



CropLife Africa Middle East Holds 2019 Board Meeting

On 16 May the Board of CropLife Africa Middle East met in Casablanca for its first meeting of 2019 and to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM). The meeting of the outgoing Board took place prior the AGM. The meeting dealt with statutory matters and reviewed the 2018 Annual Report, Annual Accounts and the Audit Report . The operations for the year 2018 ended with a positive result, both in terms of income and expenditure. During the meeting, the Board was taken through the CropLife International “Six-Step Review Process”. The CropLife AME Board then initiated the assessment for the region using the same framework. This review process is still work in progress.

The Board together with the CL AME executive team reviewed the SSP concept and made recommendations on how this could be improved for future projects. The CropLife executive team provided the Board members with an overview of the key strategic priorities for 2020 with an action plan. The Board gave their support to the planned activities and encouraged the team to continue the close collaboration with the two regional prime committees of Regulatory and Stewardship.

The AGM that followed the Board meeting dealt with the statutory matters in approving the Annual Report and the Accounts for 2018, took note of the Audit Report and gave formal discharge to the directors and executives for the year 2018.

The meeting concluded with the approval of the resignation of the following Board members:

- Eric Bureau: Vice President CropLife Africa Middle East
- Diego Tomassone: Vice President CropLife Africa Middle East
- Gyanendra Shukla: Director, Monsanto
- Karim Ben Brahim: Director, CropLife Morocco

And the election of the following individuals as Members to the Board.

- Georges Kassis, representative of Sumitomo
- Jerome Barbaron, representative of Syngenta
- Rodney Bell, representative of CropLife South Africa
- Jordi Uso, representative of SIPCAM OXON
- Klaus Eckstein, representative of Bayer
- Mohamed Chetouani, representative of CropLife Morocco

The Board thanked those members leaving and welcomed the newly elected members.

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Members of the Board and Management Team at the meeting



Farewell to Eric Bureau and Karim Ben-Brahim

At the end of the General Assembly 2019 on May 16, in Casablanca, the formal engagement of the two longest serving members of our Board, Eric Bureau and Karim Ben-Brahim came to an end. For personal reasons, both had presented their resignations in the middle of the running two-year term. The AGM 2019 elected Klaus Eckstein, representing Bayer and Mohamed Chetouani representing CropLife Morocco as their successors in the Board.

Eric Bureau joined the then called Executive Committee on 30 October 2008 in Tunis and was immediately elected as Vice President and Hub Chair for West and Central Africa. Only one year later, on 22 October 2009, Eric was elected president of CropLife Africa Middle East, a position he held until 10 April 2018 when he became the Vice President and Hub Chair for East and Southern Africa.

Eric has spent most of his professional career and working life in and for the African continent and has lived in Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Morocco and Kenya. His profound knowledge of the African agriculture and his passion for the African people was an invaluable asset and contribution to our regional association. Under Eric's presidency and leadership, CropLife Africa Middle East grew its presence and influence significantly across the entire region. Particularly relevant was Eric's unfailing support to engage more and cooperate with third parties in pursuing, particularly, our industry's stewardship objectives. This positioning, as a valued partner for public private partnership projects decisively contributed to the actual image and reputation of CropLife Africa Middle East. In his function as president and chairman, Eric had to steer and guide many internal Board discussions, some of which that were quite controversial and challenging. In such difficult situations, Eric demonstrated great leadership. His unquestioned fairness with all members of the association and his kind and respectful manner of leading and interacting with board colleagues and team members helped him to find solutions that were based on consensus and accepted by everybody.

The team of CropLife Africa Middle East has been privileged to work for and with Eric all these years and we thank him for his commitment and great support over these many years.



Eric Bureau receiving his farewell trophy from the President, Dirk Hartmann



Eric Bureau receiving a special gift presented by Bama Yao Octave on behalf of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire which Eric then proudly displays much to the delight of the CropLife team.



Karim Ben-Brahim was elected to the Board on 27 June 2012 and since that date has represented CropLife Morocco in our regional association. In parallel to serving on the Board of Directors of our regional association, Karim also chaired CropLife Morocco during this period.

Karim's support of the CropLife agenda at the national and regional level deserves particular appreciation and is worth mentioning as he was not performing this task as an employee of a large multinational company. Despite the fact of representing a private Moroccan company, Karim Ben-Brahim made a strong and valuable contribution in support of our Plant Science industry both, in Morocco and also on the regional Board. Karim's rich experience and realistic judgement was highly appreciated among his colleagues and he made some pivotal contributions to the outcome of Board discussions.

On behalf of the CropLife Africa Middle East team we wish both, Eric Bureau and Karim Ben Brahim a fond farewell and hope to stay connected after their departure from the regional CropLife network.

Rudolf Guyer



Karim Ben-Brahim receiving his farewell trophy from the President, Dirk Hartmann



Stewardship

Agro-Dealers in Nigeria Improve Advice Provided to Farmers

Agro-dealers in the Delta region of Nigeria often give farmers advice on wearing personal protective equipment and how to safely transport pesticides. Advice on the re-entry interval and the pre-harvest intervals is not often required. These statements arise from some of the results of a monitoring visit organized by CropLife Nigeria among 397 agro-dealers who were trained in January 2019. The dealers were trained by CropLife Nigeria as part of a service contract signed last year with the Market Development (MADE) Project, implemented by DAI. All dealers indicated that they have improved in their ability to provide advice to clients concerning the selection, responsible use and application of pesticides.

Not every dealer in the area was trained. CropLife Nigeria prepared selection criteria and each interested dealer was interviewed to ensure the most appropriate persons were selected for the program. The most important condition for selection, was that the person should be dealing directly with clients in the shop. In the 2-day program, selected dealers learned how to provide better advice to farmers on pesticide selection, responsible use and application. At the end of the program, all had to undertake a written test. Those who scored at least 60%, received a certificate.

In April and May, field visits were organized to meet the agro-dealers in their shops and to check what they were implementing of what they had learned during the training program. Added to this, every dealer had received a customer record ledger to keep track of the clients they serviced. Those who could not be visited were contacted by phone. On average, the dealers serviced 56.9 clients over a period of 3 months. Dealers were reluctant to share data on revenues but were willing to disclose if their income had increased or not as compared to the same period last year. 21% indicated that it had improved a great deal, while 76% said it had improved.

Another question was focused on the advice dealers give to clients. More than 70% of the interviewed dealers claimed to always advise farmers on wearing of personal protective equipment and how to safely transport pesticides. Around 65% always advise clients to read the label, how to store the pesticides, and to never use children for the handling or application of pesticides. 60% always advise farmers to triple rinse the empty containers. The re-entry interval and pre-harvest interval was mentioned by 57% and 58% of the dealers respectively.

A total of 220 Spray Service Providers (SSPs) were trained with the support of MADE in the same area in 2018. During the training program, lists with names of these SSPs were distributed to all agro-dealers. 65% of the dealers mentioned that they always advise farmers to make use of the services of an SSP to apply the pesticides.

Manon Mireille Dohmen



A trained agro-dealer in Akwa Ibom state

Field officer Richards Maiwada of CropLife Nigeria (left) with an agro-dealer in Bayelsa state who is holding his ledger



Association Management

CropLife Zimbabwe holds AGM 2019

At the recent AGM of CropLife Zimbabwe, members of the association elected Caroline Charumbira, Crop Chemicals Distribution Manager at Windmill, as the association's chairperson for the coming year.

Her deputy is Tawanda Mangisi, Marketing Manager of Syngenta in Zimbabwe. Other members of the Executive Committee are:

- Obert Chikwature (Curechem Group)
- Talk Chinoda (Intaba Trading)
- James Chinyahara (ZFC Ltd)
- Dzingo Mafuvadze (Pivotal Agro-Services)
- Farai Munyanyi (Bayer Zimbabwe)

Caroline Charumbira was chairperson of the Technical Services Committee (TSC) for several years, during which time she organised the annual accreditation course and the updating of the Zimbabwe Crop Chemicals handbook.

This is the first time since 2016 that there has been a full Executive Committee and the first time for some years that elections have been held, as there have been too few candidates to make it necessary to do so.

The incoming TSC also has a full complement of members. It was encouraging to see so many new representatives taking an interest in helping to run the association.

As usual, members of CropLife Zimbabwe turned out in force for the annual general meeting. The precarious situation of the industry and the country's economy were the main focus of discussions, in particular the shortage of foreign currency available to members to pay for imported products and inputs. The lack of money among the general population also contributed to the difficulties faced by the industry.

Following the AGM Caroline Charumbira, as incoming Chairperson, presented certificates to the 23 successful graduates of the CropLife Zimbabwe accreditation course held in 2018. The day's activities ended with a luncheon provided by the association, during which members had an opportunity to catch up with their colleagues in the industry.

Carol Smith, CropLife Zimbabwe



Caroline Charumbira (R) with one of the accreditation graduates during the AGM



Association Management

CropLife South Africa Exhibits at NAMPO

This year, for the first time, CropLife South Africa exhibited at one of the largest agricultural events under private ownership in the southern hemisphere, Grain SA's Nampo Harvest Day. The event is held annually at Nampo Park just outside of Bothaville in the Free State province and this year attracted 81 345 visitors along with 775 exhibitors. A record number of 376 small planes and 63 helicopters landed at the event, which gives an indication of the event's magnitude.

CropLife SA was represented alongside FERTASA (The Fertilizer Association of South Africa) and SANSOR (The South African National Seed Organization) in an effort to educate producers and consumers on the important role that industry associations play in agriculture. The CropLife SA section of the stand was approximately 7m x 10m in size and focused predominately on the various aspects of stewardship, including resistance management and the CropLife SA waste management program. Other topics covered the importance of the Continuous Professional Development program for sales agents of crop protection products, and why it is recommended that producers only buy from CropLife SA accredited agents. In addition, elements such as Agri-Intel, the CropLife SA Agri-SETA accredited courses, correct personal protective clothing and responsible use were also promoted.

The event offered a platform to engage with producers, consumers and various industry role-players, while the stand attracted the likes of the Registrar of Act 36/1947 and the Deputy Director General of Agricultural Production, Health and Food Safety.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members, Villa Crop Protection, Rolfes Agri, Meridian and Philagro who assisted the CropLife SA team at the stand. Their dedication to the association is sincerely appreciated.

We are also grateful for every member who took the time to visit the stand and show their support. We hope this event achieved our goal of promoting our industry's efforts in ensuring responsible production, distribution and application of crop protection and public health solutions across the entire value chain.

Elriza Theron – CropLife South Africa

Right & Below - The CropLife Stand at NAMPO



Association Management



Thyphord Chirwa

CropLife Malawi holds Annual General Meeting

CropLife Malawi held their Annual General Meeting on 17 May 2019 and ushered in a new Executive Council.

The following were elected onto the Executive Council to serve for a period of 3 years:

- Chairperson: Thyphord Chirwa (Bayer Malawi)
- Secretary: Madalitso Jelenje (Agricultural Trading Co. Ltd)
- Treasurer: Patrick Manja (Agricultural Trading Co. Ltd)
- Committee Member: Donna Mkandawire (Rentokil formally Antipest)

We wish the new ExCo a successful term as they endeavor to take CropLife Malawi to the next level.

Ronald Chilumpha

CropLife Egypt elects new Chairman

For personal reasons the current Chairman of CropLife Egypt, Hisham Mebed, had to stand down. The Board extended their thanks to him for the excellent services he provided to the association during his year in office.

The Board then went forward to elect Dr. Sherif Ayoub (Regional Portfolio Lead, North East Africa and Middle East - Syngenta) as the new Chairman of CropLife Egypt.

Said Abdella





Healthful Oils from GM Plant as Effective as Fish Oil

Healthful oils derived from plants are processed by the human body in exactly the same manner as when fish oils are eaten, according to a research led by the University of Southampton's Faculty of Medicine.

Omega-3 fats are mainly present in fish oil and are vital for health and development. Because of Omega-3 source limitation, Rothamsted Research scientists developed a seed oil plant (*Camelina sativa*) using genetic engineering to produce an enhanced vegetable oil with similar amount of eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) as fish oil.

University of Southampton, in collaboration with Rothamsted Research, tested if the GM Camelina oil is as good as fish oil in providing fatty acids in human diet. The findings, published in *British Journal of Nutrition*, show that when young and middle aged men and women consumed the same amount of EPA plus DHA in a single standard meal, either as fish oil or as the oil from the GM Camelina, there was no difference in the uptake of these fatty acids from the meal or the body processing these fats.

ISAAA

Australian OGTR Approves GM Chickpea Field Trial

Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) has issued license DIR 166 to Queensland University of Technology for the limited and controlled release (field trial) of chickpea genetically modified (GM) for drought and other environmental stress tolerance.

The field trial is proposed to take place from June 2019 until December 2024 in Walkamin, Tablelands Regional Council in Queensland on up to 3 hectares per year. It will assess the drought and heat tolerance and agronomic characteristics of GM chickpea under field conditions. The GM plant material grown in the field trial will not be used in human food or animal feed.

The Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) and the license were finalized from input received during consultation with the public, State and Territory governments, Australian Government agencies, the Minister for the Environment, the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee, and local councils.

The finalized RARMP and its summary, a set of Questions and Answers on this decision, and a copy of the license are available online from the DIR 166 page in the OGTR website.



ISAAA

Ali Mohamed Ali - Goodbye



Early on the morning of 30 May 2019 our friends and colleagues of the Sudanese CropLife network informed us that Ali Mohamed Ali had passed away earlier the same day. This information came as a real shock for all of us who knew and worked with Ali Mohamed Ali for so many years.

Ali, you left us far too soon!!!

On behalf of the global and regional CropLife network and family we wish to express our deepfelt sympathies and offer our sincerest condolences to his wife and his family in Khartoum. We wish them strength and the support of Ali's great network in the difficult hours and days ahead.

Ali Mohamed Ali joined our industry network, the then called GCPF (Global Crop Protection Federation) in 1998. At that time, there existed no regional association and therefore Ali was directly contracted by the global and Brussels based office of GCPF. The African Middle East Working Group (AMEWG), had been **tasked by the global industry leaders to identify and contract a Regional Coordinator for the region of Africa Middle East.**

In those years, the leadership of our member companies observed an increased challenge and exposure by global government and non-governmental organizations and platforms where a growing number of smaller countries – many of which African countries – were increasingly present and active. It was therefore decided to establish the needed resources and strengthen our industry's network to reach out to these countries' representatives and to explain to them the necessity, contributions and benefits of our industry's modern solutions for improved sustainable agricultural production systems. After a carefully conducted job announcement, interview and selection process conducted in Dubai, **Ali Mohamed Ali was contracted as the new Regional Coordinator and started his services on 1 September 1998** for AMEWG.

In the following years, Ali worked incredibly hard to establish as many national associations as possible in the region of Africa Middle East. **At the peak of his tireless and convincing efforts our active association network consisted of more than 30 national associations and country representatives.**

Ali was also one of the key contributors to discuss, design and establish our regional association, CropLife Africa Middle East A.I.S.B.L. Since Ali had chosen Amman, Jordan as the most effective home base for the execution of his duties, it was decided to **pay tribute to his significant contributions and to conduct the founding General Assembly Meeting of our regional Association in Amman, Jordan. This meeting took place on 23 May 2002.**

From 1 January 2003 through to 31 December 2012 Ali Mohamed Ali was contracted by the regional association. Ali continued to be a key contributor in building and strengthening our African CropLife network. Ali Mohamed Ali did not only focus on his regional activities and duties but **also skilfully and professionally represented the Africa and Middle East region on external global and regional platforms and networks (SAICM, FAO, etc.) and also internally at the industry internal global committees and meetings.** His contributions were always visible, professional and heard. His comments and reflections were equally appreciated with industry internal colleagues as well as with external stakeholders.



Ali Mohamed Ali - Goodbye

One of Ali's key areas in contributing to our industry's stewardship efforts had been **the promotion of Integrated Pest Management and implementation of responsible use training in our region**. Ali maintained a very close cooperation with the respective industry colleagues through the IPM project team chaired and led for many years by Keith Jones, Eva Erisgen and Ray Forney. It was therefore no coincidence that the global IPM training manual was finalized and field tested in one of Ali's countries. Ali's excellent relationships with these global colleagues and supporters was key and which successfully secured the continued financial support by CropLife International towards our region.

Ali also played a decisive role in managing our industry's relations with the members of the Arab League member states by nurturing an excellent relationship with the Khartoum based Arab Organization for Agricultural Development with who CropLife Africa Middle East maintained a multiyear active cooperation. **Together with industry representatives Ali was the key driver to achieve the acceptance of the harmonized registration dossier for the member states of the Arab League**. Added to this, he successfully managed to establish visible and active associations in countries such as Syria, Yemen and Emirates during his time.

I was not only his strong presence and contributions to the region of the Middle East which were a real asset to the association, but he regularly visited and contributed to move forward our CropLife agenda in the two other hubs and actively supported his two colleagues Les Hillowitz in East and Southern Africa and Yao Bama Octave in West and Central Africa.

We gratefully remember Ali's professional and efficient management of our hub meetings. He had an excellent understanding of the diplomatic protocol which he applied perfectly when interacting with officials and ministers. **In summary, Ali's personal skills and his pleasant and successful interactions with internal and external stakeholders made a decisive contribution in building the positive image and reputation of CropLife Africa Middle East.**

Thank you, Ali.

Rudolf Guyer





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