

## AgLearn – A Partnership Initiative for WSSD

AgLearn is a web-based educational tool for agricultural training professionals. Training courses include digital literacy for agricultural training professionals, Integrated Pest Management for various crops, and responsible pesticide use. Participants are expected to train a further 15 to 25 people, greatly increasing AgLearn's reach.

AgLearn is also one of over 200 voluntary partnership initiatives launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) process and is now formally registered with the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) as a partnership for sustainable development. The AgLearn partnership initiative brings CropLife International – the global trade association of the plant science industry – together with the Asia Pacific Regional Technology Center (APRTC) and the World View International Foundation.

As a key outcome of WSSD, the purpose of CSD partnerships is to enable stakeholders to make a concrete contribution to the implementation of sustainable development, particularly Agenda 21 and other action-focused plans arising from WSSD: the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. As a CSD partnership, AgLearn must:

- demonstrate a **concrete contribution** to the implementation of sustainable development and not just reflect existing arrangements;
- reflect **the three dimensions of sustainable development** -- economic, environmental and social; exhibit transparency and accountability in design and implementation stages;
- have **transparent, participatory** and credible information provision and reporting mechanisms.

AgLearn was originally developed to serve agricultural training professionals in the Asia-Pacific region, but the partnership initiative has extended its outreach to Latin America and Africa. It is hoped that this initiative will promote sustainable agricultural practices to agriculture training professionals that work with small holder farmers and other rural development stakeholders in further countries and result in farming practices that improve agricultural productivity while minimizing environmental impact. APRTC, who is responsible for the courses, is committed to transparent evaluation and reporting of its activities. For example, course evaluations have been conducted, with results published on agLearn's website.

Further details on the WSSD Partnerships for Sustainable Development and the AgLearn Partnership can be found at:

**WSSD Partnerships for Sustainable Development:**  
[www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm)

**AgLearn WSSD Partnership submission:**

[www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/capacity\\_building/croplife\\_rev3.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/capacity_building/croplife_rev3.pdf)

**APRTC's AgLearn Website:**

<http://www.aprtc.org/index.asp>

**Time Line: Summary of Events**

