

CropLife
Annual Report
Africa
2002/03
Middle East



CropLife Africa Middle East Annual Report 2002/03

This first Annual Report of CropLife Africa Middle East covers the period from the first General Assembly meeting of the founder members on May 23, 2002 in Amman, Jordan until the end of the first financial year, end of 2003. Due to legal requirements and procedures with the relevant authorities in Belgium and the need to separate the accounts from CropLife International, the first financial year of CropLife Africa Middle East only commenced on January 1st 2003.

Establishment of CropLife Africa Middle East as an independent regional association

During the past few years it became increasingly clear that our industry needed to establish a better presence and had to play a more active role in the countries of Africa and Middle East. The previously existing Africa Middle East Working Group (AMEWG), as a loose structure within the Global Crop Protection Federation (GCPF) had serious limitations and was no longer suitable to deal with the increasing challenges for our industry. The shortcomings of the Working Group became even more apparent when GCPF decided to embark on a global restructuring and corporate re-design to become CropLife International.

The Working Group evaluated various alternatives. In addition to the main option of establishing an independent regional association, the alternatives of remaining a substructure of CropLife International or to become a substructure of the European Crop Protection Association (ECPA) were considered. Due to the limited attractiveness of crop protection markets in Africa Middle East, there is a rather weak industry presence on the continent. Not surprisingly national associations have extremely limited financial resources. The question of funding the new regional set up was therefore the fundamental issue to be resolved. It was clear that longer term secured funding from CropLife International would be essential if an independent association were to be established. The justification for this support is obviously not based on the business relevance of this region. The argument for continued substantial contributions by CropLife International is the significant global issue potential emerging from Africa Middle East. These issues come from both the traditional crop protection business with its particular history on the African continent and increasingly from a highly controversial debate about the need and suitability of transgenic crops for the African farmer.

It was the general opinion of the majority of the Working Group members that an independent regional industry association would be by far the best option to manage our industry's interests in Africa and the Middle East. Our own legal presence across the region would allow our industry to become a strong and visible player among the many stakeholders and give the association the necessary credibility. These other important stakeholders are notably national authorities, UN organisations and countless NGO's. Particularly the latter two are very active in Africa and create regularly headlines in international media with their views on how to develop agriculture. This does call for an active presence of our industry at all levels. We must be able to participate with our own and credible contribution in the debate on how food production and improved food security can be achieved through modern agricultural production systems on this poorest continent of our world.

In March 2002 CropLife International approved the proposal made by the Working Group and confirmed a substantial annual contribution to the new association for the first 3-5 years. With this decision, the planned steps towards the establishment of CropLife Africa Middle East could be implemented.

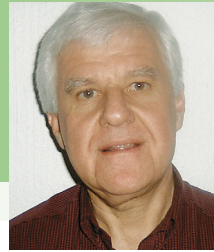
May 23, 2002	Meeting of all founder members. Formal signing of the Articles of association by all founder members. The first General Assembly elects the Executive Committee and approves the By-Laws of the new Association.
June, 2002	Submission of required documents in Belgium for the registration of a Non-profit organisation based on Belgian law.
October 31, 2002	Publication of Articles of Association in the "Belgian Official Gazette"
November 10, 2002	CropLife Africa Middle East is officially constituted
January 1, 2003	Separation of accounts from CropLife International. The commencement of the first financial year of CropLife Africa Middle East.



Regional Coordinator
and Area Coordinator
for North Africa Middle East:
Ali Mohamed Ali
based in Amman, Jordan.



Area Coordinator
for West and Central Africa:
Yao Bama Octave
based in Abidjan,
Côte d'Ivoire.



Area Coordinator
for East and South Africa:
Les Hillowitz
based in Johannesburg,
South Africa



Safe Use Trainer
CropLife Africa Middle East
Peter Mills
based in Harare,
Zimbabwe

With the formal establishment of the new association several new legal arrangements were required. Obsolete consulting contracts had to be replaced and updated in order to ensure the continuation of smooth operations. In line with the decision of the Executive Committee to establish a decentralized hub structure, with the three branch offices in the three sub-regions, namely, North Africa Middle East, West and Central Africa and East and South Africa, the association engaged the services of three Area Coordinators. The previous contract with Ali Mohamed Ali as the Regional Coordinator was renewed. The regional responsibilities have been established as shown at the top of this page.

In addition to the new positions of Area Coordinators, the training resource for "safe/responsible use" training had to be reorganised. After almost 10 years of dedicated service, the leader of the "safe use" project in Kenya, Dr. Jack Aston opted for retirement at the end of 2002. The association engaged Peter Mills, a Zimbabwean citizen, as its new trainer. Peter is focusing on the roll out of a "train the trainer" concept to all member associations with the goal to expand the original Kenyan project to other countries in the region.

Capacity building and regulatory support at country and sub regional level

"Capacity building" we define as the establishment and improvement of all relevant skills and conditions that ultimately lead to a better and more professional use of the products and solutions offered by the plant science industry. It is our association's objective to contribute in all countries to the establishment of a "state of the art" regulatory system for both crop protection products and biotechnical solutions that help farmers increase their productivity. In addition to the required, secure and reliable regulatory system, we also support the development of a favourable business environment encouraging the ethical and responsible behaviour of all involved stakeholders. In order to achieve these objectives, the regional association supports and facilitates the establishment of new national CropLife associations in all major countries of our region. It is through these national associations that we will aim to achieve the desired progress.

The following new national associations have been established since the General Assembly of the founder members on May 23, 2002 in Amman, Jordan:

Algeria, Senegal, Mali

The association has also continued with its efforts to facilitate the upgrading of national regulatory systems. We try to raise awareness with the responsible national authorities for the need of closer sub regional cooperation for harmonisation of the regulatory framework for crop protection products. The interest from these authorities has grown significantly over the years especially in those countries where export crops for Europe and North Africa are produced. Our concept of organising an annual meeting of all Registrars of the hub continues to be highly appreciated and well supported. Significant progress has been made in North Africa Middle East where most national authorities have agreed to accept the harmonized dossier for the filing of new product registrations. The already operational regional registration scheme for CILLS countries (Sahel) is now being adopted by Central African countries (CEMAC). At a later date the three sub area schemes comprising CILLS, CEMAC and CPHAOG (coastal country group in West Africa) are likely to be linked together. For East and South Africa the SEARCH initiative continues but is in need of a political linkage. This could be achieved through a cooperation arrangement with organizations such as NEPAD or SADC. A closer relationship with SADC is developing and which could soon result in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

The three subregional Regulatory Meetings held in 2003 were as follows:

- Dakar, Senegal on April 7-8, 2003 for West and Central Africa
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on June 23-25, 2003 for East and South Africa
- Beirut, Lebanon on October 21-22, 2003 for North Africa Middle East

Training on Safe Use

Our new and well-qualified trainer, **Peter Mills**, conducted a total of 20 training workshops in 15 countries in the course of the year. His activities included simple training visits, training surveys, training audits and more importantly, training of trainers (TOT) workshops. In addition to the above, Peter has been very active in reworking and adapting old GCPF training materials to the new corporate identity of CropLife. The contract with Peter Mills has been extended and he will continue to roll out the “train the trainer” concept in 2004.

Stewardship

2003 saw a major breakthrough regarding the disposal of obsolete pesticide stocks on the African continent. A multi-party project was set up between several partners including World Bank, FAO, WWF, the Plant Science Industry and several NGO's with the goal to remove and dispose of all obsolete pesticide stocks from the African continent over the next 15 years. The so-called ASP (African Stockpiles Project) will have significant resources available to achieve this challenging objective. A considerable amount of these resources has been committed by our industry as represented by CropLife. Initial training workshops have already been conducted with a prominent and visible contribution of our Executive Officers from CropLife Africa Middle East. These activities are expected to intensify as the project develops and it is likely that additional field personnel will be engaged during 2004.

As regards the many other areas where stewardship needs to be applied as per our Mission Statement, there remains a lot to be done. The broad implementation in the many countries of the Region will be encouraged with clear guidelines and measurements of all concerned. From our industry's point of view, we always give priority to the private initiative of our business partners along the distribution channels. Our national associations will promote and implement these stewardship principles wherever possible. A closer cooperation with authorities will be sought. However in some cases additional local legislation may have to be considered to make stewardship a reality, especially in the prevention of “new” obsolete stocks occurring as well as with container management.

Outlook for 2004 and beyond

Action Plans for 2004 have been agreed and will ensure the continuation of the initiatives in progress. We expect to be successful in establishing new associations in Syria and Mauritius. We also expect to be successful in conducting the three regulatory meetings in the three hubs.

As regards the training on “safe use” and “stewardship” activities, we are convinced that we will meet our aspirations set.

For the association as a whole it will be a year of consolidation and further improvement of established processes. A detailed Quality Management System following the ISO 2000 concept is in preparation and will lead to more efficient and streamlined processes. The resulting improved focus of all our activities will free up additional resources to be used for the implementation of the ambitious goals set by the association.



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President

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Key Data for CropLife Africa Middle East (Status 31.12.2003)

Members	25 National Associations 10 Company Members of the Plant Science Industry
Registered Office	Avenue Louise 143, 1050 Brussels, Belgium Remark: CropLife International hosts this legal address. There is no own staff of CropLife Africa Middle East based in Brussels
Regional Offices	P.O.Box 961810 Sport City 11196 Amman, Jordan 15 B 215, 28 Rues Des Jardins Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire P.O. Box 72127 Parkview 2122 Gauteng Johannesburg, South Africa

Break down and regional distribution of total spending of CropLife Africa Middle East (2003)

	North Africa & Middle East	West & Central Africa	East & South Africa	Central Expenses	Line as % of Total Expense
Operational Expenses (As % of hub total)	60% *)	42%	48%	47%	50%
Capacity Building (As % of hub total)	14%	31%	15%	14%	18%
Training for Safe Use (As % of hub total)	26%	27%	37%	39%	32%
Total	34%	23%	29%	14%	100%

*) Includes regional coordination

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