás, Isagro Brasil, Ishihara, Monsanto, Nisso Brasileira, Rhom and Haas, Sipcam Isagro, Sumitomo e Syngenta) perform, mainly, taking education and training to the farmers/users of agricultural pesticides and developing social-environmental responsibility activities. These projects count on the partnership of the distribution channels (ANDAV and OCB) and from inPEV. One of the sector's most important events is the ANDEF Phytosanitary Merit Award, which in 2009 had its 12th edition. Considering just the activities presented and audited by FEALQ/ESALQ-USP carried out in 2008 more than a million farmers/users of agricultural pesticides were qualified, through trainings, field days, courses, etc., in over 7,000 activities. Considering the media and messages in fairs/large events, almost 13 million people were reached. Just in 2008, approximately 250,000 PPEs were made available.