CropLife Australia

Media RELEASE

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# Our Farmers Our Future: backing the science and innovation Australian farmers need

**Friday 20 November** - Australian farmers are central to the nation's prosperity, productivity and food security. This National Agriculture Day, it is crucial to highlight the importance of backing farmers with the science and innovation they need to remain productive and sustainable now and into the future.

The theme, Our Farmers Our Future, recognises that the future of Australian agriculture depends on the people who produce our food and fibre, and on ensuring they have the tools to meet the challenges ahead.

This year, the value of Australia's agricultural production reached its ambitious $100 billion goal, four years ahead of schedule. It is a significant milestone, achieved through droughts, fires and floods, a global pandemic and ongoing trade disruption.

But farming remains exposed to conditions that can change quickly. Drought, pests and diseases, and shifting global markets all put pressure on farmers' ability to get the most out of their inputs.

CropLife Australia Chief Executive Officer, Mr Matthew Cossey, said the milestone was a testament to the resilience and innovation of Australian farmers, but maintaining that success would require continued support.

"ABARES is forecasting the value of agricultural production to ease by around $5 billion next year. We cannot take their productivity for granted. If we want Australian farmers to remain competitive and productive, we need to make sure they have access to the latest innovations.

"Modern crop protection products, crop biotechnologies and precision agriculture give farmers more options to manage weeds, pests and diseases, protect their crops and make better use of their resources. This is not only important for productivity and profitability but also preservation of Australia's landmass and farmer wellbeing.

**About CropLife Australia**

CropLife Australia is the national peak industry organisation representing the plant science sector in Australia. CropLife's members are the world-leading innovators, developers, manufacturers and formulators of crop protection and crop biotechnology products. The plant science industry, worth more than $31.6 billion a year to Australian agricultural production, provides products to protect crops against pests, weeds and diseases, as well as developing crop biotechnologies key to the nation's agricultural productivity, profitability and sustainability. CropLife is a part of the plant science industry's 91 country international federation.

“Farmers are not just producing food and fibre. They are managing more than half of Australia’s landmass and working with industry on stewardship programs that support the responsible use of agricultural technologies and care for our natural resources.

“That work matters for the long-term viability of the land, the resilience of farming businesses and the wellbeing of the communities that depend on agriculture. It is about making sure the land remains productive for the next generation.

“Our farmers are our future. CropLife and our members are committed to working with farmers and governments to ensure Australian agriculture has the science, innovation and the right settings it needs to keep growing,” Mr Cossey concluded.

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