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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Black Sea Region: Breadbasket to the World

Crop input usage climbs as government subsidies, private investment back farmers' efforts.

WILLOUGHBY, OHIO (September 16, 2013) The Black Sea Region – home to fertile fields that produce more than 150 cultivated crops – is resurgent, as favorable crop prices combined with the most affordable farmland in Europe bolster farm incomes and investment opportunities for investors around the world. Fueled by this burgeoning agriculture activity, Black Sea economies have outgrown the average GDP of EU member states for the past two years.

Demand for crop protection products, fertilizers, seed and plant health products is on the rapid rise as farmers are encouraged to adopt new technologies and sound agricultural practices.

Here a few trends helping to fuel agricultural growth in Black Sea countries:

- Turkish agricultural production is set to rise 30% in the next 10 years; new subsidies will reward farmers for integrated pest management (IPM), sound agricultural practices and productivity.
- Russia and Ukraine are the two fastest-growing pesticide markets in the world, with more than 25% annual sales growth.
- Romanian wheat producers are on track to generate an average 4 tonnes per hectare in 2013.
- Romania exported 8 million tonnes of agricultural products in 2012, totaling 4 billion euros; almost one-third of Romanians work in agriculture.
- Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan together produce:
 - 24% of the world's grain exports
 - 90% global sunflower exports
 - 65% global sunflower oil exports
 - 35% global rapeseed exports
 - 25% global wheat flour exports
- Agriculture business generates 10% of Georgia's GDP; agriculture production is experiencing double-digit growth.
- Bulgaria qualifies for certain EU subsidies under the federation's Common Agriculture Policy.

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The Farm Chemicals International (FCI) Trade Summit – Black Sea will bring about 250 agriculture input buyers and sellers to Istanbul, 12-13 December, to solidify the value chain of manufacturers, distributors and retailers so that farmers of this region have access to the products they need to increase production. The exhibition and conference will provide information about food security, insights into trade implications within the highly regulated EU and updates on government policies/subsidies and private investment.

“Stronger crop production results in more successful farmers, more prosperous communities and more stable regional food security,” said FCI Editor David Frabotta. “The FCI Trade Summit removes barriers to new technologies by bringing national agriculture distributors and retailers together with the manufacturers who create leading-edge crop input products.”

The FCI Trade Summit provides a rotating venue for uniting the value chain in emerging economies and established agriculture markets. Now in its eighth year, the event has been held in Kenya, South Africa, Indonesia, Argentina, Mexico, Costa Rica and Malaysia. The most recent Trade Summit welcomed more than 550 crop input manufacturers and importers from more than 30 countries to Miami (August 2013).

Visit fcitradesummit.com for more information, or call FCI Editor David Frabotta at 440-602-9145.

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About the FCI Trade Summit:

The FCI Trade Summit organizes business meetings for crop input producers and distributors. *Farm Chemicals International* believes that the proliferation of crop production technologies is instrumental to national prosperity and regional food security. The Trade Summit thrives on its ability to introduce a diverse group of crop input manufacturers to in-country distributors, thereby providing access to efficient, effective and affordable production technologies for the farmers and the communities they serve.

About *Farm Chemicals International*:

Farm Chemicals International creates real and virtual communities around crop input manufacturers, distributors, trading companies and registration consultants through its coverage and analysis of crop production news and trends, as well as coverage of trade policies, agronomic practices, crop reports, regulatory issues, company profiles and personality profiles of the world’s most influential agriculture entrepreneurs and advocates for modern agriculture.