

Christian Schliemann  
Business and Human Rights  
European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights e.V. (ECCHR)  
Zossener Str. 55-58, Aufgang D  
D-10961 Berlin  
Germany

October 9, 2015

## **Response to Ad Hoc Monitoring Report**

Dear Mr. Schliemann,

Thank you for providing a copy of “Ad Hoc Monitoring Report” and for the opportunity to comment and respond. Syngenta welcomes the report and thanks the submitting organisations for bringing this to Syngenta’s attention. While we can confirm that we comply with the local legislation, we are open to the possibility of working with other stakeholders to further improve our practices.

In 2013 Syngenta launched The Good Growth Plan, an initiative aimed at better structuring, and measuring the performance of our sustainability strategy. Through The Good Growth Plan the company has committed to train 20 million farmers around the globe by 2020. We have also committed to reach and empower 20 million smallholders. India is one of the most important countries in terms of training activities and interaction with smallholders. In 2014 we identified almost 1.4 million small farmers in India using Syngenta products, and we trained more than 30% of them.

The report appears not to recognize that India has a well-established and functioning pesticide regulatory system with which companies are required to comply, but it does suggest the possibility of shortcomings in terms of labeling of products in India and in the training of smallholders and the provision of stewardship in general. Syngenta will investigate the accuracy of these claims and will take appropriate action, if necessary, to meet our commitments.

While the samples used for the report are small and the monitoring periods brief, we acknowledge that some of the issues raised by the report are potentially relevant to farming communities, not only in India –where the existence of 16 official languages represents itself a challenge-, but in some other developing countries. Syngenta understands the importance of training farmers to ensure the maximization of the benefits of the products they use. Our solutions (i.e. products plus capacity building activities) should lead to better control of the pests and diseases which attack their crops, in a safe and responsible manner, both for the environment and the people.

As part of the commitment to keep people safe, we are strengthening our training protocols, aiming at harmonizing critical messages and information, improving the facilitation skills of our trainers, and exploring ways to measure the effectiveness of the training. In November



2015, Syngenta has planned a workshop on Labor Safety, engaging NGOs, academia and training practitioners with a broad geographical representation. We would welcome your participation in this event, and invite you to share your experience on the ground.

Syngenta welcomes discussing the issues highlighted in the report with the authors and looks forward to working with the Government of India, farmers and civil society organisations to continuously improve the implementation of stewardship and best practices labeling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Gonzalez-Valero". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Juan Gonzalez-Valero  
Head Public Policy and Sustainability