



**Regional Virtual Hub Meetings**

The virtual meetings were organized on 28 May for East and Southern Africa and on 4 June for West and Central Africa. These were held to compensate for the cancellation of the usual annual Hub meetings. The meetings were necessary in order to maintain contact with the national associations in the regions and receive updates from them on on-going activities amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Added to this, they presented their priorities for the year 2020 and 2021.

The Presidents and the Executives of the hub national associations participated in the meetings to share their activities with the CropLife AME Team. The country reports and presentations indicated that the associations remained very active, even during the lockdown and restriction measures set in the countries to stop the spread of COVID-19 such as restriction on interstate and inter county movement and the cancellation of field activities. Most national association staff were working from home. Field activities had ceased in most countries.

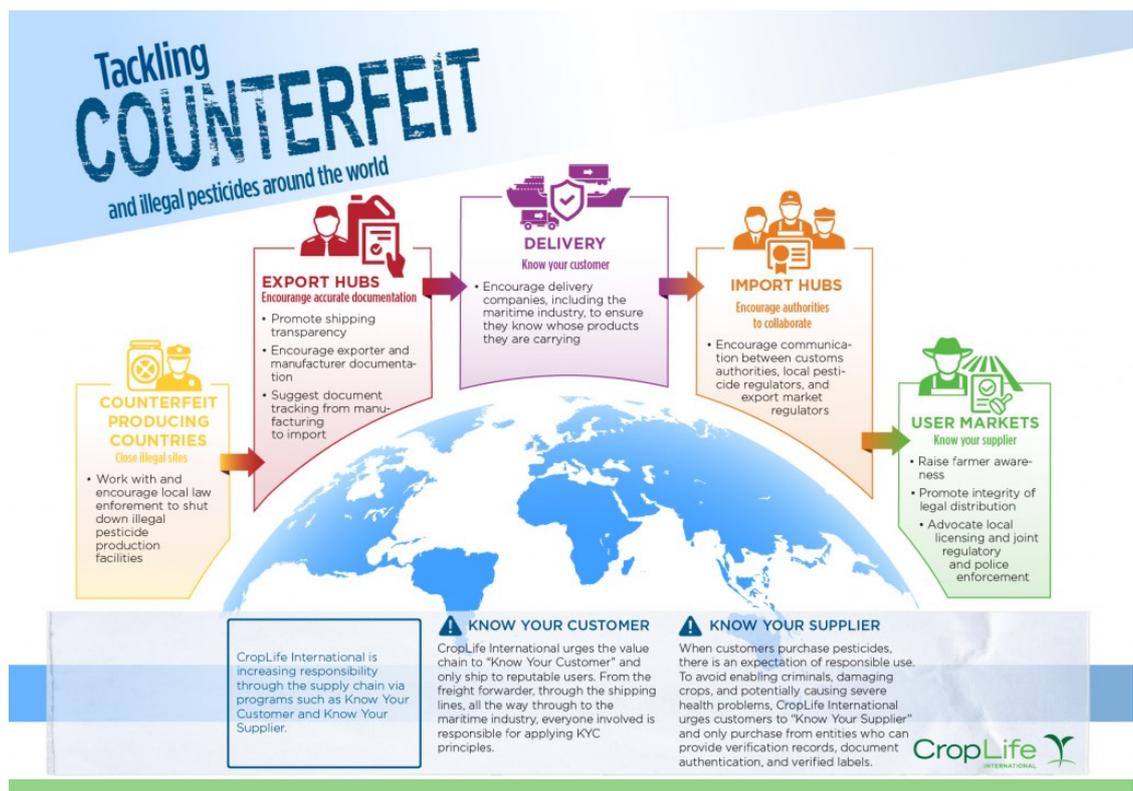
The reports from WCA highlighted sensitization activities for the staff of member companies, farmers, SSPs and other allies on health measures against the spread of COVID-19. The activities also covered awareness raising on the potential increase of counterfeit and other illegal pesticides in the markets and the need for the enforcement agencies and farmers to remain vigilant. Such awareness will be pursued as a key activity during the year through increased communications efforts.

The national associations from ESA advised that the use of digital technology such as e-learning for stewardship messaging and for regulatory functions such as e-submissions were key priorities for the region in 2021. It was noted that digitalization will go a long way in enhancing and supporting communication and learning in the countries. On anti-counterfeiting campaigns most of the national associations considered awareness campaigns and advocacy for better laws as priorities for 2021.

The above priorities were supported with feedback of the draft Operational Plan by the CropLife AME Team. The opportunity was taken to present the KPI 2019 report at both hub meetings and the national associations were able to gauge their performance vis-à-vis those of the other associations in the region.

Participation at the two events included CropLife Cote d'Ivoire, CropLife Cameroon, CropLife Ghana, CropLife Nigeria, CropLife Kenya, CropLife South Africa, CropLife Uganda, CropLife Tanzania, CropLife Malawi, CropLife Ethiopia and CropLife Zambia.

**Bama Yao & Evelyn Lusena**



# Stewardship

## CropLife Africa Middle East rolls out Stewardship Messaging

Within the region there has been a significant increase in the number of farmers trained over the past 5 years, this with the introduction of the Spray Service Provider (SSP) concept and subsequent projects initiated. This aside, and with approximately 33 million smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa there are still so many farmers who need to be reached with stewardship messaging. Digital tools offer a huge potential for providing stewardship outreach to African and Middle East farmers.

Ghana was identified as the country of choice for the kick-off pilot, this for a number of reasons including language, strength of the local national association and a strong SSP base. With the support of CropLife Ghana, a Remote Sensing & Geographic Information Systems company was identified, and a significant amount of useful information obtained.

A targeted 50,000 farmers will be reached, each receiving 24 messages over the growing season. Activities are expected to commence during the coming week. A monitoring exercise has been built into the program.

The program in Ghana will be followed by Zambia and Morocco. The 3 countries represent the 3 hubs within the regional association.

Les Hillowitz



Components of a Geographic Information System

## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

IPM is a holistic approach to sustainable agriculture.

It focuses on managing insects, weeds and diseases through a combination of cultural, biological and chemical measures that are cost effective, environmentally sound and socially acceptable.<sup>1</sup> This includes the responsible use of crop protection and plant biotech products.

Global population is on the rise and therefore so is food demand.

This means farmers must **increase yields on existing land** while **protecting biodiversity and looking after the environment.**

IPM provides farmers with **tools and strategies** to:

Learn more about IPM at [croplife.org](http://croplife.org)

<sup>1</sup>CropLife International and its member companies support the IPM definition put forth by the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (FAO, 2012).

# Stewardship

## Another Successful Cycle of the CropLife SA Continuous Development Programme

CropLife South Africa embarked on a journey some years ago to establish a continuous professional development (CPD) programme that ensures agrochemical sales agents of member companies are provided with a range of learning activities that maintains and enhances their professional competencies and knowledge. The programme aims to advance and promote the status of the agent as a crop adviser, acting in the interest of the environment, community and the producer.

It requires that a participant reaches a certain number of points in three respective categories, namely technical training and learning activities, business management training and learning activities and, safety and legal related training and activities. In addition, they must complete the CropLife SA Basic Crop Protection course as a minimum requirement for participation.

Once an agent has obtained the required number of CPD points, he/she is issued with a CropLife SA accreditation card and earns the title Crop Adviser. We are proud to announce that the 2020 CPD cycle saw over 700 agents earn this title.

This means that a producer can have peace of mind when buying from a CropLife SA accredited Crop Adviser because they know the person is suitably qualified, up to date with industry knowledge and adheres to the CropLife SA code of conduct. For an exporter of crops, this is particularly important for auditing purposes such as GLOBAL.G.A.P.

CropLife SA has embarked on various campaigns to encourage producers to insist on this accreditation before purchasing agrochemical products as well as to only use products that are registered in South Africa for the intended purpose, which refers to a specific pest, crop and application method as well. The responsibility lies with each player in the value chain to ensure that the trust we hold so dearly in agriculture, is maintained.

Elriza Theron, CropLife South Africa

## WHAT WE DO

<h3 style="margin: 0;">INFORM</h3>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">EDUCATE</h3>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">REGULATE</h3>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">PROMOTE</h3>
<p>CropLife SA hosts a wealth of information pertaining to the crop protection industry, including some of the most comprehensive and up-to-date plant protection and public health databases, guidelines and industry position statements</p>	<p>In addition to various AgriSETA accredited courses, CropLife SA is the driver of Continuous Professional Development in the crop protection industry</p>	<p>CropLife SA acts as liaison between the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the plant science industry so as to ensure compliance with and enforcement of Act 36 of 1947</p>	<p>CropLife SA aims to uplift the profile and brand of not only the organisation itself, but the plant science industry as a whole</p>



## Regulatory Advocacy

### Regulator in Egypt discusses the use of an Online Portal for Data E-submissions

Representatives from CropLife Egypt met with Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdelmegeed, Chairman of the Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC), on the possibility of creating a digital communications system covering the submission of pesticide registration data between Industry and the APC

The APC welcomed the initiative taken and supported the importance and value of establishing this tool which must ensure the necessary security of the system.

Dr. Sherif Ayoub, Chairman of CropLife Egypt, emphasized that this initiative would be under the MOU signed between CropLife Egypt and the APC. That this would ease the level of cooperation between both parties and inline with the pesticide regulatory system and the portal structure that was assigned to a service provider company.

Said Abdella added that the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated in the usage of digital communications, both globally and locally, which made this initiative a great tool for secured and accurate registration data.

The “portal system” is a tool for online services including the submission of registration data and online requests for renewals and issuing, Mahmoud Said (Agroforte) clarified that the tool will have a “friendly user interface” to facilitate the submission and receiving of data.

**Mahmoud Said**



The CropLife Egypt development team at APC's offices



## Anti-Counterfeiting Activities

### Tackling counterfeiting of pesticides during COVID-19

CropLife Cote d'Ivoire conducted a second live TV interview on the national TV station on June 05. The Executive Director, Roger Yeboue, provided a clear analysis of the challenges the agricultural economy in particular and the national economy in general could face under the COVID-19 crisis.

He indicated that any failure to fight counterfeit and other illegal pesticides will lead to a food crisis which cannot be afforded under the sanitary crisis due to COVID-19. To this end control measures on the markets and at the country's borders and entry ports by the enforcement agencies must be intensified. Dealers, farmers and other users must be more alert when purchasing pesticides, and report identified cases of illegal pesticides to the enforcement bodies in their localities.

He committed that CropLife Cote d'Ivoire will provide support to the enforcement bodies through the Plant Protection Directorate (DPVCQ) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER). Also, the awareness campaign will be intensified through Radio-TV messages. These activities by CropLife Cote d'Ivoire support those led by the DPVCQ to alert the anti-counterfeiting committees across the country.

Bama Yao



R. Yeboue, Executive Director CropLife CI (Above Left), addressing the journalist (Above Right) on the risks of CFT pesticides on human health and the environment as well as the impacts on food crops such as rice and cassava (Below, L & R) and on cash crops such as cotton and cocoa (Bottom, L & R).



## Plant Biotechnology

### Omega-3 Canola Oil to Help Reduce Overfishing

Omega-3 oils from canola plants are ready to become available in the global aquaculture market. The omega-3 oils, developed by Nuseed, are considered as the first land-based sources of omega-3 oil, which is normally derived from fish such as salmon or trout.

Salmon get their oil from smaller, fatty fish in the food chain including anchovies and herrings, which, in turn, derive oil from algae. "There is only so much we can fish out of the ocean," Nuseed group executive Brent Zacharias said. Thus, Nuseed, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) in Australia transferred the genetic mechanism from sea algae to canola seed.

The research on using canola as omega-3 oil bio factory paid off, with Nuseed finally completing the processing of the first commercial omega-3 oil from 14,000 hectares of canola in the US to be available soon for aquaculture feed and in human nutrition.



ISAAA

### Bt Brinjal Farmers Earned 21.7% More, Satisfied with Yield and Crop Quality

A new study conducted by Cornell University reveals that eggplant farmers in Bangladesh have attained significantly higher yields and revenues by growing the insect resistant, genetically engineered (GE) Bt brinjal (eggplant). According to the study published in *Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology*, the four Bt brinjal varieties yielded, on average, 19.6% more eggplant than non-Bt varieties and earned growers 21.7% higher revenue.

The study, led by Dr. Anthony Shelton, professor of entomology and former director for the Feed the Future South Asia Eggplant Improvement Partnership, is the first to document the economic benefits of four Bt brinjal varieties through the Bangladeshi market chain and their acceptability to farmers and consumers.

The survey was conducted in the five most important brinjal producing districts in Bangladesh – Rangpur, Bogra, Rajshahi, Jessore, and Tangail – through face-to-face interviews with 195 Bt farmers and 196 non-Bt farmers.

Of Bt brinjal farmers, 83.1% were satisfied with their yields and 80.6% were satisfied with the quality of their crops. However, only 58.7% of non-Bt brinjal farmers were pleased with their yields and 28% said that a large portion of their fruit was infested with eggplant fruit and shoot borer (EFSB) larvae, which is not a concern with Bt brinjal because of its inherent resistance to EFSB. Because of higher yields, increased revenue, and better fruit quality, about three-quarters of Bt brinjal farmers said they planned to grow the crop again next season.

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A farmer harvests brinjal in Bangladesh.

Photo Source: Arif Hossain/  
Cornell Chronicle



# Plant Biotechnology

## Top 5 Biotech Crops Occupy 99% of Global Biotech Crop Area



In 2018, a total of 70 countries adopted biotech crops — 26 countries planted and 44 additional countries imported. Of the 31 crops approved for food, feed, and environmental release recorded at the ISAAA GM Approval Database, 13 crops have been planted in 26 countries in 2018. Five biotech crops planted in these countries occupy 99% of the global biotech crop area.

The five major biotech crops planted at more than 1 million hectares are soybeans (95.9 million hectares), followed by maize (58.9 million hectares), cotton (24.9 million hectares), canola (10.1 million hectares), and alfalfa (1.2 million hectares).

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