



Dear Readers,

As we start the New Year 2018, the CropLife Africa Middle East team wishes you a year filled with joy and happiness.

For me personally, the new year has brought an exciting change and challenge in taking on the role of Director General - CropLife Africa Middle East previously held by Rudolf Guyer.

I am looking forward to leading the activities of CLAME whilst focusing on the vital role of our industry in advancing sustainable agriculture and nutritious food production in the Africa and Middle East region.

Performing my role out of Casablanca, Morocco, I am also proud to remain connected to my cultural roots.

I am very pleased that Rudolf remains in the team, in a role where he will continue to offer his experience and commitment, especially in supporting the growth of our projects in the region.

Much work remains to be done. Africa and the Middle East are changing and so is agriculture. While we are optimistic about the growth of agriculture in the region, we also must be realistic. One of today's pressing challenges involves increasing agricultural productivity and to generate sustainable food security.

Added to the problem is the management of plant pests and diseases and bringing tailored solutions to these challenges, in particular to the smallholder farmers. They are the drivers for growth and prosperity in rural communities.

I look to the future with confidence and conviction that our industry, along with our key partners, will be successful in advancing and implementing Sustainable Agriculture in the Africa and the Middle East region. Therefore, we are pleased to announce our new slogan and motto:

**“Partners in Sustainable Agriculture”**

which we feel best captures the image and ambition of our regional association network.



Dr. Samira Amellal



For 2018, our approach will focus on developing our activities around the following essential areas:

**Leadership on the Spray Service Provider concept and Stewardship:**

- Increase the number of SSPs operating in the region and reach more smallholder farmers.
- Direct the implementation of sustainable container management projects with our industry recognized as a leader for this initiative.

**Ensure the advocacy of strengthened Regulatory Systems:**

- Continue our efforts for the implementation of regulations that will ensure clear and transparent protocols and processes in pesticide regulations and on issues which impact business.

**Implement the Data Protection and Confidential Business Information (CBI) guidance in the region.**

- Engage in a debate with the government to raise concern about pesticide residues in the global food trade.
- Concentrate company members on implementing the overall industry position on HHPs.

In addition to the above, we will continue to promote the voice of our Industry in many key international conferences (SAICM, UNEP, FAO etc.) during 2018 and beyond.

**Engage in Partnerships:**

Concentrate our efforts in establishing strategic partnerships in order to provide additional dynamic resources through multi-stakeholder approaches. This will help to advance solutions to the many challenges that agriculture in our region is confronted with

**Advance external communications:**

Develop a new external communication strategy adapted to our regional needs. This will allow us to be more visible and raise awareness on key CropLife Network activities and priorities. We must promote the image and voice of our industry in Africa and Middle East region.

**Conduct Anti-Counterfeiting Projects:**

Continue with our strategy to combat illegal pesticides, with dealers/retailers, farmers, government officials, regulators & enforcement agencies in key countries.

To put these goals into action requires ongoing and continued partnerships with industry, farming communities, private and public stakeholders and governments and in so doing contribute to a successful Sustainable Agriculture.

We at CropLife Africa Middle East are proud to be part of this honourable effort.

Sincerely

**Dr. Samira Amellal**  
**Director General**



## Stewardship and Spray Service Providers

### Bayer Introduces SSPs to Tanzania

Towards the end of last year, a 5-day TOT training, facilitated by Perry Ngoma took place in Arusha. This was followed with three 6-day SSP training sessions across the country at the Bayer Farmer Training Centres, in Arusha in the North, Morogoro, central, and Iringa in the South. 15 participants attended each session.

Each farmer training centre had facilities for both classroom and field based training, whilst every TOT was assisted by at least one Bayer Junior Agronomist, sales team member or Bayer intern to make sure participants received one-on-one tuition. The SSP trainings were held less than a month prior to the main growing seasons across the country.

45 potential SSPs from around the country, who met the SSP criteria were accepted for training.

As Bayer Tanzania currently operates a GPAD (Growth Point Agro Dealer) Initiative, adjustments were made to the recruitment process. These 55 nationwide agro dealers regularly stock and promote Bayer products. They actively seek to associate themselves as suppliers of quality products and providers of services to their customers over and above the mere provision of agro-inputs. In return, the Bayer agronomy and sales team strive to empower them through education, recommending them to end-users, promoting them at their demos and field days, and ultimately increasing their sales. Potential SSP's were only allowed to enter the course if they were backed by and linked to a GPAD.

Of the total 45 candidates, an astonishing 40 achieved at least the 60% in both tests, necessary and graduated as SSP's. A whopping pass rate of 89%!

Successful SSPs were kept for an additional day to be trained specifically on Bayer Crop Spray Programs.

They were also immediately issued with SSP equipment comprising of branded overalls, PPE (gloves, boots, goggles, mask) and a knapsack sprayer. SSP's were also given a Bayer sales booklet to record every time they, or their linked GPAD, purchase Bayer products from one of their super distributors.

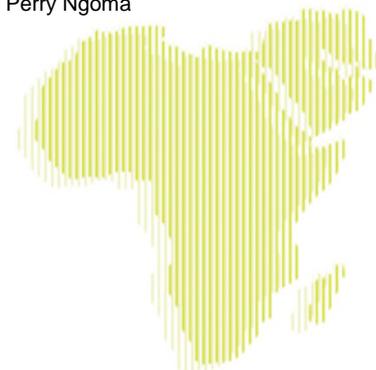
The 40 certified SSP's are now back in their respective regions and privately offer spray services to farmers for a small fee.

Bayer's view is rather than put extensive effort into persuading farmers to use PPE they want to totally eliminate the concept of farmers applying their own chemicals and instead outsource this task to a qualified SSP. Bayer sees the need to maintain regular contact with the SSP's and consequently all are now members of regional WhatsApp groups with the Bayer TOT as admin. Bayer Tanzania are committed to annually re-train all SSPs and actively promote their services through demonstration projects as well as public-private partnerships.

**Andrew Wallace, Bayer Country Manager**



Successful TOT's with Perry Ngoma



## Stewardship and Spray Service Providers



SSP Classroom session in Arusha – North Tanzania



Above: SSP Greenhouse training session in Morogoro – Central Tanzania



Left: SSP Field training session in Morogoro – Central Tanzania



Bayer Tanzania Ltd: Spray Service Provider Team



## Stewardship and Spray Service Providers



Left: Training in Action

Below: Classroom training exercise



Left: Training in Action



## Stewardship and Spray Service Providers

### Dow AgroSciences and Chemtex undertake Responsible Use Training for smallholder farmers in Ethiopia

The adoption of herbicides by small holder farmers in Ethiopia has increased four-fold over the last decade with use on cereals doubling to more than a quarter of the total area cultivated<sup>1</sup>. The small-holder farmer plays a key role in Ethiopian agriculture, accounting for ~94% of the total area cultivated, with agriculture contributing 47% of real GDP in the last decade<sup>1</sup>. With respect to the Teff market, a market in which Dow AgroSciences are playing a key role through the sale of Pallas Herbicide, extension is essential. 40.6% of Teff farmers were applying herbicides in 2014 with this number constantly growing<sup>1</sup>. This rapid adoption highlights the importance of good stewardship of crop protection products.

In order to educate the small – medium holder farmers on the importance of good product stewardship, Dow AgroSciences in collaboration with Chemtex developed a pilot two-day training program, which was rolled out in Ethiopia in September 2017. Three key areas were selected to be the focus of the training.

1. Good stewardship – PPE, First Aid, Responsible Use, Storage and Disposal and understanding the Safety Data Sheets and label (with a focus on pictograms).
2. Product specific information and how to use best safe practices with Dow AgroSciences products, focussing on Pallas Herbicide.
3. Spraying practices, calibration and maintenance of equipment, right pest/weed/timing.

A train the trainer approach was chosen in order to obtain maximum impact. Working with the Ethiopia Ministry of Agriculture, Dow AgroSciences and Chemtex trained 72 officials with one day of training classroom based and the second field based. Train the trainer was used as it is the optimal way of cascading information and practical skills down through the Ministry of Agriculture and out to the farmers using crop protection products.

This training program has enabled the Ministry of Agriculture officials, with their Development Agents, to train more than 445,000 Ethiopian farmers! Dow AgroSciences are looking to further develop this program in both capacity and geography in 2018.

<sup>1</sup>Tamru, S, Minten, B, Alemu and Bachewe, F. 'The Rapid Expansion of Herbicide Use in Smallholder Agriculture in Ethiopia: Patterns, Drivers and Implications.' *Ethiopia Strategy Support Program Working Paper 94*. September 2016.

Sarah Russel French, Dow AgroSciences



Group Photo

## Stewardship and Spray Service Providers

### SSP TOT Training, Sudan

CropLife Sudan (SAGA) requested the support from CropLife Africa, Middle East to carry out activities covering IPM and Responsible Use, as well as to promote the Spray Service Provider (SSP) concept and other activities in pesticide management.

Said Abdella, the CropLife Africa, Middle East, Master Trainer, based in Egypt, facilitated a SSP TOT training program which took place from 17 to 21 December 2017 at the training hall of The Ministry of Finance in Wad Madani, AlGezira, Sudan. All 43 participants scored higher than the required 60 % in their overall scores and received certificates of competence.

Participants attended from the Department of Environment, Plant Protection, Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural insurance companies, ARC, Occupational Health, private companies, MSc Students and retailers.

Said Abdella



Practical training using a knapsack sprayer



Demonstrating PPE



Group Photo



## Stewardship and Spray Service Providers

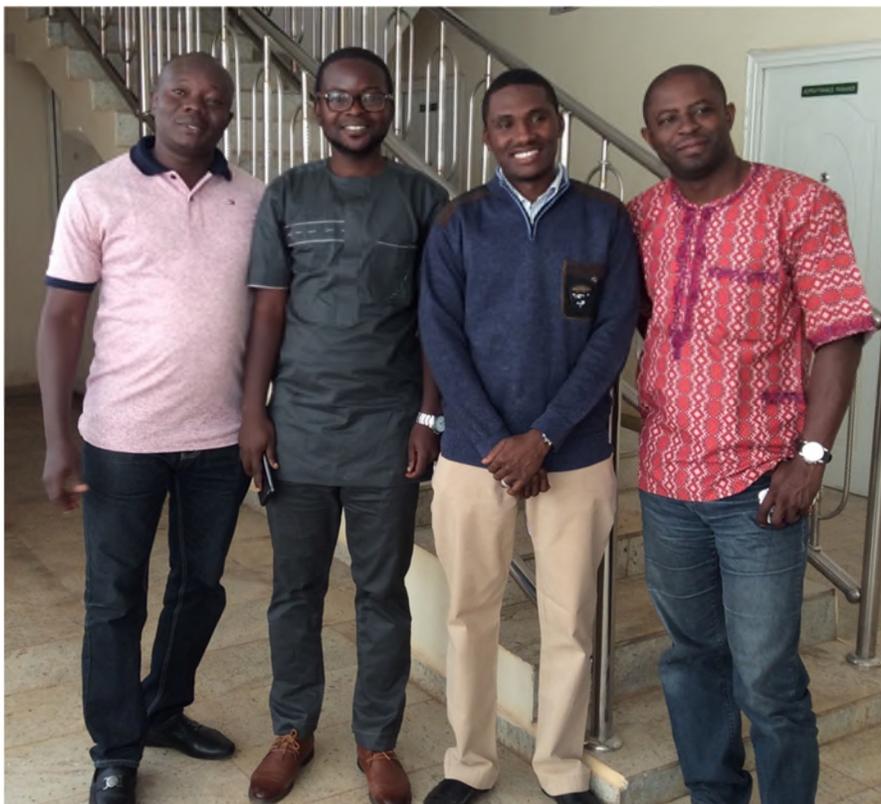
### CropLife Nigeria Hires 4 New Field Officers

CropLife Nigeria has hired four new field officers to support its Spray Service Provider (SSP) projects in the Northern part of the country. All four will be involved in activities with the Palladium/Propcom project under which a network of 1,000 SSPs will be set up during 2018.

The new field officers are: Edmond Esmond based in Gombe state, Richards Maiwaida based in Kaduna state, Muhsin Gambo based in Kano state, and Steve Ademeyi based in Abuja.

Just prior to the new year break, the four underwent a training-of-trainers program to become SSP-trainers. In January, they participated in a 2-day workshop covering the Standard Operating Procedures of the SSP-concept. For the next few months, they will be in the field to train and monitor SSPs.

Manon Mireille Dohmen



From left to right: Esmond, Richards, Gambo and Ademeyi



## Stewardship and Spray Service Providers

### Young Rice Farmers Make Extra Income with Application Services

I have been applying pesticides for other farmers for some years now. I used to charge between 70 to 100 Naira per tank load. Now that I have been trained by CropLife and received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), I am able ask 100 to 150 Naira per tank load,” says Hussaini Idrisu (30) from Niger state in Nigeria. He was trained by CropLife in June 2017 as a Spray Service Provider (SSP).

An SSP is a farmer who has received special training to apply pesticides and who hires out his services to fellow farmers to spray their lands. This implies that untrained farmers will no longer handle pesticides, and that this application will only be undertaken by those who are properly trained. CropLife, in collaboration with the Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) Project, implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), trained a total of 165 SSPs in Nigeria and 26 in Ghana. They are now selling their application services to mainly rice farmers in their respective countries.



SSP Hussaini Idrisu

For young men living in rural areas, such as Idrisu, being an SSP offers an opportunity to earn an income in addition to their farming activities. Over a period of 6 months, Idrisu managed to service 28 farmers, making an additional income of just over 80,000 Naira (220 USD). He says: “The farmers now see me as a super-sprayer because they see me wearing my special protective equipment and they have less pests and diseases in their rice fields. They recommend my services to other farmers and I get new customers.”

The benefits of using Spray Service Providers are multiple. Firstly, only correct pesticides are used at the correct timing for the correct target pests. This ensures that pesticides are used more efficiently and effectively leading to better yields. Secondly, the Spray Service Provider concept reduces the vast number of small packs of pesticides from flowing within a country. It introduces a controlled line of distribution, which has the added benefits of preventing over-stocking, and lends itself towards the introduction of empty container management systems. In addition, there is reduced over-exposure to pesticides as SSPs use personal protection equipment, and pregnant women and children are no longer exposed to pesticides.



Left: SSP Ibrahim Yanda

Also, the introduction of SSPs has a positive impact on the environment. Ibrahim Yanda (25) from Niger state in Nigeria was trained in June 2017 and has been selling his services since then. So far, he has reached 8 farmers, making an extra 14,000 Naira (40 USD). Although he was applying pesticides before he was trained, he admits having improved a great deal: “I now measure the chemicals as indicated on the label. I used to increase the dosage because I thought that would control the pest and diseases better. I now know that this is a waste of money. The farmers I have serviced are very happy because they save money as I use less pesticides.”

The SSP concept is much more than simply training farmers to become SSPs: CropLife links the SSP to its member companies to guarantee access to good quality products and monitors their activities with regular field visits. In case of any challenges faced by the SSPs, they can contact the local CropLife association to seek advice.

Right: SSP Akpoka Quashi

Akpoka Quashi (42) from the Volta region in Ghana confirms to have learned a lot since he became an SSP in May 2017. He says: “When I buy pesticides, I check the label, look if the cap is well sealed and I check the expiry date.

Before I was trained, I did not even realize that all this information is found on the label. I also started keeping records of my application services to my customers so that I know when to approach them again.”

CropLife will continue to monitor the 191 SSPs in Ghana and Nigeria, and has agreed with CARI to train an additional 45 SSPs in Ghana and 60 in Nigeria during 2018.



Manon Mireille Dohmen

## Association Management

### CropLife Morocco holds General Assembly

CropLife Morocco held its General Assembly on December 5th, 2017 at which the new Executive Committee was elected:

Member	Function	Company
Karim Ben Brahim	President	Marbar Chimie
Mounir Sefiani	Vice-President	Amaroc
Rida Boufettas	Vice-President	Promagri
Fayçal El Houssaini	General Secretary	Alfachimie
Ibrahim El Ouafi	Deputy General Secretary	SAOAS
Mohamed Chetouani	Treasurer General	BASF
Mahfoud Jalab	Assistant treasurer	Socaprag
De Herce Ronan	Assessor	Syngenta
Mohamed Miloudi	Assessor	Agrimatco
Abdesslam Ifri	Assessor	Philea
Nabil Sedrati	Assessor	SIPP
A. Yattaf	Assessor	Agri Trade
Mohamed Benslimane	Assessor	CPCM

CropLife Morocco's activities during the year 2016/2017, were mainly marked by the strengthening of their partnership with the Moroccan authorities, particularly with ONSSA.

This resulted in the strengthening of capacity at the department in charge of pesticides, with an increase in personnel from 11 in 2016 to 13 in 2017. The import control of chemical inputs and the lack of clear and transparent procedures remain as stumbling blocks for most of the member companies.

The association was however successful, as ultimately this responsibility was entrusted to the Chemical Inputs Division. As a result, a new draft Code of Control procedure was proposed. This is in the process of being discussed further

There is no doubt that the development of a code covering import control procedures is very important; but more important is the need to apply and implement this.

The future success of this action is based, in the short term, on the power that the chief of the Pesticide Department within ONSSA will have over the plant protection inspectors to whom responsibility for this control has been entrusted. In the medium term, CropLife Morocco believe that the best solution would be to advocate for the creation of a unit that would be attached to the pesticide department.

CropLife Morocco's long-standing objective to have the outdated pesticide legislation amended was rewarded, as during the 2016/2017 exercise, thanks to the implementation of the twinning project with the EU.

CropLife Morocco revisited the texts internally and with the support of CropLife AME defended its views during a final meeting on the draft texts with ONSSA on 26 and 27 January, 2017. The draft law was signed by ONSSA and sent to the Ministry of Agriculture in February 2017 to be submitted to the Government secretariat.



## Association Management

Thanks to their good relationship with the officials of the ONSSA, CropLife Morocco was able to address and resolve several issues that hampered the successful operation of the sector, including:

- Importation, vendor letter
- Outsourcing of trials
- Summary of registration dossier and CBI
- Minor changes
- EU Commission pesticide review
- Counterfeiting

In terms of communication, the CropLife Morocco website has been updated with News of the Association, such as outstanding activities, statistics of pesticide imports from the Exchange office, the updated list of agricultural pesticides approved and distributed by CropLife Morocco company members.

A further success worth mentioning is the creation of the Insecticide Anti-resistance committee of CropLife Morocco. Its first publication covered the management of resistance of Tuta Absoluta which was posted on the association's website.

On the Obsolete stock's project, CropLife Morocco participated at all the project Management Unit meetings. The project is running very late as a result of the resignation of the former national coordinator. The results achieved so far are:

- The tender specifications were developed and the selection of interested companies made by FAO
- The tender will be launched at end December 2017
- The choice of the company will be made by FAO during the first quarter 2018
- Safeguarding will start during the second quarter 2018
- The workshop on empty container management took place in Agadir on September 19th, 2017
- The empty container management strategy was developed and presented
- A local commission for the implementation of the pilot program has been designated
- An evaluation of all these actions will be presented and made at the next Steering committee of the project before end of December 2017.

In addition to the above CropLife Morocco continued to participate and represent our sector within the executive committee of the Moroccan Federation of Chemicals and Para chemicals.

**Boubker El Ouilani**



## Plant Biotechnology

### Society of Toxicology: No Verifiable Evidence of Potential for Adverse Health Effects of GE Crops

#### Section: News from Around the World

The Society of Toxicology (SOT), a professional membership association of more than 8,200 scientists worldwide, has approved and released a new *Issue Statement* on food and feed safety related to genetically engineered (GE) crops. The Issue Statement has five key observations on safety, substantial equivalence, and labeling.

The Society affirms the safety of GE crops amidst ongoing public debate about potential adverse impacts of GE crops on human or animal health, saying that each new event has been evaluated by regulatory authorities and all necessary regulatory approvals were secured before their commercial release.

The Statement also mentioned that many GE events have achieved tremendous commercial success in the ensuing 20 years, and during that time, there has been no verifiable evidence of the potential for adverse health effects.



### US President Donald Trump Mentions Biotechnology at AFBF Convention

#### Section: News from Around the World

The American Farm Bureau Federation's 2018 Annual Convention held in Nashville, Tennessee on January 5-10, 2018 was addressed by the US President Donald J. Trump. On January 8, the President said, "We are streamlining regulations that have blocked cutting-edge biotechnology, setting free our farmers to innovate, thrive, and to grow." His remarks were delivered to 7,400 farmers and ranchers gathered at the Convention.

President Trump signed two executive orders that fund and streamline the expansion of rural broadband access. His address decried the costs of excessive regulation, and touched on issues of particular importance to agriculturists such as regulations, labor and trade.





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