

Stewardship

Our rigorous internal procedures, supplier monitoring and stewardship programs for growers are designed to minimize potential risks to the environment or human health throughout the lifecycle of our products – from research and development to manufacturing, use and disposal.

Human safety and environmental impacts are two key criteria for deciding which crop protection products to develop beyond initial discovery. On average, for every active ingredient used by growers in the field, another 39,000 that show potential agronomic and economic benefits are left aside – often because they do not meet our industry sustainability criteria (see www.croplife.org for more information).

We understand that some people are concerned about the development of genetically-modified (GM) crops. This area of our business is subject to extremely strict international regulation. Syngenta complies with all relevant regulations on biotechnology and follows a quality management system modeled on the ISO 9001 standard. All our field trial operators must follow rigorous standard operating procedures, and take measures to protect ecosystems and ensure the safety of crops. Almost 1,600 employees were trained in regulatory compliance in 2010 and we conducted 237 inspections of field trials to monitor compliance.

Our robust HSE standards and environmental management system are designed to ensure that we produce our chemicals safely, and we audit suppliers to ensure they meet our standards (see [compliance](#)).

Syngenta's commitment to safety does not end when our products reach the market. Through our stewardship programs, we train growers and farm laborers around the world to use our products safely and effectively to minimize environmental impacts and adverse health incidents. Our training programs focus on four key areas: packaging and labeling; transport and storage; safe and effective use; and safe disposal of containers and obsolete stocks.

In 2010, our safe use training reached 4.3 million people. An example of Syngenta's practical training is helping a program that helps okra and asparagus farmers in Thailand use crop protection products safely and gain access to better export opportunities by meeting GLOBALGAP standards for good agricultural practice. We have also trained over 1,200 doctors in Argentina over the last five years on how to treat pesticide-related incidents. Previously there was no specialist medical training or recording of health incidents related to use of crop protection products.

Over the last 10 years, Syngenta has trained more than 200 million farmers across China on the safe use of crop protection products in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as training over 7,000 rural doctors to monitor and treat pesticide-related adverse health incidents.

The use of personal protective equipment plays an important part in the safe use of crop protection products and items such as gloves and masks are often distributed through our training programs. Syngenta's S-protect[®] affordable, reusable polyethylene apron is designed to protect growers from exposure to chemicals as they mix and load crop protection products into sprayers. The design of the apron promotes its use by making it easy to take on and off.

Our research shows that secure storage can significantly reduce misuse – either accidental or intentional – of crop protection products. Building on our initial trial, we plan to introduce 800 secure storage boxes in the Andhra Pradesh region of India. Syngenta is also participating in a partnership with the industry organization CropLife, to promote responsible use and secure storage of crop protection products in India in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Syngenta's training for growers raises awareness of the need to dispose of empty containers responsibly to prevent environmental impacts from leftover chemicals seeping into the ground. We have piloted take-back programs to collect containers in a number of countries including China, Greece and Turkey. Syngenta also continues to work through CropLife to tackle the issue of obsolete stocks of pesticides in Africa.

The online resource centre we set up in 2008 (www.stewardshipcommunity.com) continues to provide growers with a forum for discussion and a wide range of materials on best practices relating to all aspects of stewardship. The site is also available in low bandwidth format for growers in less developed regions.

Read more about the [Syngenta Stewardship Program](#).

Product stewardship ¹	2010	2009	2008
Number of people trained (million) ²	4.27	3.94	2.39
EAME	0.5%	0.4%	1.6%
NAFTA	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%
LATAM	4.0%	8.3%	23.2%
APAC	95.4%	91.3%	75.0%
Active training programs	90	129	119
Number of countries participating in adverse health incident management system	84	50	45
Product stewardship – biotechnology and regulatory compliance			
Number of employees completing regulatory compliance training	1,593	1,177	782
Number of trial locations requiring a permit	435	471	420
Number of trial inspections performed by Syngenta	237	189	168

1 Starting 2009, reporting year October 1 to September 30

2 In 2010 1.1 million (2009; 1.67 m) from Farmer Contest televised training