

CropLife stands by solid proof of glyphosate's effectiveness



The Philippines is one of 100+ countries in the world using glyphosate, a broad-spectrum systemic herbicide and crop desiccant which inhibits enzymes plants rely on to make amino acids. When applied to a plant, it is absorbed and blocks this specific plant enzyme.

For over 40 years, there have been over 1,500 studies focused on the safety of this herbicide, which proves its low volatility, and low toxicity to aquatic animals. Compared to other herbicides, it binds tightly to the soil, is biodegradable, and does not bioaccumulate.

In the Philippines, the first glyphosate product was registered as far back as 1980, meaning that the country has been benefitting from its use for over 43 years.

And because of its proven effectiveness, 48 percent of all weed products in the country have glyphosate as an active ingredient, accounting for an annual estimated use of 2.12 million kilograms.

Glyphosate is used in land preparation, pre-emergence, and post-emergence stages of the planting stage to provide additional weed control.

It is widely used for glyphosate-tolerant crops, mostly yellow corn, but also includes mango, cacao, banana, coffee, rubber oil, palm, citrus, coconut, sugar cane, vegetables, and non-crop (e.g. land clearance, roadside).

Over the years, glyphosate has become a partner of stakeholders in protecting their farms because of its proven effectiveness in controlling a broad spectrum of weeds for higher yields. It also enables reduced or no-till practices for healthier soil.

It is helpful for farmers to save on labor, time, and cost. But most especially, with over 40 years of use, it has proven its mettle for safe use.

“Studies have strongly backed the safety of glyphosate as well as its effectiveness in helping control harmful weeds that impact the livelihood of our farmers. Despite naysayers spreading misconceptions, we stand by the data and the testaments of our people on the ground when it comes to results,” CropLife Philippines Executive Ramon Abadilla said.