

Agform Sues Croda Over Alleged Theft of Trade Secrets Covering Proprietary Biodegradable Agrochemical Technology

Agform alleges that Croda misappropriated trade secrets relating to its Envelop® product.

Southampton, UK – 10 July 2025 – Agform, an innovator of next-generation agrochemical solutions that protect the environment, has filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware against Croda International Plc, Croda Europe Limited, and Croda Inc. (together, “Croda”). Agform’s Complaint, available at this [link](#), alleges that Croda engaged in a pattern of wrongdoing aimed at improperly acquiring, using, and disclosing trade secrets related to Agform’s Envelop® technology — a proprietary, microplastic-free and biodegradable formulation platform designed for the encapsulation of volatile actives and the protection of crops and applicators.

The proprietary Envelop® technology is the result of years of independent research and development by Agform. It offers a unique microplastic-free solution at a time of increasing regulatory scrutiny over the use of microplastics in agriculture. The Complaint alleges that Croda sought to unlawfully develop and market a competing copycat product.

According to the Complaint, Croda employed a deliberate strategy to gain access to Agform’s trade secrets — offering assurances of partnership and collaboration to conduct agreed-upon testing of Envelop®, and promising to maintain confidentiality. Agform alleges that Croda then misappropriated its trade secrets by conducting unauthorized tests and development efforts aimed at commercializing a competing formulation. The Complaint also alleges that Croda disclosed Agform’s confidential technology to potential Agform partners by conducting unauthorized field-testing demonstrations of a competitive product.

John Misselbrook, Managing Director of Agform, stated:

“Agform’s intellectual property is our greatest asset, aside perhaps only from the gifted individuals here who worked hard to develop it. Croda’s misuse of our confidential technology is not just a serious breach of confidence — it threatens the progress we’ve made in making agriculture safer and more sustainable. We hope this case shows that Agform will not tolerate innovation theft. We have invested significant time, resources, and creativity into developing Envelop®, and we are dismayed by the actions described in our Complaint. For the reasons laid out there, we had no choice but to bring this legal action and stand by our commitment to defend our trade secrets.”

The Complaint alleges violations of the federal Defend Trade Secrets Act and the Delaware Uniform Trade Secrets Act. It seeks monetary damages, injunctive relief, and other appropriate remedies.

Agform is represented by David S. Almeling, Patrick V. Plassio, Hailey S. Verano, and Jing Ying (Amy) Zhao of O’Melveny & Myers LLP, and Kelly E. Farnan of Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A. The case has been filed in the District of Delaware as Case No. 1:25-CV-00858.

About Agform

Agform is a formulation technology company developing and manufacturing advanced delivery systems for agrochemicals. Its products enable safer and more effective use of active ingredients in crop protection, with a particular focus on reducing chemical load. Agform's mission is to transform the way actives are delivered — reducing environmental impact while maintaining or improving biological efficacy. Learn more at <https://www.agform.com>.

The Complaint and supporting information are available to credentialed journalists and legal professionals upon request.