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Partners in Sustainable Agriculture
CROPLIFE AFRICA MIDDLE EAST



Editorial

- **The importance of Personal Protection when using pesticides in hot climates**



Pesticides must be handled with respect and certain basic precautions followed. In some situations, additional items of protective clothing may be required to ensure safety. Such details will be found on the relevant product labels.

It is recognized that there are greater challenges in wearing additional items of protective clothing in hot and humid climates as this may cause some discomfort.

There are three routes by which pesticides can enter the body: via the mouth (oral), the skin (dermal) and by breathing into the lungs (inhalation). In most operations with pesticides, exposure to the skin is the most likely route of contamination due to spillage, splashes, or spray contact.

The FAO Guidelines for PPE recommend that when pesticides are used, at the very least, **long-sleeved shirts, long trousers, boots, socks and chemical-resistant gloves** should be worn, even if the label does not require any PPE. As a minimum precaution and to reflect real-life situations in Low to Middle Income Countries LMIC, users should wear lightweight work clothing that covers most of the body, such as a long-sleeved shirt, long trousers, a hat, chemical-resistant gloves and boots that do not absorb spray". **The hands** are some of the most likely parts of the body to be exposed to pesticides, **so wearing gloves is considered the minimum level of protection**. Gloves can significantly reduce exposure to pesticides. Non-absorbent, chemical-resistant gloves are an important part of PPE, especially for handling concentrated pesticide and preparing spray mixtures.

CropLife Africa Middle East has always emphasised the importance of PPE in their responsible use training programs and have ensured that all Spray Service Providers are fully equipped with a complete set of PPE on completion of their training programs. PPE was covered in the digital outreach message programs in 2020 and will again be re-enforced in the upcoming programs in 2021.

Les Hillowitz
Stewardship Director
Africa Middle East
Region

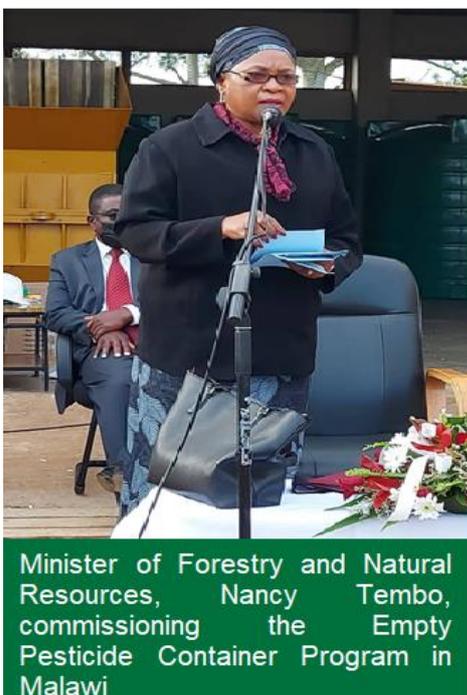


Stewardship

• Launch of the Empty Pesticide Container Program in Malawi

On 11 June, the Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources, Nancy Tembo officially commissioned the launch of the Empty Pesticide and Industrial Container Management pilot program in Malawi which took place at the PCB premises at the Bvumbwe Research Station.

The program hopes to dispose of the approximately 300 tons of empty plastic pesticide containers that Malawi accumulates annually. Speaking at the Bvumbwe Research Station in Thyolo, the Minister said that strengthening end-of-cycle management of pesticides will reduce environmental risks associated with the poor management of empty pesticide containers in rural and urban areas. She said: “most importantly the project will protect our smallholder farmers who are always at risk as most of them re-use these pesticide containers as drinking water or storage buckets without knowing the risks associated with this”. During the event, the Minister also launched a state-of-the-art shredding plant for plastic pesticide containers for Malawi.



Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources, Nancy Tembo, commissioning the Empty Pesticide Container Program in Malawi



Dr George Phiri, FAO representative

In his remarks, the FAO representative, George Phiri commended that the initiative is of great significance to the country's agro-based economy, adding that a recent feasibility study conducted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in the country revealed that 80 percent of used pesticide containers are recyclable. He said the launch of the scheme will make the global market “open up a bit more to Malawian products” as international markets demand proof of pesticide stewardship along the pesticide lifecycle up to pesticide waste disposal. He went on to say that strengthening such end-of-cycle management of pesticides will help improve the marketability of agricultural produce and improve market opportunities.

The unit will start operating in the southern, central and northern regions of the country in that order, probably starting with the stockpiles held at commercial estates in the sugar and macadamia/tea sectors, such as Illovo Sugar. Before the start of this shredding process certification is required from the Department of Environmental Affairs (EAD). CropLife Malawi together with the EAD will develop a schedule for the recycling of the shredded materials across Malawi.

Christopher Beya, CropLife Malawi



Stewardship

• CropLife Nigeria SSP Training in Kano State, Nigeria under the APPEALS Project

CropLife Nigeria trained 28 farmers as Spray Service Providers (SSPs) and 13 Extension officers under the APPEALS project in Kano State from 21-25 June 2021. The project, which is a joint “Agro Processing, Productivity Enhancement and Livelihood Improvement Support” project (APPEALS) is funded by the World Bank. The project is in line with the Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP) 2016-2020 of the Federal Government of Nigeria, also known as the Green Alternative, which was built on the legacy of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) and plans to support thrusts on Food Security, Local Production, Job Creation and Economic Diversification.

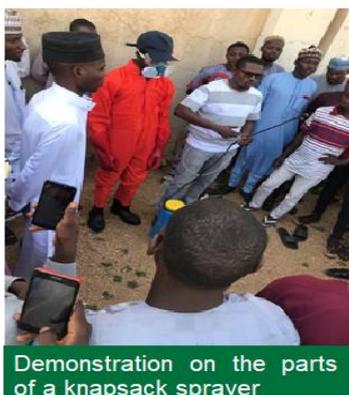
The SSP training took place in the Tarauni Local Government of Kano State, north-western part of Nigeria. The farmers selected were from over 10 communities among the beneficiary farmers of the APPEALS World Bank Project. They received training on the responsible use in the handling pesticides as certified SSPs.

The 13 Extension Officers from the Kano State APPEALS Project received the training along with the SSPs with the view of cascading down the training to farmers. This in line with the guidance and practices necessary to reduce the risks associated with poor handling and contamination of pesticides and the improvement of crop yields together with the protection of the environment. The training took place from 21- 25 June 2021.

It was a notable experience that the farmers trained shared several sad stories on the effects of poor handling and storage where many incidences took place due to lack of knowledge on the proper handling of the pesticides. The toxicological band, counterfeit and illegal pesticides emerged as the topics of most interest from the training evaluation, and this will definitely help in reducing of use of counterfeit pesticides and support the use of lower hazardous products.

The Training was facilitated by Adigun Babajide and Muhsin Gambo Lawal, of CropLife Nigeria.

Adigun Babajide, CropLife Nigeria



Demonstration on the parts of a knapsack sprayer



Group photo of SSPs holding their certificate of attendance and record register



Demonstration on the wearing of PPE



Stewardship

Strengthening Cooperation for sound Pesticide Supply to Farmers in Côte d'Ivoire

Between May 31 and June 04, CropLife Côte d'Ivoire (CI) and Le Bureau Norme Audit (BNA) organized the second session of the IPM/RU training workshop under a joint capacity building initiative aimed at professionalizing and improving the pesticide supply services to farmers. The workshop which was funded by the Funds for the Development of Training (Fonds pour le Développement de la Formation Professionnelle, FDFP) attracted 107 trainees comprising of 23 dealers, 57 applicators and 27 counsellors. Many of the participants were seeking certification from the Pesticide Committee while others were seeking the renewal of their certification.

The 10 modules were facilitated by trainers from CropLife CI and the plant protection directorate (DPVCQ) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Following the theoretical and practical sessions, the participants undertook the required evaluation tests. The 103 participants who passed the test comprised of 23 dealers, 57 applicators and 23 counsellors. Each of the 103 were then presented with a certificate of participation and a full set of PPE.



Practical exercises on calibrating sprayers (L) and on fumigation (R).

During the closing ceremony chaired by Mrs. Angele Yao Epouse Bédi, Director of the DPVCQ, Mrs. Olga Kouassi, Director General of BNA and Benson Niankoury, President of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire, congratulated the participants for their diligent participation in the various exercises during the training, and for the expected professionalism during their future work to service the farming communities. They also took the opportunity to thank the FDFP once again for funding the joint initiative by BNA and CropLife CI initiative. They agreed on strengthening their cooperation and engage in joint training programs in the various crop sectors, to support the professionalization of the pesticide supply chain and ensure that farmers have access to quality pesticides and services.

FDFP is a parastatal agency responsible for the funding of training activities for private sector companies as they are liable to a special training tax.

R. Yeboué & B. Yao



Participants (L) eagerly listening to the officials (R) during the closing ceremony



Association Management

• CropLife Egypt's participation in the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Egypt's Food System.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, will convene the Food Systems Summit (FSS) in September 2021 as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. This will be a broad vision to launch actions, solutions and strategies and identify pathways to accelerate progress towards more sustainable, inclusive, and healthy food systems that are resilient to shocks like the COVID-19. The FSS has five objectives which are translated into five action tracks and cross-cutting issues.

1. Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all
2. Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
3. Boost Nature Positive Production at Sufficient Scale
4. Improving equitable livelihoods
5. Building resilient systems that withstand shocks and stresses

These five Action Tracks are supported by cross-cutting issues, including finance; policy; science & innovation; indigenous knowledge; empowerment of women, young people, and marginalized groups.

CropLife Egypt was invited to participate at the National dialogue on 7 July and took part in discussions with other stakeholders from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment regarding the 3rd Action Track (Boost Nature Positive Production at Sufficient Scale).

Mahmoud Said



Opening speech from Ministry of Exterior



Prof. Dr. Hend Abdella (Head of QCAP) and Mahmoud Said



Recorded speech from UN for Egypt



Association Management

- **Please Welcome Mr. Onesmo Kenneth the New Executive Manager at CropLife Tanzania**



Onesmo is an agricultural development expert with over 15 years of experience working in various agricultural value chains including horticulture, cereals, dairy, oilseeds, aquaculture, just to mention a few. In so doing, Onesmo has offered various services to different value chain stakeholders including Business Development Services (BDS), fundraising and project management services, policy and government engagement, Organizational capacity support and stakeholder engagements. Regarding crop protection, Onesmo has interacted with the regulatory framework for pesticides in Tanzania especially the review process of the Plant Protection Act of 1997 in which the horticultural industry engaged the government to a fast-track registration of more than 330 plant protection products. He was also involved in the engagements with the government to allow the first field trials for Biological Control Agents in Tanzania despite the regulatory hurdles that existed then. With the vast knowledge of the industry, many years of field experience and wide network of stakeholders, the CropLife Tanzania Board is optimistic that Onesmo will be instrumental in giving a new life to the organization.

Harish Dhutia
Chairman
CropLife Tanzania



Association Management

• CropLife Morocco holds AGM

On Tuesday, June 15th, 2021, CropLife Morocco members held their annual general assembly for the 2020 fiscal year, under the chairmanship of Mohamed Chetouani and in the presence of Samira Amellal, Director General of CropLife AME, at the Palmeraie Country Club of Bouskoura. The formality followed in the election of new office bearers.

Following the approval of the agenda the assembly were presented with the following:

1. Presentation of a "clean audit" for the year 2020
2. Presentation of the management report for the year 2020
3. Presentation of the financial report for the year 2020

Discharge was given to the members of the outgoing executive committee for all activities and accounting transactions recorded during the financial year beginning on January 1st, 2020 and ending on December 31st, 2020.

After discussions, the General Assembly unanimously decided to reappoint the same current members with their respective functions as follows:

Membre	Fonction	Société
Mohamed Chetouani	President	BASF
Mounir Sefiani	Vice-President	Amaroc
Rida Bouftass	Vice-President	Promagri
Fayçal El Houssaini	Secretary-general	Alfachimie
Ibrahim El Ouafi	Deputy Secretary-General	SAOAS
Nabil Sedrati	Treasurer	SIPP
Mahfoud Jalab	Deputy Treasurer	Socaprag
Axel D'Hauthuille	Assessor	Syngenta
Jean Baptiste Boulay	Assessor	BAYER
Karim Ben Brahim	Assessor	Marbar Chimie
Mohamed Miloudi	Assessor	Agrimatco
Ahmed Badaoui	Assessor	Soprochiba
Mohamed Benslimane	Assessor	CPCM



Plant Biotechnology

• **Biotech a Tenable Solution to Addressing Hunger in Africa, Experts Say**

Agricultural experts continue to call for increased adoption of crop biotechnology citing it as one of the key tools required to address the growing food demand as well as other challenges that the world continues to face.



During a webinar on biotechnology as a tenable solution to address hunger in Africa organized by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), the experts expressed concern that the more we delay adoption of the technology, the more the continent's farmers continue to lose out on its benefits. The dilemma has been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic situation where it has emerged that more than ever before, adoption and implementation of the technology is prudent and a delay of this is much more expensive.

ISAAA AfriCenter Director Dr. Margaret Karembu, for instance, indicated that the pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption of production and distribution of food thus raising the continent's food insecurity further. She explained that as a result, there is a need to facilitate the transition of biotech crops in research and development pipelines to commercial levels so that farmers are able to access them. "We need to trust science and the application of science-based efficient regulations which are key if we have to mitigate losses that delayed decision-making at the regulatory level has cost farmers," said Dr. Karembu. According to Godwin Lemgo, the Regulatory Affairs Manager (Africa) at Bayer Crop Science, political goodwill and the governments' commitment is a key

policy and regulation enabler for stimulating the adoption and deployment of biotech across Africa. "To be able to effectively adopt crop biotechnology, we need risk-proportionate science-based policies that provide process clarity, data requirement, and harmonization, confidential business information protection, liability redressing systems for encouraging the deployment of the technologies and predictable decision-making processes," asserted Lemgo.

AATF's PBR cowpea project manager Dr. Abdourhamane Issoufou Kollo observed that Africa bears the heaviest brunt of food insecurity saying this calls for more government support and intervention. "We have very good and able scientists who can do the job but we need more funding for research and development especially in biotechnology," he appealed.

Research findings indicate that reduced pesticide use, increased global farm income, reduced global carbon emission, and improved global food production continue to be realized with the adoption of biotech tools.

• **GM Maize Adoption Increases by 31% Every Year in the Philippines, Benefiting More Resource-poor Farmers**

Filipino farmers have planted 835,000 hectares of genetically modified (GM) maize in 2019, with an increase of 31.24% every year for 17 years, according to an economic assessment of GM maize adoption in the Philippines conducted by experts from the University of the Philippines Diliman.

GM maize was approved for commercial planting in 2002. By 2019, a third of all Filipino maize farmers or about 460 thousand families were planting GM maize. The total welfare gain from adopting GM maize reached US\$189.4 million. This indicates a significant improvement in the income of farming families. Furthermore, resource-poor farming families were found to benefit more from GM technology than high-income farming families.



Plant Biotechnology

Kenya approves GM cassava resistant to brown streak disease

The Kenya News Agency National Biosafety Authority gave commercial approval for GM cassava after "a rigorous and thorough review" that accounted for food, feed, and environmental safety assessment, and socio-economic issues



Authority Unveils Disease Resistant Cassava Variety

The Kenya National Biosafety Authority (NBA) has approved the release of genetically modified (GM) cassava that was resistant to common diseases in the tropical environment.

The new species dubbed 'event 4046' that was developed by the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and found to be resistant to Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) during the trials.

The new variety hits the market after NBA Board approved the use on the 18th June 2021 upon completion of the mandatory requirements and reviews in accordance with the country's Biosafety Act.

KALRO, Director General, Eliud Kireger in a press statement said Kenyan scientists developed the CBSD-resistant cassava varieties using event 4046 under regulated field trial conditions authorized by NBA.

"The approval paves way for conducting national performance trials of these varieties before registration and release of the new variety to farmers", he said.

The DG explained that the approval was valid for five (5) years from the date of authorization.

According to NBA's Chief Executive Officer, Prof. Dorrington Ogoyi, the decision was arrived at following a rigorous and thorough review, taking into account food, feed, and environmental safety assessment as well as consideration of socio-economic issues.

The review process also factored public input during a 30 days' collation of views, in line with the Kenyan constitution that calls for public participation", he said.

Dr. Kireger said this is a welcome decision and a significant step to getting disease-resistant cassava into the hands of Kenyan farmers to address food security challenges.

"We thank the NBA and all those who participated in the review for their diligent consideration of the Application", the DG said.

The approved cassava event 4046 was developed using modern biotechnology and evaluated over a period of five years in confined field trials in three different locations including Mtwapa (Kilifi), Kandara (Murang'a) and Alupe (Busia).

According to KALRO, the new variety has shown high and stable resistance against CBSD, a disease that can result to 100 percent loss of usable storage roots in severe infection.

Dr. Kireger noted that the extensive review by the NBA, including input from public consultations and relevant government agencies as mandated by law, confirms that the GM cassava is as safe as conventional varieties for food, feed, and the environment.

The disease-resistant cassava, he explained was developed under the Virus Resistant Cassava for Africa Plus (VIRCA Plus) project, a collaborative program between KALRO, the National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI) of Uganda, and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center (DDPSC).

Last year in November, Kenyan farmers finally started planting biotech cotton after the Cabinet approved the commercial cultivation of Bt cotton in an effort to revive the cotton industry, boost textile and apparel manufacturing.

The Bt maize is also expected to be commercialized by 2022 if it is approved by Kenya's relevant government agencies, this is after its trials were finalized.





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