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Pesticide is a broad term that defines all chemical substances used to control insects, diseases, weeds, fungi and other "pests" on plants, fruits, vegetables, animals and in buildings. Fungicides, herbicides, sanitizers, growth regulators, rodenticides, soil fumigants and insecticides are all pesticides.

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10 PESTICIDE

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Pesticides help safeguard public health by controlling or eliminating pests that cause disease and property damage. They reduce waterborne and insect-transmitted diseases such as Malaria, Lyme disease and West Nile virus.

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10 FACTS

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The safety of pesticides for consumers, users and the environment is based upon comprehensive safety assessments and defined uses. Pesticide manufacturers take their product stewardship responsibilities, including end-user training, extremely seriously.

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Pesticides help farmers increase crop productivity by 20-50 % and are therefore a valuable and indispensable tool for the sustainable production of high quality food and fibers.

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Pesticides have helped raise the standard of living and quality of life for farmers and their communities all over the world. Pesticides have removed the hardship of hand weeding, and given farmer families the choice to pursue education and opportunities away from farming.

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10 YOU | NEED | TO | KNOW

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Pesticides are essential for realizing the full economic benefits of modern farming. In the absence of pesticides, even the highest quality seed, fertilizer & irrigation systems will not deliver their potential productivity.

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Pesticides enable farmers to produce more crops per unit area with less tillage, reducing deforestation and conserving natural resources, whilst reducing soil erosion. Pesticides are also critical for the control of invasive species and noxious weeds.

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The cost of research, development and registration of a new pesticide is in the region of US\$ 150-200 million. Only 1 in 20,000 chemicals make it from the laboratory to the farmers' field.

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Pesticides are among the most rigorously regulated chemicals in the world, and re-registration processes ensure that their safety is regularly assessed based upon latest science.

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Pesticides help ensure that consumers have access to food that is safer, more nutritious, and affordable than ever before. Pesticides combat the spectre of global malnutrition and starvation and help low-income families in developed countries afford more fresh fruit and vegetables.

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