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BASF wins Australian Patent ruling protecting Saflufenacil Herbicide Technology

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Decision reinforces intellectual property protection for key weed-control chemistry used in Sharpen and Voraxor as company continues investment in crop protection innovation



BASF has successfully defended and enforced its Australian patent covering a specific solid form of the herbicide active ingredient saflufenacil, strengthening intellectual property protection around one of its flagship crop protection technologies. The ruling reinforces BASF's patent portfolio for saflufenacil and highlights the company's continued efforts to safeguard innovations that underpin modern weed management solutions for Australian agriculture.

The patented crystalline form of saflufenacil is used in BASF's Sharpen and Voraxor herbicides, products widely deployed to control difficult weeds across a range of cropping systems. The company said the decision supports a fair and competitive marketplace while encouraging continued investment in agricultural research and development. Saflufenacil has become an important active ingredient for Australian growers seeking effective weed control, particularly as resistance management and sustainable crop production become increasingly critical across broadacre farming systems.

BASF noted that developing new crop protection technologies requires substantial long-term investments in scientific research, product development and regulatory approvals. The company invested â?¬990 million in research and development during 2025, supporting innovation across its Agricultural Solutions business. In addition to patents protecting the active ingredient itself, BASF has built an extensive intellectual property portfolio covering specific crystalline forms of saflufenacil that contribute to product stability, manufacturing quality and field performance.

"At BASF, we are committed to supporting Australian growers with reliable, science-based solutions they can trust," said Parvana Wali, Head of BASF Agricultural Solutions Australia & New Zealand. She said protecting intellectual property enables the company to sustain research and development efforts, accelerate innovation and continue delivering advanced crop protection technologies to farmers.

BASF also indicated that it will continue monitoring market activity and take appropriate legal action where necessary to defend its intellectual property rights. The latest ruling follows BASF's broader global strategy of protecting patents surrounding saflufenacil technologies, underscoring the growing importance of intellectual property as agricultural companies invest heavily in next-generation herbicides and other crop protection innovations.