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Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
London office: 2-8 Scrutton Street, 2nd Floor
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UNITED KINGDOM

**Bayer's Response to Ad Hoc Monitoring Report – Your email dated
19 June, 2017**

Dear Ms Wilks,

Thank you very much for your email dated 19th June, 2017 and Business & Human Rights Resource Centre's enquiry to Bayer to comment to allegations concerning inadequate management of health and environmental risks associated with pesticides in Punjab, India.

Bayer is committed to stringent standards and the responsible use of its crop protection products and continuously promotes the highest stewardship standards in agriculture across the country. Regular farmer trainings and awareness programs are put in place to help farmers identify and purchase authentic crop protection products, safe transportation, responsible use as well as secure storage of crop protection products, proper use of personal protection equipment, and first aid practices.

We have written two letters to the authors of the report (one dated 17th October, 2015 and a second one dated 9 December, 2015) and subsequently met with the authors in person on 23rd May 2016. Additionally, Bayer provided two response letters to FAO (13th January, 2016 and 24th March, 2017), both addressing Bayer's position and on-going efforts on product stewardship and training in India.

Bayer's Crop Science division has operations in India for over 100 years. We have been actively engaged in the Indian agricultural Industry

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Dr. Arnd Nenstiel

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through providing solutions and services to the Indian farming community.

Bayer's Crop Science division in India continues to adhere to national and international best practices in the area of crop protection product management. This includes nationally approved label and leaflet requirements and conditions mentioned on the registration certificates of crop protection products issued by the Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee constituted under Insecticides Act (1968) & Rules 1971 of India. In addition, the company also complies with the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management set forth by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

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. JMPM supports the stakeholders talking and working together to promote practices that help minimize the problems reported. NGOs are encouraged to continue monitoring the adherence and application of the Code in the field.

We are convinced that through a continued multi stakeholder dialogue involving the relevant authorities in India as well as the FAO, we can jointly derive a perspective on the way forward that recognizes the needs and reality of the farming community in the State of Punjab and India as whole.

Best regards,

Bayer AG

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Arnd Nenstiel".

Dr. Arnd Nenstiel
Global Head of Agricultural Policy & Stakeholder Affairs