

Saskia Wilks
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
London office: 2-8 Scrutton Street, 2nd Floor
London EC2A 4RT
United Kingdom

June 27, 2017

Response to Ad Hoc Monitoring Report

Dear Ms. Wilks,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment again on the “Ad Hoc Monitoring Report” and to reiterate our commitment to promote sustainable agriculture, and support the socio-economic development of rural communities.

As mentioned in our original response to the authors of the report; sent on October 9, 2015, Syngenta complies with the applicable national and international legislation and codes of practice that govern the crop protection industry in India. We welcome the fact that the allegations were brought to our attention and we reinforce our interest in working in collaboration with the authors, FAO, local authorities and stakeholders in order to effectively find solutions to the issues related to the provision of safety guidance to retailers and growers and the willingness of growers to utilize PPE in India.

All our products sold in India and worldwide comply with regulatory and safety requirements established by the competent authorities of these countries. Our products are important tools for farmers and support them to improve and protect their yield, the quality of their crops, and hence the economic viability of their farm. We remain committed to supporting farmers around the world by promoting sustainable farming solutions.

Syngenta supports the training of farmers in the countries where we operate. We understand that working on improving the efficiency and adoption of training activities is critical. We also recognize that behavioral change is not simple to bring about, and all organizations involved in training, companies, CSOs, developing agencies, academia, governments and UN bodies share and recognize the same challenge. This is why in November 2015 Syngenta facilitated a workshop with academia, CSOs and other stakeholders on this specific issue. Unfortunately, ECCHR and the several CSOs involved in the above-mentioned report declined our invitation to this workshop. We were disappointed by this their decision. Experts at the workshop concluded that the only way to change the situation in India and other developing countries is by aligning and joining expertise and capacities of the different actors.

An important activity emerging from the workshop was the creation of a working group tasked to look at how to improve training protocols and align training content in order to have higher impact. Syngenta and Solidaridad lead this multi-stakeholder working group including academia, a voluntary standard organization, and a developing agency sharing materials and



knowledge that we all expect will bring positive results for farmers. We would like to reiterate our invitation to you to support this solution oriented initiative.

In addition to our work through the multi-stakeholder working group, Syngenta has also launched a renewed safe use train-the-trainer program with our Indian sales capability team that is now being cascaded to our entire Indian sales team. The training has a specific focus on the FAO/WHO Code of Conduct and behavior change among farmers with regard to safety.

Under the lead of CropLife and with the collaboration of various industry peers, Syngenta is also actively contributing to a major initiative to raise farmers' awareness of the importance of PPE and to implement a sustainable system of PPE supply. The first phase of this 3-year program plans to reach around 300 villages and more than 400.000 smallholders.

At a recent gathering of the 10th FAO/WHO JMPM in New Delhi, India from 10th to 13th April, 2017 the Ad-Hoc Monitoring report was discussed. The JMPM referred the complaint to the Indian government and the companies concerned and notes that there has been some dialogue as a result. We welcome the idea of holding a multi-stakeholder meeting in India facilitated by FAO and the local government. We are convinced that through a continued dialogue involving the relevant authorities in India as well as the FAO, we can jointly derive solutions that recognize the needs and reality of the farming community in India.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Gonzalez Valero". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Juan Gonzalez Valero
Head Public Policy and Sustainability