



From the Director General's Desk

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2022, a collection of news that brings to life our work for the plant science industry in Africa Middle East, our people, and our associations. Walk back with us through the first quarter of 2022 and experience the plant science industry's commitment to sustainability in everything we do.

2022 has been busy as we continue to champion the role of innovation in crop protection and plant biotechnology through projects and impact-driven commitments to support and advance sustainable farming.

We hope you enjoy reading them as much as our partners, associations and colleagues enjoyed putting them together for you.

As we progress, we will continue to drive conversations and advocacy around the FARM TO FORK STRATEGY, the EU policy for setting Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs), and accepting import tolerance levels, to enable our farmers to continue to access markets, supporting sustainable agriculture in our region.

Our aim is to support the EU's ambitions by helping find adapted sustainable solutions in both Europe, Africa and the rest of the world.

We champion the role of innovations in crop protection and plant biotechnology to support and advance sustainable farming. We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress in support of these ambitions through our ongoing engagement and in our future newsletters.

Read our stories on how we are making an impact... ENJOY!

PS: Don't forget to give us feedback on our newsletter



Dr Samira Amellal

Director General
CropLife Africa Middle East

Engage with us here:



Quarter 1 Highlights



REGULATORY

130 Industry Reps Trained in Good Agriculture Practices in Egypt



ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

7 Companies and 22 National Associations



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Euractiv and 7th EU-Africa Business Forum 2022 (EABF22) Events



STEWARDSHIP

Digital Tools used to reach 1.0 million farmers



BIOTECH

GM crops in the EU could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33 million tons of CO2 equivalents per year



TO PPE or NOT TO PPE? That is the question many wrestle with.

Find out what the external PPE landscaping study revealed...

A Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) landscape assessment was undertaken in Kenya as part of the SPMF program. This was an internal diagnosis to determine the constraints to PPE use. It focused on supply, demand, and behaviour change issues.

A consultant from an external firm conducted desk research and in-depth interviews with key stakeholders from Kenya, including CropLife team members, academics, researchers, staff of member companies, regulators, and others working in outreach and stewardship in Kenya.

The findings showed that:

- 1.Smallholder farmers typically wear a vest or shirt and long trousers when applying pesticides.
- 2.Some farmers prefer to use their regular everyday clothes for this activity, while others wear older, tattered clothes.
- 3.Most smallholder farmers use a knapsack sprayer for pesticide application, and knapsack sprayers are prone to malfunctioning nozzles that cause dermal exposure.
4. According to the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) survey conducted in 2019, farmers reported using only 40% of the recommended PPE items.
- 5.The most used PPE item is gumboots, which are both affordable and easily available.
- 6.Masks and goggles are the least used PPE items. Farmers use PPE for reasons other than safety. For example, jackets may be worn for protection from dampness from leaked spray tanks; hats for protection from the sun; gumboots for ease of movement, etc.
- 7.Smallholder farmers find it easier to use accessible household items, rather than buy “formal” PPE. Items such as lab coats, plastic covers, and workshop overalls are often worn over their clothes to avoid getting wet and minimise exposure while spraying.
- 8.Some farmers even use plastic bags on their hands instead of gloves.
- 9.Even though regulators and member companies officially recommend that farmers read the pesticide label for guidance on which PPE to use, most experts recognise that formal PPE is not always readily available or affordable. According to many experts interviewed, farmers should be provided with guidelines for minimum PPE requirements, including easy to find, low-cost everyday items that could be used as protective gear.

The study confirms that the wearing of PPE by smallholder farmers is a thorny issue however there is consensus that the minimum requirements for protection are set out in the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Guidelines and determined on the product label. CropLife has formed a working group to address the insights and recommendations gleaned from the survey.

For more info, email Les@croplifeafrica.org

In the field



Collaboration in Morocco to boost exports, quality and sustainable production

CropLife Morocco organised a field visit for the Association of Fruit and Vegetable Exporting Producers, and key players including Toubkal, COPAG, COMAPRIM and AGROTECH. The aim of the visit was to:

1. Help producers overcome challenges they encounter in the production of fruit and vegetables
2. Enable producers to implement sustainable farming strategies
3. Promote sustainable use of pesticides
4. Improve the quality of Moroccan exports to European markets



From left to right: M. Thami Ben Halima, Mme Laila Outajer, Mme Khadija Demnati (AgroTech) – M. Youssef Saïou (Union des Coopératives Plastique Sous) – M. Jamal Gouzouli (GIE Valorisation Sous) – M. Ahmed Chandarrou (BET ICES).



Cooperation to set up a pilot programme of container management.



Tanzania: Hon. Hussein Bashe urges closer collaboration with Plant Science industry

Hon. Minister Hussein Bashe, Tanzania Minister for Agriculture, expressed the need for the Plant Science Industry, government, and private sector to collaborate closely to improve food security in Tanzania.

He did so during a meeting held recently in Dodoma, Tanzania on 18 February 2022, attended by CropLife Tanzania, the Director-General for Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) and members of the pesticide industry in Tanzania.

Public-Private partnerships will address pertinent issues affecting the agricultural industry in Tanzania. The issues include the need for trained personnel in the agro-dealerships to be selling pesticides to farmers and the creation of more jobs, local trials, stewardship, good agricultural practices, product imports, product registration, research and development, and fast-tracking plant science's policy agenda.

As a way forward, a small task force was created to address the identified challenges in the industry. The CropLife Tanzania Technical Working Group for Policy and Regulatory Issues will represent the private sector in the task force.

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AFRICA SPEAKS at the Euractiv event themed Sustainable agriculture transformation agenda for Africa – Empowering farmers and building food security sustainably

CropLife Africa Middle East (CLAME) organised an online workshop in collaboration with Euractiv to discuss how Africa can transition sustainably towards greener agriculture. The event was a prelude to the Africa Europe week, held from February 17-18 at the EU-Africa Union Summit at which African and European Heads of State and Government met to determine joint priorities for their common future.



1. Theo de Jager, President, World Farmers' Organisation.

"We see ourselves, African farmers, as the agents for modernisation, commercialisation, digitalisation of agriculture, because agriculture is a business and the business must be profitable. And for that we need to be competitive."



2. Joachim Schuster, MEP, Vice Chair of D-ZA, European Parliament.

"Investment in climate is very important because we also need private investment in Africa to support reproductive structures, but at the same time we need an increasing public investment, because we have a lack of infrastructure, renewable energy."



3. Timothy Njagi, Research Fellow, Development Economist, Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development.

"We should be able to look at Africa as a common market, and even if we are doing that, we must still promote the productivity related to interventions so that we can produce competitively."



4. Dr Samira Amellal, Director General, CropLife Africa Middle East.

"Impact assessments of policy proposals should be conducted. Both parties are striving to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Policies suited to the needs of one will not necessarily be suited to that of the other. Talking about limiting access to crop protection in a continent where most farmers don't use agrochemicals does not resonate with the local reality."



5. John Clarke, Director, International, DG AGRI, European Commission.

"We want to empower small holders to become more professional through trainings and the creation of cooperatives. The second thing we are doing in the partnership with Africa is the policy dialogue at ministerial level between European and African ministers."

If you missed the event, click the link below:

[Sustainable agriculture transformation agenda for Africa - YouTube](#)

2022 Annual Workplan adopted at the CropLife Cameroon 36th AGM

During its 36th Annual General Meeting held on March 10 in Douala, Cameroon CropLife Cameroon adopted its 2022 Annual Workplan.

The 2022 annual workplan focuses on strengthening the capacity of professionals, especially the supply chain with dealers. This will ensure farmers receive quality and authentic products. In Sub-Saharan Africa, where inputs are hard to come by, this is of paramount importance.

President Jean Biakath, in his introductory remarks covered various programs delivered in 2021, particularly Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) related to MRL issues, combating counterfeit and other illegal pesticides, and the strengthening of collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER).

At the event, Abel Eitel Mandengue was elected as Vice-President of the association. Tributes were paid to Henri Fosso, the association's Honorary and former President, along with C. Sonna, CropLife Cameroon Executive Secretary.

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(Above photo): Listening carefully to detailed reports of activities by the respective project teams of the association.



(Above photo): During the discussions.



(Above photo): Group photo of the participants

7th EU-Africa Business Forum 2022

CropLife Africa Middle East (CLAME) participated at the 7th EU-Africa Business Forum 2022 (EABF22) co-organised by the European Commission, the African Union Commission, as well as EU and African business organisations. CLAME had an online booth and hosted an online workshop to discuss the promotion of investment in the next generation of farmers for resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.

The session explored how the partnership can deliver for both continents, what the Green Deal means, explored the context of farming Africa, and focused on how the partnership can deliver improved opportunities for young farmers and improved food systems. It explored what a localised green transition in Africa could look like in a way that empowers young farmers.



CropLife Nigeria has a new President



David Achimugu new President of CropLife Nigeria

David Achimugu, Managing Director and CEO of DOA Integrated Platform Limited/Vancol CropCare Ltd is the new President of CropLife Nigeria. He was elected at the Annual General Meeting, held on February 17, 2022. In this role, David will support CropLife Nigeria to continue to drive its vision and purpose to advance innovation in agriculture for a sustainable future and play a leading role in enabling sustainable food systems.

Besides serving in top management positions for agricultural and allied companies in Nigeria and Ghana, David has vast agronomic experience. David has held a range of leadership positions in agricultural and allied companies in Ghana and Nigeria, rising from Area Leaf Manager to District Leaf Manager with Nigerian Tobacco Company, a subsidiary of British-American Tobacco Company from 1986 to 1990. He then joined Rhone-Poulenc, Nigeria Limited as Manager, Sales and Marketing of Crop Protection Products (CPPs). In 1993, he joined Candel Company Limited as a Product Manager in charge of Nigeria and Ghana, where he was promoted to General Manager. He brings a depth of international experience to his new role.

Farmers and exporters in Egypt enabled to implement Good Agricultural Practices



Over 130 participants attended the event online and face to face. Participants included representatives from the Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC), Agricultural Research Centre (ARC), Central Agricultural Pesticide Laboratory (CAPL), Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (CAPQ), and Agricultural Export Committee, Agricultural Research Centre (ARC), Central Agricultural Pesticide Laboratory (CAPL), Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (CAPQ), Agricultural Export Council (AEC), Agricultural Exporters Union, National Food Safety Agency (NFSA), Agricultural Export companies, media, as well as exporters to the European Union.

In an effort to address MRLs (Maximum Residue Levels) and other challenges facing the Egyptian agricultural sector, QCAP Lab and CLAME jointly hosted a workshop on the 8th of March 2022. The workshop covered plant quarantine, launched the e-learning module on MRLs and consumer safety and trade, understanding MRLs, challenges facing Egyptian exports, QCAP introduction and sampling process, best practices to avoid pesticide residues, the need for crop protection, GAP, residues, MRLs and how they are set, import tolerance, residue safety, international trade trends, global registrations, Maximum Residue Levels monitoring, MRL strategies for farmers, updates for international residue standards (US, NAFTA, ASIA, EU, Codex, Global etc.), and inadvertent issues. According to Dr Samira, "MRLs are the cornerstone to trade. A crop is not legally tradable if it exceeds MRLs. Thus, farmers need to be well informed about what MRLs are in export markets."



Taking place on International Women's Day, the workshop honoured and celebrated women for their outstanding work in the field of food safety.

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"It is critical to work with farmers to overcome MRLs challenges and for the public sector institutions to amplify Africa's voice in harmonisation, WTO SPS and Codex dialogues," says Dr Samira Amellal CLAME Director General



Dr Hend Abdella QCAP Director, "QCAP plans to expand its scope of export commodity inspections to also include domestic produce to ensure food safety."

COVID-19 is transforming how CropLife AME uses digital technology to reach farmers – Insights from the COVID-19 Pandemic



Taking the digital route to continue with our Stewardship agenda and reach farmers with advice on Good Agricultural Practices is an example of how COVID-19 has made CLAME and its associations improvise and think differently to overcome the crisis.

The digital stewardship training program launched in 2020 with three pilot countries and then in 2021, two more countries were added. To date, CLAME is close to its goal of reaching 1.0 million farmers.

There are many things learned from the program, but three stand out:

- Smallholder farmers are hungry for information.
- The mobile phone has had an incredible impact in Africa, revolutionising the way people interact with their environment and live their daily lives. By providing a simple process that enabled farmers to both ask questions and provide feedback, doors were opened to new technologies.
- In addition to increasing member companies' confidence and identity, the program allowed the respective CropLife national association to work with other like-minded partners.

There is little doubt that the pandemic has shaped communications now and in the future in agriculture. 68 percent of the population has some sort of smart device and people are online all the time. There is no doubt that mobile networks will develop further in Africa, and with this, we will see new and exciting ways to communicate Stewardship messages to smallholder farmers.

In the field

