



Representing the Plant Science Industry

CropLife
Annual Report
Africa
2006
Middle East





CropLife Africa Middle East Annual Report 2006

The 2006 annual report has been prepared by the Regional Coordinator with inputs from Area Coordinators and the Training Consultant and duly edited by the President of the Organization.

Introduction

This is the fourth annual report since the inception of CropLife Africa Middle East and covers the financial year from 1st January to 31st December 2006.

The General Assembly (GA) of the organization held its annual meeting on June 15th 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya. Among the legal decisions taken, the General Assembly approved the election of a new Executive Committee (ExCo) of the 3rd term extending between June 2006 up to June 2008 and comprising of 9 directors being elected from the 16 full members of the organization. An additional seat was allocated to the full member of national associations, thus raising their share to 3 from the 2 seats previously, whilst keeping 6 seats for the full-member companies of the organization.

The constitution of the Executive Committee was subsequently concluded by the elected directors through an internal election process as follows:

- **Rudolf Guyer** (Syngenta Crop Protection AG)
President
- **Michel Chartouni** (Sipcam S.P.A.)
Vice-President, North Africa Middle East (NA/ME)
- **Bjoern Neumann** (Monsanto International S.A.)
Vice-President, East and Southern Africa (ESA)
- **Yves Demeure** (Dow AgroSciences)
Vice-President, West and Central Africa (WCA)
- **Wolfgang Roesch** (Bayer CropSciences M.E.)
Treasurer
- **Peter van den Hoek** (BASF AG)
Director
- **Gitau Macharia** (CropLife Kenya)
Director
- **Sarwat Sakr** (CropLife Egypt)
Director
- **Tom Mabesa** (CropLife South Africa)
Director

The Executive Committee held 3 meetings in the year 2006. The March meeting was held in Zurich, Switzerland, whilst the June and November meetings were held in Nairobi and Cairo as a linkage to the ESA and NA/ME regional hub meetings. These meetings addressed the monitoring and progress of hub action plans as well as the review of the budget.

The three annual regional hub meetings took place in Ouagadougou for WCA, Nairobi for ESA and Cairo for NA/ME in April, June and November respectively. The three hub meetings aimed at providing guidance and support to the national industry associations on ongoing activities together with development of alliances and synergies with partners and stakeholder organizations.

The organization's activities in 2006 were executed and monitored in conformity with the approved action plans at hub and central levels, and are elaborated in the context of this report.

Regulatory Harmonization

North Africa Middle East

The annual meeting of the registrars for pesticides of North Africa and Middle East sub-region took place in Cairo, Egypt in November 2006 in the context of promoting harmonization amongst member countries on pesticide legislations and regulatory measures.

Attended by 17 Arab countries and moderated by the AOAD and industry facilitators, the meeting concluded resolutions pertaining to current and future goals as summarized hereunder:

- Implementation of the harmonized form for the registration of pesticides has been achieved in 13 member countries. Other countries, namely Oman, Qatar and Iraq, have accepted and approved to implement the form – pending conclusion of specific domestic legislative requirements – while Libya approved to reinstate the use of the form.
- Approval of harmonized label content and format.
- Approval of the content of the harmonized registration certificate.

For future consolidation of the regulatory initiative, registrars unanimously agreed to engage in harmonized measures covering the aspects of quality control requirements, trial protocols, mutual recognition of trial results and information exchange amongst member countries.

The registrars resolved that the AOAD is entitled to follow-up evidence of country implementation of adopted measures while liaising with the regional coordinator in developing specific agenda of the consolidation items for submission to the forthcoming regulatory workshop scheduled for November 2007.

West Central Africa

The West Africa Initiative: The study for drafting a framework for regulatory harmonization on crop protection products (CPPs) is completed. The framework will be validated by regulatory authorities from member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and from the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) during a regional workshop during the first term of the year. Adoption by the Council of Ministries should occur during the second term of the year. Both regional organizations fully support the initiative under their respective regional programme for the integration of agricultural policies aiming at food security and poverty alleviation.

The Central Africa Initiative: The Central Africa Phytosanitary Council (Conseil Phytosanitaire d'Afrique Centrale, CPAC) has been setup following adoption and signature of the initiative by the Ministries in charge of agriculture of the Central Africa Economic and Monetary Community (Communauté Economique et Monétaire d'Afrique Centrale, CEMAC). The initiative is a common regulatory framework for the six CEMAC-member countries.



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Area Coordinator
for West and Central Africa:
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Area Coordinator
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Training Consultant
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Peter Mills
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Activities for the near future will focus on the preparation of the dossier submission forms, trial protocols, labelling and registration measures before start-up for operational and regular registration of CPPs.

Other Initiatives: Different regional initiatives such as WA-EMU Regional Program for Food Security, the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (Comité Sahélien des Pesticides, CSP) as well as national initiatives such the pesticides committee of Togo, Mali and Burkina Faso benefited from technical assistance from CropLife Africa Middle East through seminars and workshops.

East Southern Africa

At the 2006 SEARCH meeting held in Nairobi, the Registrars concluded that the harmonization process was moving too slowly and suggested that the fourteen "SEARCH" countries be split into three groupings. These groupings would comprise of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda making up the East Africa Community (EAC) plus Ethiopia, the Southern African countries and the Indian Ocean islands who are already part of the Indian Ocean Committee (IOC). Ethiopia, who shares a common border with Kenya and of more recent, a "common export crop", namely "flowers", confirmed their willingness to be part of the EAC standards. Areas identified by the Registrars to be finalized by the new country groupings are: Common Trial Protocols, Reciprocal Data Acceptance and a Fast Track Procedure. Other areas to be addressed are: Intellectual Property Rights and Reference Laboratories.

Our efforts since the last meeting in Nairobi have been to focus on East Africa as the political will towards harmonization has already been taken in the creation of the EAC. Our attempts to organize a meeting around the gathering of the Agriculture Permanent Secretary's of the three countries was not successful and alternate plans were developed to arrange a meeting of the four Registrars and respective Directors of Agriculture in 2007. The first of these meetings is scheduled to take place in April 2007 involving the three EAC countries plus Ethiopia. This meeting will be conducted in partnership with COLEACP.

In South Africa a "Pesticide Management Policy" workshop took place in the third quarter at which the opportunity was taken to request government to recognize the need for regional harmonization. This appeal was duly noted by the Director General. This move could well be the "cornerstone" for South Africa to take the pivotal role in the country grouping of Southern Africa.

Training and Stewardship

North Africa Middle East

In the context of building capacity on stewardship training in line with the core policy of the organization, five master trainer courses were conducted in Egypt, Syria, Tunisia and Morocco together with the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAIB) in Italy. As a result, 57 master trainers were trained and certified as resources for sustaining stewardship activities in the region.

Direct financial back-up to local industry associations has been aligned to specifically boost stewardship training, while encouraging local fund raising towards sustainability. Notable success has been achieved by CropLife Yemen who developed a local voluntary levy system.

West Central Africa

Train-the-Trainer Programme: Training sessions were conducted in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria, and more than 35 trainees were covered by these sessions. Participants included industry personnel, administration and extension agents and also personnel from various institutions and organizations implicated in agricultural projects and/or policies in the region. Follow-up sessions to assess the performance of 15 trainers (previous year's trainees) were conducted in Senegal and Cameroon.

Training Other Stakeholders: About seven thousand farmers were trained in the sub-region either directly by industry trainers or by agents who were previously trained by the industry trainers.

Training activities also targeted more than one thousand extension agents from government agencies and industrial farms, as well as retailers, stockists and applicators who were then implicated in training and education activities aimed at farmers and other end-users.

East Southern Africa

Three Training-of-Trainers workshops took place during the year. The countries involved were Uganda, Malawi and Tanzania. The roll-out of these programmes as well as an update on earlier initiatives is covered in the report by Peter Mills. Support training in "Safe Use" took place in all the countries within the region. This was often linked to donor-funded programmes such as "CREFT" in Tanzania, "APEP" in Uganda and "FINTRAC" in Ethiopia.

Regional Training Overview provided by Peter Mills

CropLife Africa Middle East has continued to make great strides in the area of training, with the success of the programme of creating a pool of Master Trainers throughout the region. Most of the Master Trainers have been training others and the cascade effect is now proving fruitful. The introduction of a rigorous and more formal programme of refresher training and assessments of these Master Trainers has assisted the Master Trainers to further develop.

Having completed the Training Needs Analysis (Phase I) in 2002 and 2003, the Pilot Train-the-Trainer project (Phase II) in 2003, CropLife Africa Middle East continues with the Master Trainer courses (Phase III). Eleven more Master Trainer courses were conducted in 2006 by CropLife Africa Middle East and partners, IFDC. Since the programme began in 2003, over 600 Master Trainers have been through the programme. These courses have been conducted in English, French, Arabic and Portuguese. The Training of Others (Phase IV) has been successful, in that well over 100,000 dealers, farmers, extensionists, farm workers, and others were trained in 2006. There have also been opportunities to complete the Assessments of Master Trainers (Phase V). These five-day programmes consist of two days of refresher training for the Master Trainers, including time for preparation of their lessons; followed by two days of training others, such as dealers, farmers; and finished off with a one-day assessment and feedback session for the Master Trainers. This "follow-up" programme has provided refresher training, built confidence in the Master Trainers and provided them with platforms and opportunities to use their skills in a facilitated environment. Feedback sessions further hone their skills and knowledge, and help them with training assessments of their own.

Training partnerships continue to strengthen, particularly with IFDC (with joint activities in Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia, Morocco, Burkina Faso); USAID (Uganda); FAO (Eritrea); Mediterranean Institute of Agronomy (Bari, Italy); the Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP), where in many countries participants representing various stakeholders in the ASP have been included in the Master Trainer courses.

Additional cooperative activities in training include presentations and participation in the IFDC "National Association Strengthening" workshop, held in Bamako, Mali, in June, 2006; Inventory Planning Training for the FAO in Asmara, Eritrea, in November, 2006; training of post-graduate students at the Mediterranean Institute of Agronomy in Bari, Italy; promotion of training issues in the three annual hub meetings in East-Southern, West-Central and North Africa Middle East areas of the region; signing of an MOU with Trade Mali; continuation of the Egyptian Dealer Accreditation scheme, which is run by CropLife Egypt in conjunction with the government and the local seed association; provision of Master Trainers for the Agriculture Reconstruction and Development Programme

for Iraq (ARDI); provision of training and funds towards the EU-funded UNA IPM Project in Somalia, which is being run by Dr. Jack Aston; dealers training with IFDC for AGRODIA in Burkina Faso; safe use training in Madagascar for the "Projet BV Lac", a CIRAD project funded by Agence Française de Développement (AFD) as well as for the National Anti-Locust Centre; co-operative training activities with APEXHOM (horticultural export association of Mauritius); assisting in the SA-PIP workshop in upgrading the CropLife South Africa training materials; CropLife Egypt compilation and translation of FAO training manuals in responsible use of pesticides, for trainees and facilitators.

In 2006, Training-of-Trainers courses to create Master Trainers took place in Italy (13 post-graduate crop protection students); Uganda (15 participants from the USAID-backed APEP); Egypt (14 participants from the Extension Services, with Said Abdella as facilitator, in Arabic); Malawi (14 participants from all stakeholders); Côte d'Ivoire (11 participants trained in French, by IFDC partners); Ghana (15 participants from agri-input associations, extension services and industry); Syria (15 participants from government); Tanzania (13 participants from industry and government); Tunisia (13 French-speaking participants, trained by partners, IFDC); Morocco (13 French-speaking participants, trained by partners, IFDC); Nigeria (13 participants, trained by partners, IFDC).

Refresher courses for the Master Trainers were also conducted in Cameroon (6 Master Trainers); Senegal (8 Master Trainers). These refresher-training-assessment trainings form part of Phase V of the Capacity Building programme. Many more are planned for 2007.

Train-the-Trainer manuals and a wide range of training materials, both electronic and hard copy, continue to be provided to Master Trainers and other interested parties throughout the region.

For this year, one of the highlights has been the publishing of the CropLife Africa Middle East Newsletter, initially intended only for quarterly publication. Monthly publication became necessary to report on all stewardship and training activities throughout the region, as well as obstocks activities. This Newsletter is electronically mailed to stakeholders on our distribution list and is also placed on the CropLife Africa Middle East website, with an option to subscribe.

As with previous years, the future focus will continue to be on creation of more Master Trainers throughout the region, as well as running refresher-training-assessments of these Master Trainers in the work environment. Emphasis will be towards forming more partnerships to assist with the cascading of training to dealers and farmers. Many requests have been made by partners and members for the introduction of Technical Courses in all aspects of pesticide management as well as Integrated Pest Management courses. These will be addressed and implemented in 2007.

Obsolete Stocks

North Africa Middle East

Within the ongoing phase (1) of the Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP), national disposal projects have been launched in Tunisia and Morocco aimed at the ultimate clean-up of obsolete pesticide stocks in the two countries. Our local industry associations, ATPP of Tunisia and CropLife Morocco, are actively represented in the steering committees of the disposal projects in their domains. Due liaison is maintained with the Global Obstocks Project Team who addresses provision of technical expertise at country level in aspects of inventory and safeguarding training. Safeguarding activities in non phase (1) countries are being considered on case-by-case basis.

West Central Africa

Mali Project and Nigeria Project: These two projects have undergone a technical launch in the Phase 1 activities of the Africa Stockpile Programme (ASP). The National associations in the respective countries fully participated in and contributed to the preparation of these activities as members of the steering committees.

Preparation of Phase 2 Countries: Benin and Cameroon are undergoing preparation for inclusion in the ASP; these countries are thus participating in seminars and workshops for familiarization with ASP activities.

East Southern Africa

The three countries that fall within Phase (1) of the Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP) within the E&SA region are South Africa, Tanzania and Ethiopia. The Grant Agreement covering South Africa was signed during April and in Tanzania in mid-December. For Ethiopia this is expected to be concluded around mid-2007. The start-up of the projects in South Africa and Tanzania are expected to take place during the first quarter of 2007.

We participated at the "Mid-Term Review Meeting" in Ethiopia, the "ASPIC Stakeholders Forum" in Cape Town and the "Media Training on Chemical Safety and the ASP" in Tanzania.

Agricultural Biotechnology

North Africa Middle East

The Agricultural Genetic Engineering Research Institute (AGERI) in Egypt continues to be the major institution in the sub-region that seriously addresses biotech research and development.

Other countries of the region are in the early stages of developing biotech legislations and biosafety protocols, while the introduction of GMO's remains prohibited and falls in the domain of seed departments and research institutes.

West Central Africa

This is becoming an important issue in the sub-region mostly through the ECOWAS annual ministerial conference. The issue was thus discussed during the hub annual workshop, and national associations have participated in and contributed to various seminars in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Senegal. Contacts and discussions have been initiated for support and contribution from CropLife Africa Middle East/ CropLife International towards capacity building for national and regional organizations and institutions, similar to the ongoing activities on CPPs.

East Southern Africa

In conjunction with AfricaBio an "Advanced Training on Biotechnology" took place during April. This included visits to small-scale farmers who had adopted the technology as part of the out-reach programme. Delegates from the following National Associations have participated: Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Mauritius. Other interventions included: "Stakeholder Workshop on Environmental Risk-Assessment of GMO's", "Biotechnology on Biofuels", "Workshop on the Implications of the Biosafety Protocol on Trade in the Region" and the FANRPAN "Biotechnology Workshop" which took place in Mauritius.

Alliances and Partnerships

North Africa Middle East

1. AOAD

The partnership with the AOAD was revamped through an updated MOU with active roles identified. For the AOAD this included the implementation of the sub-regional harmonization initiative and recommendations together with the development of an Arab pesticide data base. The Regional Coordinator maintained close liaison with the AOAD in organizing annual regulatory workshops and developing future agenda.

2. CIHEAM

Mutual Cooperation between CropLife AME and CIHEAM of Italy resulted in active participation of Dr. Anna Maria D'Onghia in our regional events for promoting IPM in the Mediterranean countries. Certification of citrus crops in the region was a major topic addressed in our hub meeting of November 2006 in Cairo, Egypt. In the same context, our organization extended Master Trainer support to the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAIB) through our training consultant, Peter Mills.

3. IFDC

The ongoing cooperation with IFDC was extended to North Africa in 2006, where their regional specialists, Manon Dohmen and Raphael Vogelsperger, facilitated 2 Mas-

ter Trainer sessions in Tunisia and Morocco in September 2006 in the French language.

Our sub-regional meetings in Cairo witnessed a presentation by IFDC on areas of cooperation between the two organizations.

4. FAO

Our CropLife Egypt specialist, Dr. Said Abdella, played the role of a consultant in developing a Master Trainer manual and Pesticide Dealer guidelines issued by the FAO regional Near East office in the Arabic language. Both regional publications took reference from CropLife stewardship materials.

West Central Africa

1. International Centre for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development (IFDC).

Cooperation covered:

- **Training activities** sessions facilitated in French-speaking countries in the hub in addition to the sessions in North Africa (Morocco and Tunisia)
- **Regulatory harmonization** issues on CPPs and seeds
- **Strengthening national associations** through managerial and technical support
- **Communication** on various issues related to agricultural productivity

Projects implicated in such cooperation were MIR, 1000+, MISTOWA, and the more recent WACIP. The hub workshop is co-organized.

2. International Development Centre (IDRC):

This Canadian public institution has been linked to national associations in Senegal (CropLife Senegal) and Mali (CropLife Mali).

Collaborative activities will focus on strengthening capacity of vegetable producers in rural areas so as to improve their livelihoods through safe and responsible use of CPPs and other agricultural inputs.

3. Other Organizations and Institutions:

CropLife Mali is engaged in a formal agreement with Trade Mali, a USAID-funded organisation implicated in export mangoes production. CropLife Mali is thus in charge of training stakeholders in various aspects of CPPs handling for improvement of the quality of export mangoes.

4. WWF, Pan Africa, and USAID:

Contacts have been initiated with these organizations and institutions to conduct activities of common interests. CropLife Senegal is engaged in discussions with WWF on a project aimed at the preservation of biodiversity, and with Pan Africa for containers management, while USAID is targeted for seed issues in the sub-region.

East and Southern Africa

A highlight in the year was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with COMESA. The MoU was signed on 8 December 2006 by the Secretary General of COMESA,

Erastus J.O. Mwencha, MBS, and the Vice-President of CropLife Africa Middle East, Björn Neumann. The MoU outlines the framework of the partnership covering the promotion and facilitation of regional harmonization efforts on:

- Pesticide regulatory measures and registration systems
- Biosafety regulations for the registration and commercialization of genetically modified organisms (GMO's)

A meeting is scheduled for early in 2007 to develop and roll-out the action plans required.

The sound relationship we have with the IFDC continued and we participated at their workshop in Tanzania, "Challenges in Developing Agricultural Input Markets in Africa". We are also likely to be part of their new project in the Great Lakes Region covering five countries in 2007 as well as with training involvement in Mozambique.

The cooperation with the "Programme Régional de Protection des Végétaux" (PRPV) in the regulatory harmonization initiative of the Indian Ocean islands brought value to the programme.

New country members

North Africa Middle East

No new country associations were incorporated in 2006. However three associations, namely CropLife Syria, KTU of Kuwait and CropLife Morocco, have signed free-license agreements with CropLife Africa Middle East allowing them the use of the CropLife logo and brand. In the meantime, CropLife Morocco has finalized the legal transformation from AMIPHY into CropLife Morocco.

West Central Africa

The CropLife name and logo has been adopted by all six national associations of the hub and has thus been officially launched.

Although no new legal member was registered, many other national associations in the sub-region were interested in the activities of CropLife Africa Middle East. Technical and managerial support was thus provided to national association in Togo, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Niger and Guinea. These associations will undergo restructuring to improve visibility and adopt CropLife principles before applying for membership.

Communications

The organization's newsletter totaled 13 monthly issues by the end of 2006.

The valuable contributions to the organization's Newsletter by area coordinators, training consultants and obstocks project team leaders have gone a long way to strengthen communications internally and within the industry. Moreover, the widespread circulation of the Newsletter has carried the activities of the organization to a broader audience. Supporting monthly publications on agricultural biotechnology has provided for a better understanding of this technology to member associations and stakeholders.

In the 3 regional hubs, area coordinators and training consultants continued to feed the local press and media with information on current and future activities.

Press releases synchronized with the 3 sub-regional hub meetings were maintained as communication tools reflected through the press and on the website.

In West Africa, reports, interviews and press articles were continuously published by national and international media on the activities of the associations. Journalists were trained in order to improve their knowledge on CPPs and to better communicate on related issues.

Afrique Agriculture reported on the workshops of the hubs throughout the year and several articles and reports were published periodically by partners such as IFDC, Trade Mali, related to common activities.

EUREPGAP

Our efforts towards the development of a "Guideline for Smallholder Farmers" continued during the period culminating with the draft document being field-tested in Ghana. The need for such a "guideline" was again discussed at the EUREPGAP Technical Committee Meeting in Prague, and a follow-up meeting between the parties is scheduled within the first quarter of 2007.

FAO Code of Conduct Implementation and International Conventions

Within the context of the annual hub meetings of North Africa Middle East 2006, a training workshop on the FAO Code of Conduct (CoC) implementation was delivered to an audience of over 120 participants representing local industry representatives, official regulators and government authorities from 18 countries of the sub-region.

The workshop was led by Bernhard Johnen, Manager, Regulatory Affairs of CropLife International, and aimed at a participatory exchange to outline the shared responsibilities and commitments of both the industry and governments under

the Code in improvement of pesticide management. Also demonstrating that the Code is not a substitute for effective national pesticide registration and control schemes, and that CropLife will continue to work with governments to establish adequate and effective regulatory infrastructures for sound management of pesticides.

During the same occasion, two parallel training workshops on international conventions on chemicals management were also delivered to the same audience, covering the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC), led by Ian Wheals of CropLife International PIC team, as well as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (PoPs) led by William Horton of CropLife International (CLI) Global PoPs team. Both workshops highlighted the provisions of the two conventions and their *modus operandi*.

Based on the questionnaires completed by the National Associations in East Southern Africa, the topic of "container management" of empty pesticide containers was identified as the starting point in the CoC Implementation programme. During the year some great strides were made in this regard supported in some instances by the ASP. Pilot programmes were developed in South Africa, Kenya, Madagascar and Mauritius with workshops planned in several countries in the early part of 2007.

An issue that the ASP highlighted is the lack of "Poison Information Centres" in the various countries. Contact was made with the World Health Organization, and the first dissemination of materials took place during the 2006 period. Plans are in development to take this issue further.

Finance

During the 2006 financial year, the organization managed to complete all its scheduled activities within the allocated budget which had been approved by the Executive Committee and General Assembly.

Our transparent self-auditing accounting mechanisms provided for competent budgetary management and fund dispensation throughout our operational activities, both at central and sub-regional levels.

External audits confirmed transparency and sound management of our overall financial performance.



Dr. Rudolf Guyer
President

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Looking ahead

This fourth Annual Report is an impressive review of the significant progress made by CropLife Africa Middle East since its formal creation in May 2002 in Amman. Today, with 30 national associations and 11 member companies the major expansion period has come to an end. There are of course, still many countries in Africa and the Middle East without a local industry association but the regional priorities have shifted to organizational consolidation and operational efficiency.

This report describes an extremely lean but well-functioning structure consisting of only 2 permanent employees who are supported by 2 part time consultants. With the 3 hubs for North Africa Middle East, West and Central Africa and East and Southern Africa and our part time training consultant for the entire region, the association has a remarkable coverage and outreach on this large continent. In order to achieve a maximum impact in the territory, CropLife Africa Middle East can build and rely on important support and allies both from within our industry but more and more also from cooperative external stakeholders. In this regard we would like to thank and mention first the team of CropLife International in Brussels led by its DG Dr. Christian Verschuere and supported by Dr. Keith Jones and colleagues. Equally important was and continues to be the dedicated support of Eva Erisgen, IPM chairperson within CLI, and of course the strong engagement of all members of our Executive Committee throughout the year.

Reviewing the year 2006 and looking ahead we identify several important developments that will have significant impact on the well-functioning and outreach of CropLife Africa Middle East in the years to come. Our association receives over two thirds of its funding as a direct transfer from CropLife International. The recent changes of priorities and the restructuring at international level had therefore an immediate effect on our operations. For 2007 the stewardship support has been reduced considerably versus previous years. Probably, an even more important development is the accelerated withdrawal of R&D-based companies not only from selected small countries but now from an entire hub territory. Whereas in the past in each hub at least 2-3 global players maintained a significant commercial interest and local presence, we are now confronted with a very weak representation in West and Central Africa. For our association the question arises whether a continued presence is still wanted by those global companies that contribute the lion-share of our funding through CropLife International. From a purely business perspective it is obvious that our CropLife efforts and activities are increasingly for the benefit of non CropLife and generic companies. On the other hand our industry would probably have to deal with a much bigger issue potential and suffer a considerable image loss if we decided to leave the entire region. It is our conviction that we can not

leave these mostly industry-friendly local governments to the rapidly growing influence of generously funded and often industry-hostile NGO's.

Another area of concern for the association is the needed replacement and succession of key executives and members of the Executive Committee in the next years. It is increasingly difficult to identify needed individuals for the various roles in our association – not so much because of a lack of potentially interested candidates but due to their business priorities and performance pressure in their companies.

The Executive Committee will deal with the described challenges during the year 2007 and also consult with key stakeholders at the global level. It is our ambition to establish or confirm a renewed operational platform that allows to maintain the desired industry presence and visibility for the next 3-5 years and which also provides the required job security for our key executives on the ground.

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Key Data for CropLife Africa Middle East (Status 31-12-2006)

Breakdown and regional distribution of total spending of CropLife Africa Middle East (2006)

	North Africa Middle East	West Central Africa	East Southern Africa	Central Expenses	Line as % of Total Expense
Operational Expenses (as % of hub total)	56% *)	55%	45%	70%	55%
Capacity Building (as % of hub total)	13%	16%	12%	1%	11%
Safe Use/IPM Training (as % of hub total)	31%	29%	43%	29%	34%
Total	34%	25%	25%	16%	100%

*) Includes regional coordination

Members

30 national associations
11 company members of the
Plant Science Industry
1 professional organization

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