



## New Year Message From The Director General

Dear Readers,

As we start the New Year, the CropLife Africa Middle East Team wishes you all a successful 2019.

In January 2018, exactly one year ago, I addressed you on the objectives for 2018 we were looking to reach. In this regard, I am proud to share with you that 2018 brought regulatory successes and positive advocacy for the crop protection industry in the Africa Middle East region as well as sound progress in areas of stewardship and anti-counterfeiting activities. We increased the number of partnership projects by lifting budget allocations against IPM/RU to support the smallholder farming sector. Our successes included our first project in the management of FAW. Also, as part of our communications strategy a new website was launched – this you can visit on: [www.croplifeafrica.org](http://www.croplifeafrica.org). The main achievements for the year, will be detailed in our 2018 Annual Report.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to my team for their engagement in fulfilling the vision of CropLife Africa Middle, East namely: “Partners in Sustainable Agriculture”.

The world, including our region, is impacted by climate change, water shortages, soil erosion and population growth, making it increasingly difficult to grow enough food for all to share. Agriculture is advancing to become a key industry of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The demand for arable land is increasing and more investors are willing to develop agriculture in the Africa Middle East region.

We have been, and are the voice of the industry that discovers, manufactures, formulates and distributes crop protection products and biotech solutions. For too long we have spoken about how we do what we do: how the industry develops new crop protection solutions, how farmers use pesticides to fight crop related threats, how the regulatory processes work, and more. Now it's time to talk about why we do what we do.

Therefore, for 2019, we aim to strengthen:

- the vital role of pesticides in the prevention of food losses, to alleviate food insecurity.
- the positive impact of our industry for governments and society.
- pesticide management through the effective enforcement of regulations.
- Public Private Partnerships for the sound management of pesticides

In addition to the above we are committed to:

- Continue promoting effective stewardship in and beyond the field.
- Support the implementation of sustainable container management projects with our industry recognized as a leader in this initiative.
- Support the introduction of using digital tools for outreach. This type of approach would have been regarded as science fiction only a few years ago.
- Address the Anti-counterfeiting issue as a collective responsibility.
- Advance external communications around our activities.

We all understand the critical importance of our mission. Our efforts will facilitate a future with food for all while preserving the integrity of our environment. “Partners in Sustainable Agriculture” is not only a motto; this phrase encompasses what CL AME members do every day. Through the collective work of member companies, CL AME staff, and our agricultural organization partners, we can help “Africa to feed itself and contribute to the world challenge” for future generations.

Samira Amellal / DG CropLife Africa Middle East



## Stewardship

### CropLife meets with AGRA in Nairobi

Samira Amellal - Director General, Les Hillowitz - Regional Director, Stella Simiyu Wafukho -Director Regulatory Affairs and Rudolf Guyer -Project Lead, from CropLife Africa Middle East met with Lilian Gichuru, Associate Program Officer, Fund for the Improvement and Adoption of African Crops, and Assan Ng'ombe, Resilience Officer, on November 27 at the AGRA headquarters in Nairobi. The meeting was a follow up to the discussions held in 2017 with Richard Jones, who in the interim has retired from AGRA.

The main discussion points covered the possibility of cooperation between the two organizations. CropLife confirmed its continued interest to work with AGRA in the area of improved regulatory frameworks for agricultural inputs, such as pesticides and seeds.

This had been the main topic of the earlier discussions with Richard Jones who had asked CropLife to explore the possibility of developing *The Africa Pesticide Access Index* (TAPAI) in a similar way in which *The Africa Seed Access Index* (Tasai.org) had been developed.

Owing to budget cuts imposed by the US administration, this project was not pursued further. However, the main discussion with AGRA represented by Lilian and Assan addressed the possibility of **working together in the battle against Fall Armyworm (FAW)**. CropLife shared its ongoing engagement in the pilot **Spray Service Provider (SSP)** project in Ethiopia, which is in its final stages of completion and in which a special new training module for SSPs was developed and tested. Lilian shared the progress on AGRA's respective extension outreach program, training so called, **Village Based Advisors (VBA's)**. Respective information on target countries and networks was exchanged. The idea of combining the two efforts and to complement both concepts was also discussed.

Rudolf Guyer



L - R: Assan Ngombe, Samira Amellal, Rudolf Guyer, Stella Simiyu Wafukho, Lilian Gichuru and Les Hillowitz



## Stewardship

### More Than 70,000 Nigerian Farmers Used Services of SSPs in 2018

A total of 72,506 farmers made use of the services of Spray Service Providers (SSPs) in Nigeria during 2018. They covered a total of 148,000 acres, in a variety of crops, including cassava, cocoa, cotton, maize, millet, rice sorghum, and vegetables. The SSPs earned an average of 125 USD with their application activities. These are the results of a monitoring exercise carried out by CropLife Nigeria in November and December 2018 in which all SSPs were either visited in the field or contacted by telephone.

Nigeria started setting up networks of SSPs in 2013. Currently, a total of 2,529 SSPs graduated of which 50% achieved this during 2018. More than 1,000 of the SSPs received an additional training in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and this year, a group of 142 SSPs followed a special program on how to control Fall Armyworm. The SSPs are scattered throughout the country with a presence in 25 of the 36 states.

CropLife Nigeria trained all SSPs in close collaboration and with funding from partners, including: the AFOS Foundation, DAI/ Market Development (MADE) project, German Development Agency (GIZ)/Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) Project, International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC)/2SCALE project, IFDC/Cassava project, IFDC/ Sorghum and Millet in the Sahel (SMS) Project, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)/N2Africa, Palladium/Propcom, USAID/Markets II, and the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)/African Cocoa Initiative (ACI), and crop buying companies Continaf and Olakoko. Several of these projects ended but CropLife Nigeria continued monitoring and training the SSPs.

Siji Ofoesua, Executive Secretary of CropLife Nigeria, has been involved with the SSP program from the start and was one of the main key players in fine-tuning the concept. He comments: "When we started with the WCF, our focus was on training. However, we quickly realized that the selection of farmers before they are trained is crucial. Nowadays, we work with strict selection criteria. The community undertakes the first selection and then we interview every farmer using a questionnaire for the final selection."

#### Monitoring

The strict selection of farmers to be trained as SSPs is one of the factors contributing to the low dropout rate: A total of 2,325 SSPs sold their services in 2018, which is 92% of the total SSPs in Nigeria. Another factor contributing to the low dropout rate, is the monitoring field visits and phone calls. Siji continues: "We try to contract every SSP at least twice per year, either by visiting them in the field or calling them by telephone. As much as possible, SSPs are contacted by the field officer who trained them. For CropLife Nigeria, the relationship each of us has with the SSPs is important; the SSPs need to feel part of a group."

The group feeling is further stimulated with the creation of SSP associations in several regions. The credit for this goes to the Palladium/Propcom project. Babajide Adigun, Project Manager of CropLife Nigeria, managed the SSP activities for Propcom in 2017 and 2018. "In 2017, we trained a small group of 165 SSPs. Propcom realized that although the SSPs serviced an average of 25 to 30 farmers per year, we need numbers to make a difference. Therefore, we decided to train 1,000 SSPs during 2018. By the end of the year, they had serviced more than 25,000 farmers."



A "community storm" to promote the services of the SSPs



## Stewardship

Propcom also introduced the so-called “community storm” in which SSPs drive around in open truck to communities with catchy music playing. Adigun tells: “It was great! Whole communities came onto the street to talk to us, and of course dance with us. We talked about the hazards of incorrect handling and application of pesticides, and the benefits of using SSPs. The SSPs distributed leaflets which contained their names and telephone numbers. The main feedback was that farmers were really proud that the SSPs were from their own community and not from elsewhere. This generates trust between the farmers and SSPs.”

### Challenges

Of course, the implementation of SSP activities did not always go smoothly. Farmers in the Northern part of the country faced heavy flooding of their lands and saw their carefully planted crops washed away which meant no work for SSPs. In other areas, the security situation forced CropLife field officers to postpone training programs and restricted travel meant SSPs could not reach farmers to service them.

Despite several setbacks, Project Manager, Adigun is optimistic for the future: “We have a great team with very capable and extremely dedicated staff. Mushin Lawal Gambo, Richards Maiwada, Siji and several part-time trainers have worked around the clock to implement all activities. In addition, we have the support of CropLife Nigeria member companies.”

The next step according to Adigun is the sustainability of the concept and upscaling this. “More than 70,000 farmers serviced in a year is fantastic but still a drop in the ocean when looking at the total number of farmers in Nigeria. In addition, we are still too dependent on external funding. This year, SSPs need to start paying for their follow-up training, although this will be difficult because farmers are accustomed to getting training for free. We also want to bring several stakeholders, including the public sector, around the table to discuss how to increase the number of SSPs. Our vision for Nigeria is that farmers no longer need to handle and apply pesticides, but that they will be able to leave this to someone who has been trained in this: the SSP.”

**Manon Mireille Dohmen**



Project Manager Babajide Adigun of CropLife Nigeria (with the blue shirt) during a SSPs training program in Kebbi state.

Below:

Executive Secretary Siji Ofoesuwa of CropLife Nigeria (centre - wearing jeans) among freshly graduated SSPs in Rivers state.



## Regulatory Advocacy

### PR-PICA and CropLife agree to implement MoA labeling in the cotton sector

The second meeting of the 2018 steering committee of PR-PICA convened on December 17-18, 2018 in Cotonou, Benin. Mode of Action (MoA) labeling for resistance management was on the agenda alongside the regular topics covering the technical and financial reports, the budget for the upcoming year and an overview of the ongoing research activities.

The 12 members of the steering committee were addressed on MoA labeling in a presentation by Bama Yao. Subsequent to the discussions, the steering committee agreed on the following:

- The synergy between MoA labeling and the mission of the PR-PICA, resulting in the need for cooperation in resistance management.
- The participation of CropLife AME and CropLife International at the PR-PICA annual conference in Cotonou, Benin on April 10-12, 2019. The aim is to deliver a follow-up presentation to sensitize additional stakeholders involved in cotton production.
- An action plan (pilot project) focusing on activities and steps for the implementation of MoA labeling. This needs to be discussed during the PR-PICA Steering Committee meeting on April 09, 2019, alongside the PR-PICA conference.
- The participation of PR-PICA at the 2019 WCA-NA annual Hub and Regulatory Workshops.
- The management of empty pesticide containers and the introduction of the SSP concept in the cotton sector was of interest for the next joint program.

**Bama Yao**



The MoA labeling being addressed as an important contribution to the mission of PR-PICA.

Photo Courtesy: PR-PICA.



## Anti-Counterfeiting Activities

### Intellectual Property Rights in Pesticides - Field Workshop

CropLife Egypt in collaboration with the Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC) organized a workshop under the title of "Intellectual Property Rights in Pesticides – Field Workshop" on 17 December 2018 at the venue of the Safir Hotel - Cairo.

The workshop was opened by the APC Chairman and attended by members of the APC from different research centres and laboratories, members of CropLife Egypt, including Bayer CropScience, BASF, Syngenta, Sumitomo, FMC, Nufarm, Arysta, Maytrade, Kafr Elzayat, Shoura, several policing forums, including, Police of Environment and Water Surfaces - Police of Supply - Police of Specifications, Dept. of IPR - Customs, Head of IPR Protection Agency, BASEL Centre, Consumer Protection Agency, packaging security companies and the press. This totalled around 70 persons' attendees.

The workshop was opened by CropLife Egypt and the APC Chairman who emphasized on the importance of IPR in the field of pesticides and the frequent infringements of intellectual property rights, thereby encouraging the illicit trade of pesticides.

APC delivered a presentation on the various types of IPR and the importance of the laws in place that protect this and incriminate violations.

Said Abdella of CropLife Egypt delivered a presentation on IPR from an industry perspective and the importance of this to protect and maintain stability of the market and eliminate opportunities for illegal products.

The CEO of Authentic Vision, an Austrian company specializing in product security, delivered a presentation regarding brand security and their experience in Egypt with the electric cables industry.

Participants were divided into 6 groups to interact and share experiences; a questionnaire was distributed to test audience comprehension for IPR and the related laws. This followed with each group providing feedback for recommendations.

Recommendations were:

1. Awareness by authorities/stakeholder's and the engagement of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, customs, etc.
2. International harmonization and regulation oversight by stakeholders, regulatory authorities and NGO's.
3. Protect and defend the supply chain, this covers, trusted producers, distributors, shippers and farmers.
4. Investigations and fact finding on counterfeits by law enforcement agencies, customs, trusted producers, etc.
5. Collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Customs, Specification Dept., Consumer Protection Agency, IPR Protection Agency and registration authorities, to activate IPR laws.
6. Awareness for consumer and end-users on IPR and the dangers related to the violation and infringement of intellectual property.

**Said Abdella**



Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Megeed undertaking the opening address

## Anti-Counterfeiting Activities



The APC Chairman and APC members



Group Photo

## Association Management

### The New Face for East & Southern Africa

Evelyn Lusenaka has been appointed to the CropLife Africa Middle East team as the Regional Coordinator effective 1 March 2019.

Evelyn brings a wealth of experience in Association Management in the pesticide related field, possessing extensive regional experience in stewardship training and regulatory dialogue acquired over 15 years. Having worked for the Agrochemicals Association of Kenya/CropLife Kenya as the Chief Executive Officer, Evelyn has interacted with both the public and private sectors within the agricultural industry in Kenya, and across the region, focusing on sustainable agriculture. As CEO, Evelyn transformed the agrochemicals industry in Kenya especially regarding the Stewardship, Regulatory and Advocacy agendas.

Evelyn holds a Master's Degree in Project Planning and Management, Bachelor of Science, Horticulture, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and a Post Graduate Diploma in Pesticide Risk Management from the University of Cape Town. We welcome Evelyn on board.



Samira Amellal

### CropLife Egypt relocates to new offices

CropLife Egypt relocated to new offices and held the first Egyptian Regulatory Committee (ERC) meeting for 2019 at this venue.

The Regulatory Committee members who attended included:

Abdelmoneim Bak	Syngenta	Chairman, ERC
Abdelfattah Saad	Syngenta	Sec. Gen. ERC
Said Abdella	Board Member	CropLife Egypt
Ahmed Farag	BASF	Member of ERC
Suzan Aziz	Corteva	Member of ERC
Hesham Aly	Fineseeds	Member of ERC
Khaled Abolnour	Maytrade	Member of ERC
Mohamed Saad	Agrimatco	Member of ERC



Said Abdella presented CropLife Egypt's activities during 2018 on Stewardship, Anti-Counterfeit and Container Management.

Plans for 2019, engaging with member companies were discussed covering Stewardship and Anti-Counterfeiting activities.

Said Abdella



## Association Management

### Strengthening cooperation between the Council of Coffee-Cocoa and CropLife Côte d'Ivoire

The new management team of the Council of Coffee-Cocoa (CCC) took office about a year ago. However, no meeting could be arranged with CropLife Côte d'Ivoire (CLCI), as the restructuring of the CCC was a priority during the early months. A meeting was finally arranged on December 21, 2018. The delegation from CLCI comprised the Executive Committee, a representative of the Consultative Council, the CropLife Regional Director, the Counsellor and the Executive Secretary. The CCC was represented by the Director General (DG) and the Director in charge of Agricultural Development.

Following the welcome address by the DG, Guy Liabra, Executive President of CLCI thanked the CCC for offering the opportunity for the meeting. The Executive Director provided a short overview of the organization and the mission of CLCI. He then focused on the earlier cooperation between the CCC and CLCI. He took the CCC through the training workshops for capacity building for the Regional Directors of CCC on IPM/RU, anti-counterfeiting and fight against illegal pesticides, the implementation of the SSP program under the WCF-ACI project. All this aimed at improving productivity, ensuring quality and the marketability of the cocoa beans. Other cooperation activities related to the public-private partnership platform (PPPP) in the cocoa sector under the control of the "cocoa swollen shoot virus working group".

The CropLife Regional Director and the Executive President stressed on the issues of MRLs, certification schemes and GAP, which justify the necessary stewardship activities, and the support to the regulatory bodies. Such activities are accompanied by the supply of innovative solutions for crop protection from the R&D companies.

The DG thanked CLCI for the "tremendous work carried out in the cocoa and other sectors in support of agricultural development in Côte d'Ivoire". He then stressed on "the foreseeable benefits for both parties, especially for the CCC to engage into a real cooperation with CLCI, an organization of true professionals of the pesticide sector". He committed the Director in charge of Agricultural Development to urgently initiate discussions for cooperation programs.

**Bama Yao**

The Director General of the CCC (4<sup>th</sup> L-R) with the delegation from CropLife CI and CropLife AME.

Photo Courtesy: CropLife CI



The Executive Director providing an overview of the activities of CLCI in the cocoa sector



## Association Management

### Launch of CropLife Uganda Strategic Work Plan 2019-2021

A consultant was contracted by USAID – Feed the Future, Enabling Environment for Agricultural Activities (EEA); to evaluate the CropLife Uganda 2015-2017 Strategic Work Plan. The same consultant was engaged to develop the CropLife Uganda Strategic Work Plan 2019-2021.

Acknowledgement was made to CropLife Africa Middle East for supporting the official launch of the CropLife Uganda Strategic Work Plan 2019-2021 on 20 December 2018 at the Fairway Hotel, Kampala, Uganda.

The Chairman of CropLife Uganda, Solomon Seruwo, while addressing the audience, highlighted the objectives of the Plan as follows;

- To build organizational capacity for effective service delivery.
- To build the capacity of stakeholders in the responsible use of crop protection products.
- To conduct research and lobby for favorable policies, laws, regulations and programs.
- To enhance financial sustainability and competitiveness.
- To develop support functions for efficient and effective service delivery.

This special occasion was officiated by the Honorable Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Vincent B. Ssempiija who made complementary comments about CropLife Uganda for being an exemplary association in promoting Public Private Partnerships. He urged the association to continue to ensure quality to protect the farmers of the country.



## Association Management



The half-day event was embraced by representatives from CropLife Uganda member companies, national associations, government bodies, development partners, and a cross section of the media.

**Betty Atto**



CropLife Uganda Secretariat with the Honorable Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Vincent B. Ssempijja.



## Plant Biotechnology



### Nigeria Moves Forward to Bt Cowpea Commercialization

After almost a decade of trials, Nigeria is now on the road towards the commercialization of Bt cowpea. The Bt crop, known as pod borer resistant (PBR) cowpea, was presented to the public by the National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA). The potential benefits of the crop were highlighted in the event, which was aimed at getting comments from scientists, farmers, policy makers, civil society organizations, experts, faith-based organizations, and the media.

Prof. Muhammad Ishiyaku, principal investigator of PBR cowpea, discussed how the GM crop was developed as well as its safety based on the risk assessment on food and environment conducted. He highlighted that researchers decided to use genetic engineering to address the problems of farmers caused by *Maruca vitrata* (bean pod) pest in cowpea, which lead to high crop losses of up to 80 percent.

NBMA Director-General, Dr. Rufus Ebegba, a 21-day public comment period was published in three national newspapers and the NBMA website to allow stakeholders to submit their comments about the crop. It is projected that the Bt crop will be released into the Nigerian market in 2020.

ISAAA

### Chinese Agri Ministry Approves Import of 5 GM Crops

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China approved five genetically modified (GM) crops for importation. These GM crops are RF3 canola, originally developed by Bayer and now owned by BASF, Monsanto's glyphosate-tolerant MON 88302 canola, DuPont Pioneer DP4114 corn, Syngenta's SYHT0H2 soybean and Dow AgroSciences' DAS-44406-6 soybean. China had not released approvals for GM crops since July 2017.

The new GM crop events approvals were released after Chinese and U.S. officials had a meeting in Beijing on January 7 for the first face-to-face talks since U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed in December to a 90-day truce in a trade war that has affected global markets.

The agri ministry also extended the import approvals for 26 other GM crops by three more years.

ISAAA





**CropLife Africa Middle East  
International Association AISBL  
Rue Théodore de Cuyper 100  
B-1200 Brussels**

[www.croplifeafrica.org](http://www.croplifeafrica.org)

