

Press Release  
For Immediate Release

## **MCPA Reaffirms Partnership with National Government to Drive Safe, Secure, Affordable, Sustainable Food Supply**

### ***Members Reiterate Pledge to Responsible, Ethical Business Practices – Including Adherence to International Code of Conduct (ICOC) on Pesticide Management***

**Malaysia, 24 November 2021** – Following the release of the joint statement earlier this month by Malaysia's Ministries of Agriculture & Food Industries and Domestic Trade & Consumer Affairs regarding national food production inputs, the Malaysian CropLife & Public Health Association (MCPA) is reaffirming its proud partnership with the national government to help ensure a food supply that is not only safe and secure, but also affordable and sustainably grown.

As evidence of this, members of MCPA are also highlighting their ongoing commitment to responsible, ethical business practices, including adherence to the International Code of Conduct on Pesticides Management (ICOC), CropLife's Anti-Trust Guidelines, and Malaysia's Competition Act 2010 as well as Pesticides Act 1974 under national guidance regulations.

MCPA is a national association representing the plant science and public health industries of Malaysia. For 50 years, the association and its members have worked closely with the Malaysian Government to help empower the nation's farmers to realize greater crop production enabled by the innovations of plant science technology. MCPA continues to promote the benefits of crop protection and biotechnology products, their importance to sustainable agriculture and food production, and their responsible use through stewardship activities.

In consultative sessions conducted on 10 November and 12 November, MCPA shared with both Ministries of Agriculture & Food Industries as well as Domestic Trade & Consumer Affairs Malaysia updates on a number of global supply chain developments and their disruptive effect on Malaysia. Specifically, impact to production and pricing of agricultural chemicals nationally is being realized due to factors such as: policy changes from exporting countries; rising costs of raw materials; disruptions in logistics with freight taking place around the world; and global food production price increases due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19. These and other disruptions at the global level have impacted the value chain that Malaysia and a host of nations depend upon.

Meanwhile, the particular issue of pesticide misuse, overuse and off-label use among too many smallholder farmers in Malaysia is one that MCPA and its members take very seriously. It's why the organization continues to partner with the Malaysian Government, civil society and diverse food value chain stakeholders to undertake good "stewardship" activities to advance responsible use of crop protection technology nationally. It's also why MCPA and its members regularly train farmers, government officials, retailers and others to better ensure this responsible use is adopted. This work is reflective of a commitment to transform our food systems to better enable food security, improved nutrition, and affordable healthy diets.

Some examples of MCPA's stewardship outreach includes:

- 1) Since the inception of the *Train the Trainers Programme* in 1991, MCPA has to date produced more than 412 competent "Master Trainers" who in turn have trained thousands of users on the responsible use of pesticides. This highly successful programme was widely adopted in many other countries in Asia to promote responsible use.
- 2) *Good Agricultural Practices Demonstration Project, Cameron Highlands* (Year 2011-2013): This is an industry-led project, in collaboration with the Cameron Highlands Vegetable Grower Association and with the support of the Malaysian Department of Agriculture. This project trained a total of 200 farmers.
- 3) *Integrated Pest Management Workshop for Master IPM Facilitators* (Year 2015): The workshop was organized together with the Plant Biosecurity Division of Malaysia's Department of Agriculture and trained a total of 46 officers.
- 4) *Dealers Training Initiative* that reached roughly 620 key pesticide dealers in Malaysia, imparting training on responsible use and practices of high level care when handling pesticides during transport and storage. Trained participants were also enabled to competently disseminate safe and effective handling messages to their customers.
- 5) MCPA also continues its ongoing campaign against illegal pesticides (smuggled, imitation and adulterated, illegal pesticides sold online) that may contain highly toxic impurities, or even banned ingredients, which bio-accumulate and persist in the environment. For the past 17 years, MCPA has trained approximately 1,000 regulators – including enforcement officers from the national Department of Agriculture's Pesticides & Fertilizers Control Division, officers from the Ministry of Health, and customs officers from Johor, Penang, Port Klang and Sabah.
- 6) Through MCPA's *Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Seminars*, more than 300 farmers were trained in Simpang Renggam, Batu Pahat, Kulai, Bachok, Sekichan, IADA Semasin Semerak, Malim Nawar, Cameron Highlands etc.

MCPA is also taking the opportunity with today's release to commend its partners which have made the various stewardship and sustainability outreach initiatives possible. A common theme across the work and efforts MCPA has led to promote responsible use of plant science technology is the role public-private partnerships have played. This has been the case with critically important integrated pest management (IPM) trainings, responsible use initiatives, and container management programs.

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#### **About Malaysian CropLife & Public Health Association (MCPA)**

MCPA is a non-profit trade association, the voice of the plant science and public health industry in Malaysia. We advocate for a safe, secure, affordable and sustainable food supply; and our vision is food security enabled by innovative agriculture. MCPA is one of 15 national associations represented in the region by CropLife Asia, based in Singapore. For more information, visit us at [www.mcpc.org.my](http://www.mcpc.org.my).