

## Acquisitions and agreements

### ...Amvac–Syngenta

Syngenta Crop Protection's product registrations and associated data plus its trademark license for Ambush 25-brand wettable powder-formulation pyrethroid insecticide (permethrin) has been acquired by Amvac Chemical, a subsidiary of American Vanguard. Rights to and assets of the liquid formulation will be retained by Syngenta.

### ...BASF–Janssen

BASF announced that the Plant and Material Protection Division of Janssen Pharmaceutica (Janssen) and BASF have entered into a comprehensive agreement enabling Janssen to use chlorfenapyr as a pre-construction wood preservative in engineered wood products and on solid timbers (<http://www.basf.com> or [www.basf.com/usa](http://www.basf.com/usa)).

### ...potential buyers for fipronil

Bayer does not appear to be having any difficulty finding potential buyers for its fipronil insecticide activities. These activities, based at Elbeuf, were part of the EUR 7.25 bn acquisition of Aventis CropScience but European regulatory authorities required them to be sold so as to avoid Bayer CropScience having an excessive market share. BASF, Dow Chemical or Sumitomo could acquire these insecticides activities, which include products marketed under the Regent brand name, by the end of October 2002.

### ...Nihon Nohyaku–Mitsubishi Chemical

On 1 October 2002, Mitsubishi Chemical Corp's agrochemicals business was sold to Nihon Nohyaku Co, for an expected Yen 7–10 bn (<http://www.nni.nikkei.co.jp/>)

### ...Sumitomo–Takeda

Takeda Chemical Industries and Sumitomo Chemical have formed an agrochemicals joint venture company Sumika Takeda Agrochemical. The new company will operate as a joint venture 60:40 Sumitomo/Takeda for five years, then Sumitomo Chemical will acquire all of Takeda's shares in Sumika. Sumika Takeda Agrochemical will have its headquarters in Tokyo, Japan; and begin operations in November 2002.

### ...Sumitomo plans US agrochemical buy

By 2003–2004, Sumitomo Chemical plans to acquire a US agrochemical producer to expand its crop protection operations.

## Divestments

### DuPont sells herbicides plant to Sita

DuPont has sold its herbicides plant at Loon-Plage in France to the Teris subsidiary of the Sita group. The plant employs 76 staff who will be transferred to the Teris payroll.

### Bayer household insecticides

Bayer is aiming to sell its EUR 400 M turnover household insecticides activities by the end of 2002. Bayer has 12% of this market after SC Johnson & Son with 15% market share. The sale will include all rights on the Baycon and Auton brands as well as production and distribution facilities in Europe, North America, Latin America and Asia. Possible buyers include SC Johnson & Son, Reckitt and Colman, Sumitomo and BASF.

### Pharmacia spin-off of shares in Monsanto

Pharmacia has finalised the ratio for the distribution of all remaining shares held by the company in its agricultural subsidiary, Monsanto. The Monsanto shares were distributed as a special stock dividend at the close of business on 13 August 2002. The distribution completed Pharmacia's spin-off of Monsanto. Pharmacia shareholders will be entitled to receive 0.170593 shares of Monsanto common stock for each share of Pharmacia common stock for which they are the holder of record at the close of business on 29 July 2002. At the close of business on 29 July 2002, Pharmacia had 1,289,621,815 shares of common stock outstanding (<http://www.pharmacia.com>)

## Litigation

### Dow and Bhopal

On August 28, 2002, a Bhopal magistrate rejected an Indian government application to reduce charges of culpable homicide against former Union Carbide chairman Warren Anderson. Instead, the court directed the prosecuting agency to expedite the extradition of Anderson from the United States to face trial in India. The

charges against Anderson were based upon evidence that both Anderson and Union Carbide had wilfully allowed the setting up of a pesticide plant with seriously flawed design and inadequate safety systems in an effort to save money; the Bhopal plant exploded on the night of 3 December 1984 killing 8000 people within days and many more in the following years. There has been a recent wave of hunger strikes, demonstrations and other actions led by Bhopal survivors and supporters in India and around the world (including demonstrations at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg) over the failure of Dow Chemical to take full responsibility for the disaster after purchasing Union Carbide. For more information see <http://www.bhopal.net>

## Sorex–Whitmire Micro-Gen

Sorex International have announced a partnership with Whitmire Micro-Gen, under which Sorex will introduce Whitmire Micro-Gen's Prescription Treatment® brand products and support services to Europe, while Whitmire-Gen will provide access to the US market for selected Sorex technologies.

## Syngenta–DuPont

Syngenta and DuPont have announced a new co-promotion and supply agreement for corn herbicides in the USA which offers farmers access to key products in new ways. Syngenta will supply herbicides with S-metolachlor, and DuPont will sell the S-metolachlor product under its own brand names to be named later. DuPont will promote Callisto herbicide (mesotrione). Syngenta will promote DuPont's Accent and Steadfast (nicosulfuron) herbicides as lead recommendations for post-emergence grass control in corn.

## Dow AgroSciences reorganises

Dow AgroSciences LLC will be eliminating 500 positions globally as part of a consolidation process. About 300 employees will be leaving the company, with the remaining 200 reductions involving jobs either not currently staffed or slated for elimination by attrition. In the UK the company is closing its laboratories and mini-plant at King's Lynn with the loss of 21 jobs.

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