

## Expansion in the Far East

### ....Aventis Crop Science in China

Aventis Crop Science and its joint venture partner Hangzhou Qingfeng Agrochemicals Ltd inaugurated a new formulating plant in Hangzhou (China). The facility represents the first phase of a modern multipurpose complex and will initially formulate fipronil as Regent, a leading rice insecticide in China and iprodione as Rovral, a fungicide (<http://www.cropscience.aventis.com/>).

### ....Dow AgroSciences in Japan

Dow Chemical Japan has changed the business structure for Dow AgroSciences in Japan following the acquisition of Agricultural Chemical Division of Rohm and Haas Japan in June 2001 and increased its direct sales capability in Japan following its deal on 28 September 2001 to raise its shareholding in Ryosho Corp from 39.4% to 51% (the company has been renamed DAS Ryosho) (<http://www.dowagro.com/>).

### ....Aventis CropScience Shionogi

Aventis CropScience Shionogi KK, a joint venture between Aventis CropScience (66%) and Shionogi (34%) started up on 1 October 2001. The company has completed development of the paddy herbicide, anilofos, and will start selling it as a one-shot formulation from early 2002. Anilofos has a good herbicidal effect against barnyard grass and annual sedges (<http://www.cropscience.aventis.com/>).

### ....Ishihara-FMC collaboration

Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha Ltd. has agreed with FMC Corp to form a broad alliance on Japanese agrichemical business. For example they are to collaborate in the commercialisation of the insecticide IK-220 (flonicamid), a trifluoromethyl nicotylamide which is effective against aphids and white ants. It can be used on a wide range of crops and has no reported cross-resistance. Ishihara will register and supply the product to markets in Japan, Asia and in Europe through affiliate companies. FMC will sell the product in North and South America (except Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia) and in the UK, Spain and Portugal. The aim is to launch the product in the Japanese, European and American markets in 2005 (<http://ag.fmc.com/>).

## Acquisitions and divestments

....Cheminova Agro A/S will acquire a controlling stake in Headland Group, which produces crop protection products in the UK.

....Pharmacia Corp is to spin off its 85% holding in its agricultural subsidiary Monsanto.

## Litigation

....Chemical Products Technologies (CPT), based in Cartersville, GA, has filed an antitrust suit in a federal court against Monsanto for engaging in anticompetitive efforts to prevent CPT and other companies from selling less expensive, generic glyphosate to farmers. (<http://www.cpt-llc.com/>).

....Bayer and Syngenta have reached an agreement on their intellectual property disputes in neonicotinoid chemistry which are subject to proceedings in the USA, Europe and Japan. Under the terms of the agreement, Syngenta will pay Bayer \$120m in return for full access to crop protection and related markets worldwide.

## Bayer

### ...Bayer restructuring

Bayer plans to transform its current organisational structure into a management holding company with three independent operating subsidiaries – Health Care, Crop Protection and Polymers & Chemicals. Subject to stockholders' approval, the new structure is to be operational effective 1 January 2003. Plans to this effect were approved by the company's Supervisory Board at its meeting on 6 December 2001. Subject to the approval of the antitrust authorities, the entire crop protection activities of Bayer and ACS will be combined into a new company named Bayer CropScience (<http://www.press.bayer.com/>).

### ....divestments

Bayer will probably have to divest several pesticides as part of its purchase of Aventis CropScience. The EU Commission is to undertake a lengthy investigation of the takeover. The commission is concerned that the future Bayer CropScience will have

dominant market position in insecticides. Bayer is already one of the largest producers and would have a market share of over 30% after the acquisition. Experts believe Bayer would only have to divest individual products and not Aventis' entire insecticide business. BASF has already expressed interest in some products. The commission has four months to decide. The deal is still expected to be completed by the end of March 2002. But even after completion, cartel monitors are expected to remain busy (<http://www.press.bayer.com/>).

## ACPA to become CropLife America

The American Crop Protection Association (ACPA), which represents pesticide manufacturers, changed its name to CropLife America with effect from 1 January 2002. The change is to better reflect the broadening scope of the plant science industry's focus and activities. CropLife America aims to reflect the industry's multiple technologies, including agricultural biotechnology and crop protection chemicals, while pursuing its goals of achieving food security and agricultural sustainability.

## Certis Europe

Certis Europe was officially launched at the BCPC conference at Brighton, UK, on 13 November 2001. Certis brings together the agriscience business of Mitsui & Co. in Europe, incorporating its horticultural and speciality crop businesses under one name. The national companies within the group include Biological Crop Protection (BCP) based in Kent, Agri-Sense BCS based at Pontypridd, Certis UK, based at Amesbury, Wiltshire, Certis France based near Paris, Certis Benelux based at Maarssen, Netherlands and Certis Spain located in Almeria (see <http://www.certiseurope.com/>).

## Snippet

....last December a major fire at the Clariant agrochemical intermediate facilities in Frankfurt suburb of Griesheim, Germany, caused damage amounting to tens of million DMs. No restart date has been given for the plant (<http://www.clariant.com/>).

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