



**The Cooperative Research Centres program  
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## **Joint press release**

P367/12e

22 August 2012

### **BASF and CRC for Polymers to develop advanced technologies for soil moisture management**

- **Five-year cooperation to develop polymers to control soil wettability, water availability and nutrient delivery**
- **Expands research and commercial scope of BASF's new business pillar Functional Crop Care**

Ludwigshafen, Germany and Melbourne, Australia – BASF and the Cooperative Research Centre for Polymers ([CRC-P](#)) have signed a cooperation agreement to develop a new range of advanced polymers that will help farmers better manage water and nutrients in the soil. The five-year cooperation will strengthen the research and commercial activities at Functional Crop Care, which develops solutions for stress and resource management in crop farming.

“The CRC for Polymers brings together world-class teams comprising leading researchers from the industry, Australia’s universities and government laboratories”, said Dr. Ian Dagley, CEO of the CRC-P. “With BASF’s expertise in agronomy and chemistry, this collaboration marks an important step in building technology and innovation leadership that demonstrates our commitment to farmers in Australia and around the world.”

An interdisciplinary team of material researchers, biologists and agricultural scientists from BASF will work together with leading research institutions in Australia. Project partners will focus on a range of polymers that optimize the growing conditions for plants in the soil. Potential products include sprays for water-repellent soils and

polymers that can control the distribution of moisture in the soil. The laboratory and field trials will focus on agricultural crops.

The growing conditions in Australia, characterized by very dry phases coupled with bouts of intense rainfall, provide an excellent backdrop for this research. “Thirty percent of Australia’s cropping land is water-repellent and produces only ten percent of the nation’s broad-acre crops,” said David Blay, Business Director Crop Protection, BASF Australia and New Zealand. “We’re thrilled that this project will help farmers improve productivity in these areas.”

Dr. Markus Schmid, Head of Research and Development for Functional Crop Care noted: “Soil science is a widely-underestimated key success factor, and it is partnerships like these that lead to innovative, cost-effective and sustainable solutions for farmers. This cooperation will further develop advanced polymer research in agriculture, an area that is crucial for meeting the needs of the future.”

#### **About the CRC for Polymers**

The CRC for Polymers is a joint venture between companies, universities and government research organisations, and is supported under the Australian Government’s Cooperative Research Centres Program. BASF’s research project is part of the centre’s recently received AUD 14.5 million funding over five years, commencing in August 2012. Partners for this project include [Swinburne University of Technology](#); [University of Western Australia](#); [Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation](#); [University of New England](#) und die Grains Research & Development Corporation ([GRDC](#)).

#### **About BASF’s Crop Protection division**

With sales of € 4.1 billion in 2011, BASF’s Crop Protection division is a leader in crop protection and a strong partner to the farming industry providing well-established and innovative fungicides, insecticides and herbicides. Farmers use these products and services to improve crop yields and crop quality. Other uses include public health, structural/urban pest control, turf and ornamental plants, vegetation management, and forestry. BASF aims to turn knowledge rapidly into market success. The vision of BASF’s Crop Protection division is to be the world’s leading innovator, optimizing agricultural production, improving nutrition, and thus enhancing the quality of life for a growing world population. Further information can be found on the web at [www.agro.basf.com](http://www.agro.basf.com) or follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/basfagro](https://www.twitter.com/basfagro).

**About BASF**

BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Our portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products and crop protection products to oil and gas. We combine economic success, social responsibility and environmental protection. Through science and innovation we enable our customers in almost all industries to meet the current and future needs of society. Our products and system solutions contribute to conserving resources, ensuring healthy food and nutrition and helping to improve the quality of life. We have summed up this contribution in our corporate purpose: We create chemistry for a sustainable future. BASF posted sales of about €73.5 billion in 2011 and had more than 111,000 employees as of the end of the year. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).

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