Stewardship

• Changes within Sudan and the evolving role of SAGA (CropLife Sudan)

The revolution of December 2019 resulted in a number of positive changes for the country including:

• Sudan was delisted from the USA SST list and the lifting of the economic sanctions imposed.
• The commercial banks are now integrated into the international banking system.

With the above, financial support from international organizations including the IMF, World Bank, USAID, etc. is now possible, as is regional support. This has already led to the waiving of a considerable portion of the $60 billion debt and is encouraging investors with a focus on the huge agricultural resources of Sudan.

For the civilian-lead transitional government, agriculture is the first priority to retain its role as the backbone of the Sudanese economy and this is where SAGA’s role comes into play:

SAGA, in coordination with the National Pesticide Council (NPC) and other stakeholders will assist in clearing the major obsolete stocks issue in the country, take the lead in anti-counterfeit management, increase, and initiate more stewardship programs focusing on IPM and capacity building programs.

The pesticide market in Sudan is growing rapidly with the number of retail shops / agrodealers in cities and villages nearly doubling. According to the pesticides by-laws these retail outlets must be run by a trained person with experience in the management of pesticides. In this regard, SAGA made a proposal to the National Pesticide Council to develop and manage a training program for the Crop Protection Graduates to qualify and obtain a legal license to manage pesticides outlets. The proposal was accepted and is currently executed by the following entities:

• The National Pesticides Council
• The Agricultural Council
• The Faculty of Agriculture, University of Khartoum.

Two batches of candidates have already been trained covering more than 220 graduates with a third batch planned to be held shortly in the Gezira Area.

SAGA is now a member of the “HIGHER COMMITTE FOR AGRICULTURAL SEASONS SUPPORT” that follows up on the agricultural activities that the Committee formed and headed by HE the Prime Minister has put in place.

Mohamed Abdella Ali,
Chairman, SAGA
Stewardship

• Training of Trainers, Spray Service Providers – Ethiopia

The Training of Trainers took place from 26 - 30 July 2021, at the scenic town of Bishoftu, outside Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where 12 trainers from various parts of the country participated.

CropLife Ethiopia continuously works with a range of government and non-government partners to promote the responsible use of pesticides in the field. As part of this effort, CropLife Ethiopia has been training farmers to be Spray Service Providers (SSPs) in four major regional states of Ethiopia, namely, Oromia, Amhara, SNNP and Tigray. Normally trainers of SSPs have only been drawn from CropLife Ethiopia member companies. However, as our work expanded and at times due to the non-availability of trainers from member companies, CropLife Ethiopia with its major development partner, SNV-HortiLIFE, are required to undertake a ToT to increase the pool of trainers from different sectors of the agrochemicals industry including member companies.

Added to this, SSPs are currently trained in the context that they will only sell their services to farmers who grow vegetables and field crops. The new partnership with SNV HortiLIFE plans on addressing the increasing pest and disease challenges in fruit crops in major fruit production regions. This resulted in the training manual being revised in collaboration with SNV-HortiLIFE and CropLife Africa Middle East to enable SSPs to provide not only spray services but also fruit canopy management on four major fruit crops: Mango, Papaya, Avocado and Banana.

As a result, the ToT was conducted to acquaint trainers on the new training manual and the training approach that CropLife Ethiopia will follow for the training of SSPs that work on fruit crops in the SNV-HortiLIFE project and beyond.

This undertaking is part of the commitment towards stewardship activities and the responsible use in the handling of pesticides practiced by CropLife Ethiopia and its partner SNV-HortiLIFE.

Fasil Tadesse
CropLife Ethiopia
Stewardship

• Capacity Enhancement for coffee and vegetable producers in Cameroon

CropLife Cameroon (CM) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) of Cameroon undertook joint training workshops between July 03 and August 12 to enhance the capacity for pesticide handling in the coffee and vegetable sectors in four regions of the country. More than 170 participants who attended the sessions were mainly producers, and to a lesser extent trainers and agro-dealers.

The topics presented during sessions relate to IPM/RU-SU, PPE, container management and the calibration and maintenance of spraying equipment.

A special focus was on the illegal trade of pesticides and the associated risks on the health of the farming communities and the sustainability of the agricultural sector as a whole.

The participants were encouraged to be vigilant and cooperative in the fight against counterfeit and other illegal pesticides.

They were provided with the lists of registered pesticides for the specific crops and guidance to identify illegal pesticides focusing on the "3 Basic Questions" when purchasing pesticides.

C. Sonna, Executive Secretary
CropLife Cameroon
Stewardship

- **CropLife Egypt kicks-off Stewardship Digitalization Outreach campaign**

CropLife Egypt in cooperation with the Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC) commenced with its Stewardship awareness campaign through the use of SMS messaging to farmers. The messages include coverage on Responsible Use, transportation, storage, the hazards of counterfeit products and the importance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). They also cover advice on the benefits of scouting and pre-harvest intervals according to the season/crop timing.

The messages are directed at farmers listed on the APC, Farmer’s Syndicate in addition to target audiences provided by CropLife Egypt partners.

Mahmoud Said

- **Enhancing capacity for pesticide application in cashew sector in Côte d’Ivoire**

CropLife Côte d’Ivoire organized capacity enhancement workshops between 16 & 18 August for 131 pesticide applicators under the Professional Entrepreneurship Program for cashew production (Opérateurs Professionnels du Cajou, OPCA). The OPCA program is an important component of the cashew improvement plan launched by the government with the support of the World Bank. The OPCA recognizes pesticide use as key to improving cashew production.

The Interprofessional Funds for Research and Counseling in Agriculture (Fonds Interprofessionnel pour la Recherche et le Conseil Agricole, FIRCA) in charge of the implementation of OPCA selected CropLife Côte d’Ivoire to implement the pesticide use component.

The workshops were organized in three localities in the northern, central, and southwestern regions of the country and focusing on the main production areas of cashew. The pool of the trainers from CropLife Côte d’Ivoire, comprising of the technical agents from member companies and the Directorate of Plant Protection, Control and Quality (DPVCQ) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development facilitated the various sessions. Focus topics covered related to pests and diseases found in cashew, IPM/RU-SU, management of empty containers, PPE, pesticide regulations in Côte d’Ivoire. Also covered were the list of registered pesticides for pest and disease control in cashew, the risks of counterfeit and other illegal pesticides, calibration, and maintenance of application equipment.

These theoretical sessions will be followed by practical sessions on the selection and uses of PPE and the calibration of sprayers.

An evaluation of the participants will then be conducted followed by the presentation of certificates of participation to the participants.

R. Kanga, Vice-President CropLife Côte d’Ivoire.
Stewardship

- **Strengthening Cooperation for a Container Management Pilot Program in Ghana**

CropLife Ghana is expanding their container management pilot program with the support of CropLife Africa Middle East. The pilot program is being implemented in collaboration with GLOBALG.A.P. Farm Assurers. The empty pesticide container management program started in Ghana as early as 2009 with a pilot exercise in the Ashanti Region and with over 120 tons of empty pesticide containers having been collected since that time.

Through discussions with consultants of GLOBALG.A.P. Farm Assurers, container management is a "Major Must" in their audit program but unfortunately this has not always been fully appreciated amongst the fruit and vegetable farmers, more so the pineapple producers in the Central Region. To address this problem, CropLife Ghana is collaborating with GLOBALG.A.P. Farm Assurers to pilot a one-year Empty Container Management Program for the fruit and vegetable farmers in the Central Region of Ghana.

CropLife Ghana held a stakeholder meeting with consultants of GLOBALG.A.P. Farm Assurers on 27 July 2021 to discuss the major roles and responsibilities of both parties for the smooth implementation of the pilot program. The pilot program seeks to promote a better and wider public understanding and appreciation on the need for the responsible use of pesticides, disposal, and recycling of empty pesticide containers. Also, to discourage the use of empty pesticides containers for domestic, commercial, social, religious, and cultural activities and/or purposes. It further aims to reduce the rate of counterfeiting of crop protection products and to promote public-private partnerships for safe and responsible use of pesticides.

*Rashad Kadiri, Program Manager CropLife Ghana.*

Rashad Kadiri discussing with Kenneth Addy, a consultant of GLOBALG.A.P. Farm Assurers (Left) and Bob Adjakloe (Immediate right) on the implementation of the pilot program.
Stewardship

- **CropLife Egypt participates in an Online Workshop on agricultural best practices in managing pesticide residues within the prescribed international limits**

The comprehensive and sustainable development of the tomato value chain project organized by UNIDO as an online workshop on agricultural best practices in managing pesticide residues within the international limits, in cooperation with the Chamber of Food Industries and the Food Export Council, took place on 25 August 2021.

Said Abdella of CropLife Egypt led the 2nd session covering pesticide registrations in Egypt in addition to the activities undertaken by CropLife Egypt.

Mahmoud Said
Regulatory

• EAC Partner States Making strides in Implementation of EAC Harmonized Pesticides Guidelines

In the months of June, July and August, 2021, four workshops took place in four East African Community Partner States including the Republic of South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Burundi and Republic of Rwanda respectively. The workshops were aimed at sensitizing key stakeholders on the EAC harmonised pesticides guidelines and enhancing the capacity of officials in regulating pesticides.

The workshops, held physically with other participants joining virtually were jointly supported by USDA, AGRA and EAC within the ongoing project to advance the implementation of the EAC pesticides harmonised guidelines within the Partner States. The workshops were graced by officials from the EAC Secretariat, USDA, AGRA and the country officials from respective Ministries.

In the first event 10 officials from the Republic of South Sudan participated in a benchmarking visit to Kenya from June 27th to July 3rd 2021. During the visit, the officials were taken through various sessions on pesticides registration and management by Kenya’s PCPB experts covering:

• Pesticide law, PCPB mandate, structure registration procedures
• Dossier evaluation and completeness check
• Labelling, compliance and inspection
• ICT infrastructure set up, financing and sustainability
Regulatory

In the 3 remaining Partner States; United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Burundi and Republic of Rwanda, the workshops were held with the objectives of:

- Sensitizing stakeholders - private sector, policy makers regulators and other stakeholders on the details of the EAC pesticides harmonised guidelines.
- Stimulating private sector involvement in addressing the need for innovative products to cope with emerging pests and diseases under the EAC harmonized system.
- Enhancing the capacity of regulatory and policy officials in pesticide dossier evaluation and post registration monitoring.

The sessions covered by experts drawn from the EAC region and USDA-FAS were as follows:

- Overall introduction on Pesticide Regulation in Rwanda in relation to the EAC Guidelines
- Data requirements on physical chemical properties of technical grade
- Data requirements on physical chemical properties of formulated product
- Data requirements on fate and behaviour in the environment; air, soil and water
- Data requirements on Acute toxicity and Classification of products (Oral, dermal, inhalation, irritation, sensitization – Exercise)
- Data requirements on Chronic/long term toxicity
- Data requirements on ecotoxicology
- Facilitated exercise on Preparation of a Dossier summary form in respect of EAC guidelines (application completeness check, summary dossier form)
- Key aspects of post registration monitoring

In the United Republic of Tanzania, the workshop held on 28th -30th June 2021 at Hyatt Kilimanjaro Hotel, Dar Es Salaam. The Chief Guest Mr. Obadiah Nyangiro, Director of Policy and planning (DPP) at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, represented and delivered a speech on behalf of the Permanent Secretary. The DPP acknowledged support received from USDA, AGRA, CLAME, and the EAC secretariat and observed that implementation of the harmonized guidelines would ensure a cleaner environment with the export/trade requirements being met. He noted that human health effects associated with pesticides was a growing concern and advised that it is only through proper pesticide management that human, animal and environmental health will be assured. He noted that harmonization of pesticide registration would lower the cost of registration, ensure safer food and facilitate trade. Other officials who graced the workshop were representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director General, Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA), Mr. Fahari Marwa, EAC Secretariat, CropLife Tanzania and CropLife Africa Middle East.
In the Republic of Burundi, the Ministries of East African Community Affairs and Environment hosted the workshop held from July 21-23, 2021 to sensitize stakeholders on the EAC pesticides harmonized guidelines. The workshop saw the participation of over 25 participants drawn from various institutions including the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock and institutions working in the agricultural sector, the media, policy makers and private sector actors among others.

The workshop was officiated by Mr. Jean Claude NDUWAYO, on behalf of the PS, Ministry of EAC Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture, who encouraged participants that the harmonized directives of the East African Community on pesticides will allow the EAC PS to have a common vision on the management of pesticides and therefore protection of human health and the environment.

The Republic of Rwanda’s sensitization and capacity building workshop was held from August 10 – 12th, 2021 in Kigali, Rwanda bringing together stakeholders drawn from

- RICA/ Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority,
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MINAFFET).
- Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI).
- RAB/ Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB).
- RSB (Rwanda Standards Board).
- REMA (Rwanda Environment Management Authority).
- University of Rwanda/ College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (CAVM) and private sector.

Opening and closing remarks were delivered by Hon. Christopher Bazivamo, Deputy Secretary General, Productive and Social Sectors. He acknowledged all the participants, facilitators and partners in the project, AGRA, USDA and CropLife for the technical and financial support in the convening of all capacity building and sensitization workshops.
Regulatory

He lauded the remarkable progress made in the domestication and pilot testing of the guidelines in line with Directives of the Council of Ministers despite the setback occasioned by the Covid 19 pandemic. He also indicated that the 14th Session of the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security held in June, 2021 in Arusha extended the deadline for domestication of EAC harmonized guidelines on pesticides from 30th May 2020 to 30th June, 2022 to compensate for delays occasioned by the Covid 19 pandemic.

The EAC pesticides harmonised guidelines can be accessed at https://www.eac.int/documents/category/pesticides

Stella Simiyu, CLAME
ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

• CropLife Ghana Elects a new President

Peter Ampofo, Business Liaison Manager for Bayer West Central Africa has been elected as the President of the Executive Committee of CropLife Ghana. The election took place on July 29 during the General Assembly meeting of CropLife Ghana following the resignation of William Kotey who had earlier held this position.

Peter Ampofo has long been involved with CropLife Ghana and placed his experience at the disposal of the association since he joined the Bayer team some time back. This resulted in his nomination as an Executive Committee Member and later as the Chairman of the Technical Committee to support CropLife Ghana with the expertise needed. This started by exploring innovative ways to deal with product stewardship, brand protection, empty container management and the fight against counterfeiting, all with the cooperation of the Ghana Environment Protection Agency (EPA).

Peter is open to innovative ideas and is dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture in Ghana and West Africa, making CropLife Ghana more visible and advocating for innovative policies with the regulatory bodies for the benefit of the members of the association.

In this direction, he and his team are committed to ensuring compliance to the CropLife Ghana Code of Conduct and in line with the saying, “Charity begins at home”.

Rashad Kadiri, Program Manager CropLife Ghana.
Plant Biotechnology

• Golden Rice Now Approved for Commercial Planting in the Philippines

The Philippines has approved Golden Rice, a rice variety genetically engineered to contain additional levels of beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. The Philippine Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI) announced that a biosafety permit for propagating the Golden Rice has been issued on July 21, 2021.

Golden Rice is engineered to provide up to 50 percent of the estimated average requirement (EAR) for vitamin A of young children, the age group most susceptible to VAD in the Philippines. Around one in five children from the poorest communities in the Philippines suffer from vitamin A deficiency (VAD), a condition affecting an estimated 190 million children worldwide. The condition is the most common cause of childhood blindness and a contributing factor to a weakened immune system.

Dr. John C. de Leon, Executive Director of the DA-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) said the permit states that Golden Rice has "undergone satisfactory biosafety assessment pursuant to the Joint Department Circular No.1, Series of 2016". With this permit, De Leon said that Golden Rice can now be planted for commercial production, though it still needs varietal registration by the National Seed Industry Council.

Golden Rice has already received food safety approvals in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States of America, but the Philippines is the first country to approve commercial cultivation. Golden Rice is also currently undergoing final regulatory review in Bangladesh.

First conceived by Professors Ingo Potrykus and Peter Beyer in the late 1980s, IRRI became the first licensee of the scientists' work in 2001. Golden Rice is part of the Healthier Rice Project carried out by DA-PhilRice in partnership with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Genetically engineered eggplant known as Bt eggplant has been approved for food or feed consumption by the Philippine Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI).

Bt eggplant event EE-1 is resistant to eggplant fruit and shoot borer, the most destructive pest of eggplant. It was developed by experts from the Institute of Plant Breeding of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, making it the first Filipino biotech product. A commercial planting approval is necessary before farmers in the Philippines can avail themselves of the benefits of the Bt crop. These benefits include less dependence and exposure to insecticides, improved marketable yield, better income, and peace of mind for farmers.

According to the University of the Philippines’ statement about the Bt eggplant field trials, the Bt eggplant project is a priority project of the state university with its pro-people and pro-environment agenda.

The researchers conducted the research following the biosafety requirements and guidelines implemented in the country Thus, DA-BPI issued the biosafety permit for direct use as food, feed, or for processing.
Plant Biotechnology

• Golden Rice Now Approved for Commercial Planting in the Philippines

Livestock producers and animal feed manufacturers have asked the Kenyan Government to allow the importation of duty-free genetically modified (GM) yellow maize and soybeans to cushion against a countrywide shortage of major ingredients used in manufacturing animal meals.

The Association of Kenya Feed Manufacturers (AKEFEMA), the country’s umbrella body for livestock feed producers, has urged the Government to review and vacate its Cabinet memo of 2012 which banned the importation of GM foods into the country. The ban, the association said, has led to the shortage of feed ingredients pushing production costs to the brink and negatively impacting the country’s livestock feed industry.

Through their Secretary-General Martin Kinoti, the manufacturers expressed concern that Kenya does not produce reasonable quantities of soybeans, sunflowers, or cotton whose by-products – soybean and sunflower meals as well as cottonseed cake – are major sources of protein in animal feed production. “The shortage has resulted to a sharp rise in the cost of sunflower and cottonseed cake, soybean, wheat bran and maize germ, which are key components in the manufacturing of feeds, which has significantly increased the cost of dairy meal, chick and layers mash in the market,” said Kinoti.

Kenya relies on the import of sunflower seed cake from Tanzania while soybean is imported from Uganda, Malawi, and Zambia to satisfy the raw material needs of the industry. However, a recent directive by the Government of Zambia suspending the export of soybean meal and sunflower seed cake has exacerbated the feed shortage in Kenya. “Since Zambia is one of the main source markets for Kenya, the price of the little available soybean has moved up by over 30 percent resulting in an acute rise in the cost of producing feeds,” lamented AKEFEMA chairman Joseph Karuri.

The manufacturers warned that the livestock feed-manufacturing sector faces imminent collapse with its revival pegged on lifting the long-standing ban on importation of GM foods to allow raw materials from the United States, Brazil, Argentina, and other countries which produce more than sufficient GM soybean bean, yellow corn, and Bt cotton.

They said there is no justifiable scientific basis for sustaining the ban. “The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) has given its expert advice and assurance on the safety of these products for livestock feed manufacturers.”
Croplife Africa Middle East
International Association AISBL
Rue Theodore de Cuyper 100
B-1200 Brussels

www.croplifeafrica.org

Croplife Africa Middle East
@CroplifeAME