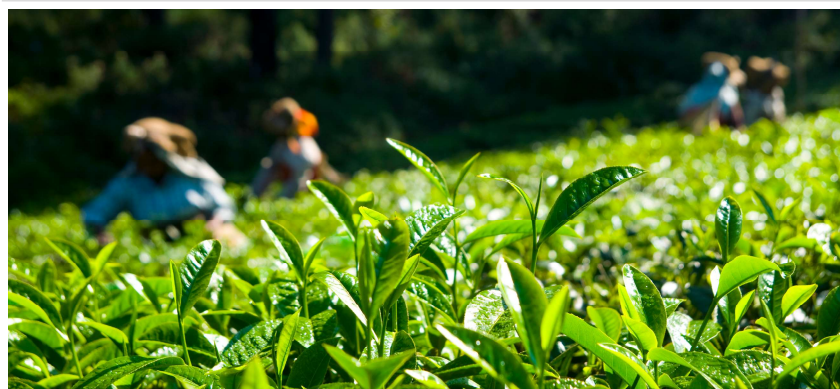


February
2021

Partners in Sustainable Agriculture
CROPLIFE AFRICA MIDDLE EAST



Editorial



● CropLife Africa Middle East embarks on digital technology in its activities

Dear Readers,

You have for many years received the monthly newsletter in PDF format. We are pleased to launch our first electronic edition incorporating a new design. This change is in line with our strategy to enhance communication within our network and beyond and to keep abreast of our changing environment.

The COVID 19 pandemic has brought the need to speed up the introduction of digital technology in our activities. Digital transformation is a route that more and more businesses are taking today. To continue to serve CropLife Africa Middle East members efficiently, we have embraced digital outreach approach and moved ahead to achieve our strategic objectives on Regulatory, Stewardship, Anticounterfeiting, Association Management and Communication.

For this, we are proud to share with our network a few examples of our achievements and ongoing projects. One of the lessons we learnt during the COVID 19 crisis, was the importance of a strong relationship and collaboration with our national association network. Through the engagement and coordination with our national associations, we will successfully continue to deliver value to serve our member's interests.

With the strengthening of our national association management and governance, we developed an E-module covering association management which is now available on the CropLife AME website. It is our hope that this module will provide a much-needed guideline to our network and will be a useful tool for both the Board and staff. I am also pleased to announce that other E-modules focusing on Regulatory capacity building will be launched soon.

We are aware that the expansion into the use of digital technologies has infiltrated farming activities. The use of digitalization in Stewardship Outreach was undertaken as a key project during 2020-2021 with the aim for expanding Stewardship outreach messaging to 1 million farmers by the end of 2021.

Moreover, we are cooperating with regulatory authorities to submit Crop Protection Products registration files electronically. I invite you to read the successful progress made by CropLife Egypt on e-submission in the regulatory section of this edition.

I would like to thank the national associations for their continued support in sharing articles that form part of the contents of the newsletter. CLAME will continue to share your success stories far and beyond the region.

Thank you for your cooperation

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Dr. Samira Amellal



Regulatory

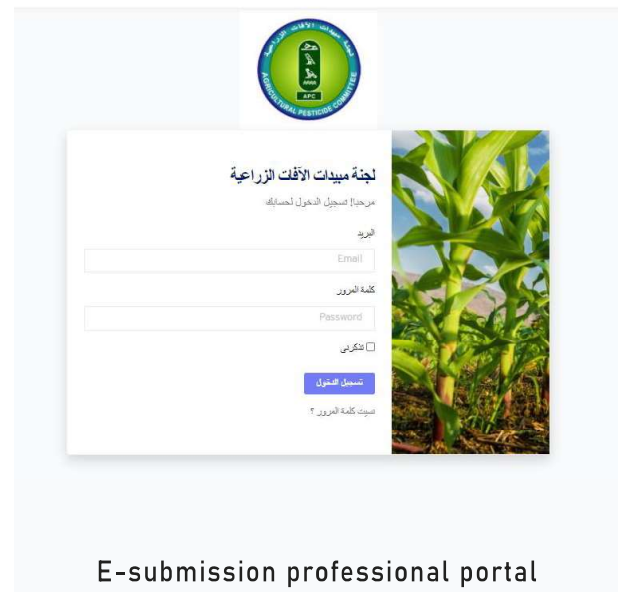
● E-submission portal in action, Egypt.

The Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC) started using the online E-submission portal offering a number of services for registered pesticide companies.

Companies are at the stage of collecting their account credentials which will enable them to log-in and submit online their requests related to their registered products under the services offered by the APC as part of the 1st phase.

A refresher training was conducted with CropLife Egypt member companies to facilitate using the online portal and to gauge their feedback from the information provided under the 1st phase.

The 2nd phase is expected to link more official stakeholders to the system and include more services by the APC to complete the cycle of the registration process.



E-submission professional portal

Mahmoud Siad



Mahmoud Said conducting a refresher training on portal features

Stewardship

● Malawi moves forward in developing an Empty Container Management Scheme

As background, CropLife Africa Middle East is embarking on the expansion of container management collection schemes in the region with plans for introducing three new pilot programs in 2021 and the further expansion rollout in an additional two countries.

With regard to Malawi, the planning for a pilot Empty Container Management (ECM) program commenced in 2016 through the Pesticides Risk Reduction Project (GCP/MLW/052/GFF) funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and co-financed by CropLife, FAO, and the Malawi Government. This covered supporting four technical components for the disposal of obsolete pesticides and the remediation of pesticide contaminated sites; strengthening of legislative and institutional framework; promoting the adoption of alternatives to chemical pesticides on key crops (IPM); and the management of empty pesticide containers. This was followed by a workshop in 2018 funded by CropLife Africa Middle East embracing all key stakeholders and supported by FAO. The ECM program met regulatory challenges because waste management legislation in Malawi classifies properly rinsed pesticide containers as hazardous. It was pleasing to note that more recently the Government of Malawi, through the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) granted a waiver, subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions in the handling of pesticide containers for the sake of the pilot project that the stakeholders are implementing.

The project acquired an industrial shredder to fragment the HDPE plastic containers into smaller pieces that will be utilized for further recycling and/or incineration. The current arrangement is to target the sugar, tea, macadamia and tobacco estates that have been exercising triple rinsing of pesticide containers and storing them in the hope that a sustainable disposal solution will be found. Once this backlog has been overcome the project will sensitize the smallholder farmer sector, suppliers and distributors to manage the value chain of these empty containers.



CropLife Malawi with the financial backing of CropLife Africa Middle East is the lead coordinator of the pilot program and will ensure that this operates in line with the plan developed by the partners. The pilot phase will be used as a learning platform on how empty pesticide containers should be handled for the safety of users and the environment. It is particularly pleasing to note that other CropLife Malawi member companies have also taken similar initiatives, and which complement the efforts to the current project. As an example, Farmers Organization Limited has established an EAD certified facility in Lilongwe to manage empty pesticide containers from its customers. Equally JTI Leaf Malawi has been managing empty containers since 2017 from its farmers through an arrangement whereby empty containers are aggregated, compacted and shipped back to the source of the pesticide supplier, in this case South Africa. The success of this pilot project will be a major step forward in environmental management and clearly demonstrates how stewardship practices can work.

Christopher Beya, CropLife Malawi



The shredder with a backup generator together with a pile of empty containers to be shredded



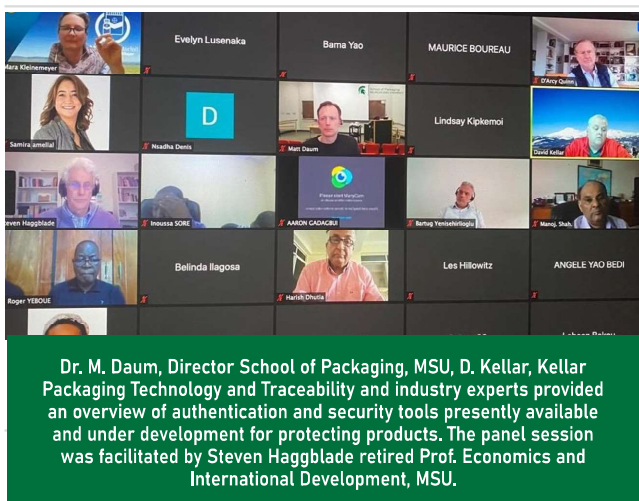
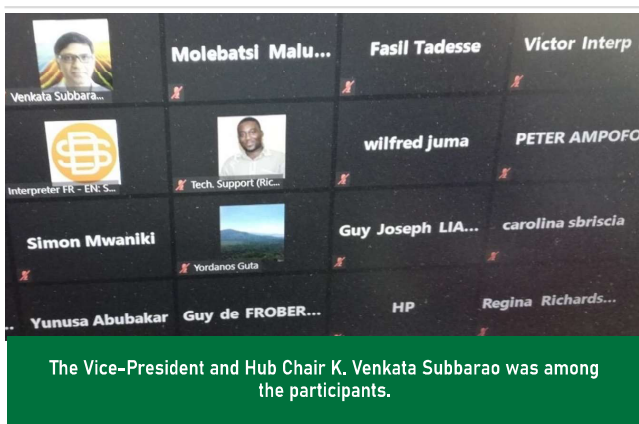
Anti-counterfeiting

● “Combating Illegal Pesticides, Protecting Farmers”

This was the theme of the Regional virtual Conference organized by CropLife Africa Middle East on February 24, 2021. The three panel sessions offered the opportunity for industry experts, farmers, regulatory and IP authorities together with academia and packaging technology experts to address the 98 participants on the issues the pesticide industry and farmers are facing with counterfeit and other illegal pesticides. The issues include the increasing volumes of illegal pesticides under the COVID-19 pandemic, the lack or weak collaboration among stakeholders and the lack or weak enforcement measures to counter illegal pesticides. This situation increases the risks and impact on farmer health, the environment, on agricultural productivity and production, and the overall economy of the countries impacted.

The discussions and subsequent recommendations were in line with the “Farmer Focus Program (FFP)” of CropLife Africa Middle East which aims at empowering farmers through awareness raising on the risks associated with illegal pesticides. This includes strengthening the capacity of farmers on the existing authentication and security tools and features as well as new technologies under development offered for brand protection by the IPR right holders. In addition, effective enforcement of deterrent measures and intensification of communication must be considered. All efforts must be considered under a collaborative multi-stakeholder approach involving the regulatory, IP and enforcement authorities, the pesticide industry and IPR right holders, the judiciary, all of whom must put the farmer as a key pillar.

Bama Yao



Association management

● CropLife Uganda elects new Executive Committee

On 12 January 2021, CropLife Uganda completed the election of a new Executive Committee which doubles as the Board of national association. The new Executive Committee will serve for 3 years during which they are required to meet the expectations of the national association's mandate in line with the association's Strategic Plan.

CropLife Uganda's current Strategic Plan was structured against 5 key objectives including:

- To build organizational capacity for effective service delivery.
- To build the capacity of stakeholders in the responsible use of crop protection products.
- To investigate and lobby for favourable policies, laws, regulations, and programs.
- To enhance the financial sustainability and competitiveness of the association.
- To promote public-private partnerships.

During their first meeting held at the CropLife Uganda office in Kampala, the team confirmed 4 subcommittees to support the Executive Committee in meeting the above objectives. The tasks of the subcommittees will include Regulatory issues, Policy and Standards, Institutional Development, Product Stewardship, and Partnerships. Comprehensive Terms of Reference have been developed for the respective subcommittees.

The Chairman, Solomon Seruwo provided an update on the status of the association's engagements with the Ministry of Agriculture, partners, and other stakeholders. He informed the meeting of the upcoming evaluation of the 2019/2021 Strategic plan and encouraged participants to prepare for the subsequent strategic planning cycle.



The meeting also reviewed anticipated projects including the project to support the domestication and implementation process of the East African Community Harmonised Pesticide Guidelines and the Stewardship Digitalization Outreach Project. Participants provided insights on the key success factors during project implementation and pledged their support.

The meeting closed with each participant undertaking to provide their best efforts to help position CropLife Uganda strategically and enhance the association's ability to deliver effectively and efficiently.

Betty Atto



CropLife Uganda's new Executive Committee 2021-2023

Association management

● CropLife Ghana appoints a new Program Manager



Rashad Kadiri, the newly appointed Program Manager of CropLife Ghana

Rashad Kadiri was appointed as the new Program Manager for CropLife Ghana as from February 01, 2021, to succeed the late Fred Boampong.

Prior to this appointment Rashad was the field officer with CropLife Ghana responsible for the Bono East Region under the SNV HortiFresh project since 2019. He has been closely associated with CropLife Ghana since 2013, either under contract or on behalf of allied organizations or projects in which CropLife Ghana was involved. He earlier held the position of Business Development Officer on the Agriculture Value Chain Mentorship Project (AVCMP) under the Ghana Agriculture Associations Business and Information Centre (GAABIC) where CropLife Ghana holds a membership. Here, his role was as the Cereal Market Analyst for Nitidae and Cereal Inter-Professional

Committee of Ghana, a member of the West African Grain Network, and as the Project Manager of Open Ghana an NGO in northern Ghana.

The Board of Directors and the executive team of CropLife Africa Middle East would like to welcome Rashad in his new role with CropLife Ghana.

Bama Yao

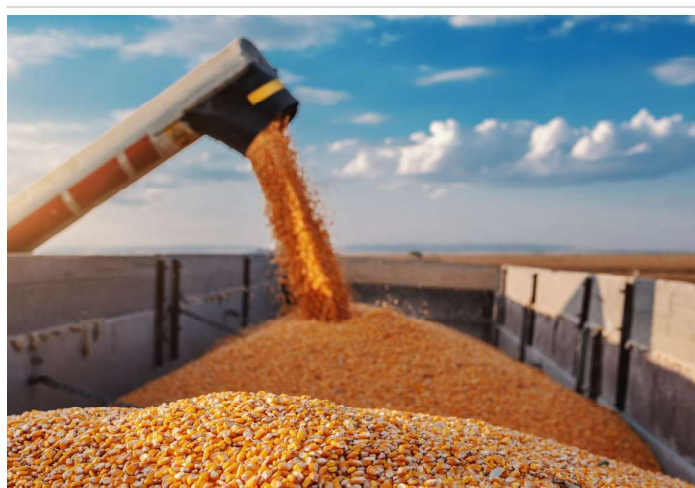
Plant Biotechnology

● 15-year Data Show GM Rapeseed, Soybean Do Not Affect Biodiversity in Japan's Ministry



Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) has conducted an annual survey for the past 15 years to monitor any effects genetically modified (GM) rapeseed and GM soybean have on the country's biodiversity. Their latest data showed that both GM crops are not likely to affect biodiversity. The survey started in 2006 and its annual conduct covers approximately 5km in radius from the GM crops' site. Both GM and non-GM crops were closely monitored and the leaves were analyzed to detect the presence of herbicide resistance genes and pesticide resistance genes. The latest data from 2020 exhibited that there were no crosses made between GM and wild soybeans, nor between GM soybeans with different resistance traits. For rapeseed, the Japanese government observed that the GM rapeseed spread the recombinant gene to other GM species with different genes or closely-related non-GM species in about 19% of the cases. However, the figure falls within the normal range of crossover rate and is thus considered not to have a significant biodiversity impact. MAFF also emphasized that the survey results gathered from 2006 to 2018 did not show any situation wherein the recombinant gene spread in rapeseed. The Ministry will continue to conduct studies on the impact of GM crops on biodiversity and the possible presence of any hybrids and further pursue a scientific understanding of the impact of GM crops in Japan, according to their report.

● Developing Countries Outperform Industrial Countries in GM Crop Adoption



Developing countries continued to plant more biotech crops in 2019, according to the ISAAA report on the Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2019. The report is now available on the ISAAA website. Developed countries used to plant more biotech crops since commercialization started in 1996 until in 2011, the global area of biotech crops was evenly distributed. In 2012, developing countries outperformed the developed countries continuously. In 2019, 56% of the global area of biotech crops were planted in developing countries. Of the 29 countries that adopted GM crops in 2019, 24 were developing and 5 were developed countries. Brazil, Argentina, and India led the developing countries in terms of biotech crop planting area in 2019.



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