March 1999 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION = FASTER REGISTRATION OF NEW HERBICIDE

An international pilot project has resulted in the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's accepting for registration Sundance (sulfosulfuron), a Monsanto herbicide for the control of wild oats and certain broadleaf weeds in wheat. The time needed to register the product was 25 percent less than the established standard for a new active ingredient. The cooperative effort between Canada, the United States, Australia and the European Union (EU), with Ireland as lead EU country, marks the first time that a chemical has been reviewed through international cooperation extending beyond the joint review work of the North American Free Trade Agreement's Technical Working Group on Pesticides.

The time-savings achieved have resulted in the product being available in Canada and the United States for the 1999 growing season.

The sulfosulfuron pilot has confirmed that the new shared approach being taken by manufacturers and regulatory bodies world-wide leads to greater efficiency while allowing each country to uphold its high standards for health and environmental protection.