

Farmers' Major Group

Statement on Chemicals

CSD - 18

Madam Chairwoman,

Agriculture employs both biology and chemistry to produce crops. The use of crop protection products has generated an **abundant supply of food** and lowered food prices. Fertilizer has helped to increase yields and sustains soils. Farming needs access to both, but as with all technologies, proper use is essential. **First and foremost, we would like to see support for integrated crop management and best practices that ensure application of the right amount at the right time and in the right manner.**

The use of crop protection products presents several **risks** for both farmers and environment. The undesirable side effects are a consequence of indiscriminate use and overuse of crop protection products. Especially in developing countries, farmer's knowledge, adequate tools and technologies are not fully developed.

Farmers need regulation, information campaigns, specific **training and education** in order to learn about proper use of crop protection products, as well as fertilizer. Improved awareness of careful management practice can lead towards sustainable farm production. For instance, use of manure and compost in conjunction with mineral fertilizer.

It is therefore important to encourage access to appropriately-sized and priced products, plus best practices on their use, and availability of alternative products. These are mechanisms that **promote** socially, environmentally and economically **sustainable practices** in the use of crop protection products that contribute to sustainable production patterns.

Finally, significant financial resources and political will are needed to **strengthen farmers' organizations** to better address food security and sustainable patterns in production and consumption.