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media release

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Q1 2008 sales: Capturing opportunity in expanding markets

Sales in the first quarter of 2008 increased by 20 percent at constant exchange rates (CER). Reported sales benefited from the weakness of the dollar and were 28 percent higher at \$3.8 billion. Substantial volume growth was supplemented by a three percent increase in pricing.

In Crop Protection sales were 22 percent higher (CER) with a strong start to the Northern hemisphere season and continued momentum in Latin America. Western and Eastern Europe both achieved high growth rates as growers prepared to step up usage intensity and increase plantings of corn as well as cereals. In NAFTA, performance was driven by demand for wheat and corn fungicides and by strong growth in non-selective herbicides and professional products. In Asia Pacific, emerging markets continued to expand rapidly and Australia saw more favourable weather conditions.

All product lines contributed to growth with the most notable performances coming from non-selective herbicides, driven by TOUCHDOWN[®] and GRAMOXONE[®], and fungicides, led by a surge in sales of AMISTAR[®] for cereals and corn. In selective herbicides, insecticides and professional products, recent launches played a key role with strong growth in AXIAL[®], ACTARA[®] and CRUISER[®]; overall new product sales rose by 24 percent to \$487 million.

Seeds sales were 13 percent higher (CER). In the USA growth in soybean offset the impact of lower corn acreage, while corn sales expanded rapidly in Europe, Latin America and Asia. Sales of diverse field crops reflected increased sunflower demand, notably in Eastern Europe. In vegetables and flowers, strong growth in vegetables was augmented by the consolidation of Zeraim Gedera and Fischer.

While the first quarter growth rate is unlikely to be sustained throughout the year, the early momentum leads the company to expect that full year earnings per share* growth is likely to exceed 20 percent.

** Fully diluted, excluding 2007 non-recurring income, restructuring, impairment and share repurchase program.*

Syngenta is a world-leading agribusiness committed to sustainable agriculture through innovative research and technology. The company is a leader in crop protection, and ranks third in the high-value commercial seeds market. Sales in 2007 were approximately \$9.2 billion. Syngenta employs over 21,000 people in more than 90 countries. Syngenta is listed on the Swiss stock exchange (SYNN) and in New York (SYT). Further information is available at www.syngenta.com.

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Unaudited First Quarter Product Line and Regional Sales

Syngenta	3 Months 2008	3 Months 2007	Actual	CER⁽¹⁾
	\$m	\$m	%	%
Crop Protection	2674	2044	+ 31	+ 22
Seeds	1127	940	+ 20	+ 13
Business Development	2	1	+ 256	+ 256
Inter-segment elimination ⁽²⁾	(14)	(28)	-	-
Third Party Sales	3789	2957	+ 28	+ 20

Crop Protection

Product line				
Selective herbicides	775	636	+ 22	+ 12
Non-selective herbicides	305	184	+ 66	+ 57
Fungicides	776	577	+ 34	+ 24
Insecticides	404	317	+ 27	+ 20
Professional products	399	319	+ 25	+ 19
Others	15	11	+ 39	+ 36
Total	2674	2044	+ 31	+ 22

Regional

Europe, Africa and Middle East	1116	829	+ 35	+ 19
NAFTA	790	682	+ 16	+ 11
Latin America	380	231	+ 64	+ 64
Asia Pacific	388	302	+ 28	+ 20
Total	2674	2044	+ 31	+ 22

Seeds

Product line				
Corn & Soybean	620	557	+ 11	+ 7
Diverse Field Crops	202	168	+ 20	+ 8
Vegetables and Flowers	305	215	+ 42	+ 30
Total	1127	940	+ 20	+ 13

Regional

Europe, Africa and Middle East	525	383	+ 37	+ 21
NAFTA	530	507	+ 4	+ 4
Latin America	33	20	+ 71	+ 71
Asia Pacific	39	30	+ 27	+ 17
Total	1127	940	+ 20	+ 13

(1) Growth at constant exchange rates.

(2) Crop Protection inter-segment sales to Seeds.