I am honoured to share the second issue of the newsletter in 2022. This newsletter once again demonstrates one of CropLife Africa Middle East’s (CLAME) greatest strengths - our ability to collaborate with a wide range of partners from across the value chain. These are unprecedented times in the world and in the agricultural sector. A unified voice is now more important than ever to meet the immense challenges we are facing today, whilst continuing to address the fundamental issues of climate change, a growing world population and the need to protect biodiversity and natural resources.

I firmly believe CropLife AME is well positioned as a thought leader and a catalyst for change in advancing sustainable agriculture innovation, which is central to our ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We will keep working across industries to listen and lead, as the world and Africa Middle East’s food systems change for the better.

With so many different voices speaking out in the agriculture industry, the ability to bring groups together to carry forward a common message has never been more important.

I look forward to keeping you updated on our progress in support of these ambitions through our ongoing engagement and in our future newsletters.

Dr Samira Amellal
Director General
CropLife Africa Middle East

Engage with us here:
Participatory economic and social assessments are valuable to decision making because decision makers need to consider which socio-economic issues and assessments should be included in a regulatory process. Delays caused by the R&D process and regulatory reviews significantly reduce the anticipated benefits. Policymakers and decision makers are encouraged to invest in policies and programs to improve these factors and foster the availability of GM crops to farmers and consumers. Decision makers need to consider investing in effective extension practices and seed systems. Value chain, seed systems, and market intelligent analysis are recommended prerequisites to deployment of GM-based crop improvement.

The study shows that farmers and consumers both gain substantial economic benefits from the timely adoption and planting of farmers fields due to a streamlined regulatory process.

In a research paper published by Frontiers in Plant Science, the researchers examined case studies involving insect resistant cowpea in Nigeria and Ghana, disease resistant banana in Uganda and disease resistant cassava in Uganda and Tanzania. The research revealed the following:

- Participatory economic and social assessments are valuable to decision making because decision makers need to consider which socio-economic issues and assessments should be included in a regulatory process.
- Delays caused by the R&D process and regulatory reviews significantly reduce the anticipated benefits. Policymakers and decision makers are encouraged to invest in policies and programs to improve these factors and foster the availability of GM crops to farmers and consumers.
- Decision makers need to consider investing in effective extension practices and seed systems.
- Value chain, seed systems, and market intelligent analysis are recommended prerequisites to deployment of GM-based crop improvement.

Having an evidence-based, efficient, predictable, and transparent regulatory system can assist farmers in gaining timely access to safe and valuable GM crops.

Evelyn Lusenaka, CropLife Africa Middle East Regional Director East and Southern Africa
CropLife Tanzania (CLT) participated in a Pesticides Safe Use and Handling training for horticultural smallholder farmers in Tanzania in May in collaboration with the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) and the Tanzania Horticultural Association. Among the key training topics were the key elements of the Plant Health Act, pest identification, basic pesticides, pesticide handling, pesticide use, spraying techniques, pesticide exposure, hazards, and first aid, empty container disposal, and spray record keeping.

This training program, which was conducted in Tarangire and Arusha, was designed to improve farmers’ practical knowledge of pesticide application. There were 147 farmers trained in the Arusha region (93 males), while in Kilimanjaro there were 146 farmers (78 females). Also attending the training sessions were government extension officers. 13 workshops were held in Arusha and 12 in Kilimanjaro respectively.

There has been a surge of interest in minor tropical fruits in recent years, mainly as a result of healthy benefits to our diets. In addition to providing food and nutrition security, the minor tropical fruits are also sources of income for the communities in which they are grown.

According to household surveys from key producing areas, small rural households can earn up to 75% of their income from minor tropical fruits. (Altendorf, S. 2018)

However, a significant challenge facing growers of minor crops in our region is the lack of pest control solutions, both conventional and biopesticides for the control and management of pests and diseases. In addition, trade in these agricultural commodities are negatively impacted when MRLs for products that could be used on minor and specialty crops are missing or misaligned.

By improving its involvement in residue data generation through Public Private Partnerships, CLAME aims to help the farmers overcome agricultural trade barriers for specialty and minor crops.

It was in this regard that an excellent workshop on Good Laboratory Practices in the conduct of residue trials was held by the Minor Use Foundation and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture on June 2nd and 3rd, 2022.

The event attracted 350 participants from 21 countries in Latin America and Africa, who investigated the whole spectrum of what it takes to conduct residue studies, from setting up the team, organizing the test facility, equipment, establishing a program for quality assurance in the lab and field, study implementation and study report preparation to data presentation and archival.

Through a collaboration with the Minor Use Foundation, CropLife Africa Middle East is collaborating with coordinating experts and institutions from the region to participate in residue studies. Consequently, the region will be capable of contributing to the generation of residue data for specialty and minor crops, needed for the establishment of CODEX MRLs.

Evelyn Lusenaka, CropLife Africa Middle East Regional Director East and Southern Africa

Stella Simiyu Wafukho, CropLife Africa Middle East Director Regulatory Affairs & Stakeholder Relations
Zambia farmers soon to get an empty container collection point in Mkushi

In collaboration with other concerned stakeholders, CropLife Zambia is implementing an Empty Container Project, through which empty container pesticide containers should be disposed of in a responsible way. Collection and shredding centres will be set up, the first of which will be located at the AgriWes Farm Centre in the Mkushi Farming Block of the Central Province of the country.

The containers will serve large commercial farmers in the farm block, as well as small to medium scale farmers (SMSF). Mini collection points, in cages, will be located at strategic locations at which the SMSF will drop off triple rinsed containers.

Farmers are urged to triple-rinse and puncture these containers to prepare them for collection and transportation to the main aggregation site at the AgriWes Farm Centre. Local recycling companies, who need this source of HDPE plastics are supporting the project. Most of these containers will be recycled into other useful products such as drainage pipes, fence posts and parking cones. “These practices, including triple-rinsing and puncturing empty pesticide containers, ensure these containers are non-hazardous to the environment and human health,” says Les Hillowitz, Stewardship Director, CropLife Africa Middle East.

Container management programs represent the plant science industry’s commitment to safety and to ensure the industry is taking responsibility for its waste. In 2018, the Zambian Government released the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation, and this fits perfectly in the CropLife Zambia stewardship agenda. A market survey conducted indicated that over 95% of the farmers are willing to deliver triple rinsed containers to the collection site at their own cost.

Les Hillowitz, Stewardship Director, CropLife Africa Middle East.
Food safety has become a key discussion point in Kenya with respect to the quality of food produced for local and international markets. Generally, food safety is viewed through the lens of microbial and chemical contaminants that may be present in food at all stages of production and during consumption.

CropLife Kenya (CLK) celebrated its inaugural Food Safety Week from June 6th to 10th June 2022 to raise awareness about how safe food can be produced without pesticide residues. During the first week of the campaign, CLK showcased how plant science enables access to safe use of crop protection products and ensures that consumers have access to safe and nutritious food. Some of the activities undertaken were:

1. **An Empty Pesticide Container (EPC) collection drive**
   The celebrations were centred in Meru County, which featured an empty pesticide container collection drive making use of a market storm caravan which made stops at 47 market centres in 10 Wards of Meru and Tharaka Counties. In addition to promoting the creation of 20 new collection centres, the caravan also demonstrated the correct disposal methods of triple rinsing, puncturing and delivering to the collection centre located at the local Farmer Service Centres. A total of 640 Kgs of plastic pesticide containers were collected during the drive. We anticipate collecting 2 tonnes of plastic pesticide containers by August 2022.

2. **Food safety radio campaign.**
   At least 113,000 farmers were reached by a local vernacular radio station that broadcast key safety messages related to safe use of products, proper disposal of waste, and the use of personal protective equipment. The campaign tagline was “My Safety Is My Responsibility”.

3. **Farmers exhibition**
   On 7th June CLK organised for a farmers open day at Kaguru Agriculture Training Center in Meru County in partnership with Syngenta, Bayer, Corteva, Ministry of Agriculture and Meru County. Over 3,000 farmers attended the event and learned food safety considerations; including purchasing safe and genuine products, applying them on the farm and what happens post harvest.

Eric Kimunguyi, Chief Executive Officer, CropLife Kenya
Container Management is an Essential Element of Stewardship

For the crop protection industry, Container Management (CM) is an important term. It refers to the safe removal of empty pesticide containers from farms to collection points where they are responsibly incinerated or recycled. CM is part of industry-wide stewardship supported by CropLife International’s (CLI) member companies and a global network of national and regional associations.

The management of empty pesticide containers is gaining ground across Africa Middle East ... find out more:

Since the start of the empty pesticide container program in the Africa Middle East region in 2016, approximately 31.6 million kg of plastics have been recovered and disposed off. In 2021, approximately 6.0 million kg of plastics were recovered, representing around 20% of all plastic containers entering the AME market.

The highlights for 2021 include:

- **Increase in collections over 2020.**
  - **12.6%**
- **Pilot Programs planned for 2021 started collections, the remaining 3 will start up during the course of 2022.**
  - **3/6**
- **South Africa reached a new milestone, collecting and recycling 80% of all containers placed on the market.**
  - **±80%**
- **We foresee collections growing by at least 8% in 2022 and a further 5% in 2023 bringing recovery to around one third of all plastic containers placed on the market.**
  - **2022 – 2023**

It is exciting to see growth in Africa, and we are working with governments and other stakeholders to establish further container management systems,” says Les Hillowitz, Stewardship Director.
Africa Middle East Must Act Now to Make Agri-Food Systems More Resilient:

What Action is Being Taken to eliminate World Hunger?

Find out how the plant science industry is working to improve food security and contributing towards achieving Zero hunger (SDG 2) by 2030:

1. Developing training partnerships across the agricultural value chain to ensure smallholder farmers can grow healthy crops sustainably. Partners include governments, development organisations, foundations, and food distributors, with millions of farmers trained to date.
2. Promoting innovative crop protection products that effectively help farmers fight pests such as fall armyworm, which has ravaged sub-Saharan African maize crops, and exploring new solutions in biotechnology to aid farmers in adapting to changing weather patterns with drought-tolerant seeds. Both these technologies facilitate the production of safe and nutritious food, while safeguarding the environment.
3. Advocating for responsible farm management, consumption, and production to reduce carbon footprints.
4. Training in sustainable use and effective management of pesticides. Since 2005, our network has been working to collect, safely dispose of, and recycle plastic pesticide containers, while innovations in crop protection and biotechnology have helped farmers reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Call to Action

We call for all stakeholders across Africa Middle East to do everything in their power to strengthen their commitment to work together and find new ways to transform agri-food systems. These are just some of the actions that are needed to accelerate progress in the region on food security:

1. Promote sound agricultural policies and on-the-ground investment in research and innovation.
2. Support open, fair, and resilient global trade, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement in Africa’s agricultural sector as this remains key to supporting international markets and keeping supply chains moving; a sentiment that has been shared by G7 agriculture ministers and Food and Agriculture Organisation.
3. Collaborate with leading technology providers to create powerful solutions for customers, increase high quality food production, and poverty reduction.
4. Create a conducive regulatory environment that enables the deployment and adoption of innovations.
5. Improve trade policy to better enable the free flow of food from where it can best be produced to where it is most needed.
6. Improve linkages along the food and agriculture value chain and outside of the agriculture industry for new kinds of collaborations and innovation—from mobile to marketing to micro-financing. Improve policies to enhance access to necessary seed and plant science technologies.
7. Increase regional integration and invest substantially in infrastructure, agricultural research, new technologies (both biotechnology and mechanical) and extension services.

Dr Samira Amellal, CropLife Africa Middle East Director General/CEO
1,400 Additional Spray Services Providers Programme (SSPs) Trained and Deployed in Kenya Through Partnership With CLAME and USAID.

In Kenya, thousands of Spray Service Providers have been trained to serve producers in the horticulture, coffee and industrial crop value chains. The country is well on its way to adoption of SSP's as the norm in pesticide application. This development has been made possible through valuable partnerships in the training, mentoring and monitoring of SSPs through a collaboration between CLAME and USAID.

The most recent intervention in Kenya is the USAID funded Kenya Crop and Dairy Market Systems project, which trained 471 SSPs in 6 Counties and provided them with Personal Protective Equipment and 51 motorised pumps. In the months following the training in November 2021, the impact the SSPs is being felt, with the viability of the concept being proven from the numbers of farmers served, the number of value chains adopting the SSPs and the income the SSPs are generating from selling their services.

A Spray Service Provider (SSP) is a farmer who has received special training to apply pesticides, is directly linked to member companies of the local CropLife association, and who hires out his services to (fellow) farmers to spray their lands. This gives untrained farmers access to trained and certified spray service providers.

CropLife Africa Middle East has developed the SSP concept to improve access to quality pesticides and the correct application of these, resulting in higher yields.

As of April 2022, the SSPs have already reached 5,089 farmers with 3,123 being male and 1,966 are female. The SSP's are reaching up to 10 farmers each and this achievement comes after a series of farmer field days where they were introduced to the community by CLK and the local agriculture extension officers. Thousands of farmers are aware of and make use of SSPs within their communities. All SSPs were linked to about 100 local agrodealers from where they can get new farmer clients, have a reliable source of genuine products and get mentoring from CropLife Kenya member company experts.

Some key partners who have contributed to the adoption of the SSPs are the Farm to Market alliance which works with Cereal farmers, The County governments through the departments of Agriculture, The One Acre fund, The National Irrigation Authority, coffee and tea farmer cooperative societies, FIPS Africa, Sony and West Kenya sugar factories. As they continue to be mentored by CLK member companies, we are looking forward to a bright future for the SSPs in this particular side of the country.

Evelyn Lusenaka, CropLife Africa Middle East Regional Director East and Southern Africa
CropLife Ghana tackles counterfeiting of crop protection products.

On 13th March 2022, CropLife Ghana organised a stakeholders engagement meeting in Accra to discuss a variety of issues facing Ghana's plant protection Industry:

- Counterfeiting of crop protection products (CPPs) in Ghana,
- The migration from manual pesticides registration dossiers into a digital online platform by the EPA,
- Patents for novel CPPs,
- Management of "highly hazardous pesticides" (HHPs),
- Improving pesticide container management in Ghana, and implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

Members of CropLife Ghana attended the meeting, along with representatives of the Ghana Environment Protection Agency (EPA) headed by the Ag. Manager of the Chemical Management Unit (CMU), as well as representatives of the Plant Projection, and the Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA).

Among the recommendations by CropLife Ghana was to include various approaches, including security services, prosecutions, and the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) to tackle threats posed by counterfeit and other illegal pesticides. Notable was the recommendation to hold a stakeholder forum.

R. Kadiri, CropLife Ghana

2022 Crop Year off to a roaring start in Cameroon

Following the postponement of the 2022 Kick-off of the Crop Year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is our pleasure to announce that the event was held on 26th April 2022 in Sangmélima, Southern Cameroon, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Farmers and industry stakeholders attended the event.

Agriculture faced with many constraints in 2021, but it also enjoyed a number of achievements including the operationalisation of the Cocoa-Coffee Producer Portal, the operationalisation of the subvention for agricultural production policy and the implementation of the related standard operational procedures (SOP) for subventions and agricultural inputs, the rationalisation of ministry projects and programs, and the building of infrastructure and equipment in rural areas.

Pesticides, seeds, fertilisers, EPI, and spraying equipment were donated to select producers and cooperatives.

C. Sonna, CropLife Cameroon
A training of trainers workshop was organised by CropLife Côte d’Ivoire (CropLife CIV) and Bureau Norme Audit (BNA), for CropLife CIV member companies on May 08-13, 2022.

The training consisted of two sessions, a theoretical and a practical, facilitated by Master Trainer, Roger Yéboué. During the theoretical session the facilitator took the participants the SDF approach, including training basics through the preparation to delivery and evaluation.

The participants performance were evaluated during the practical session. All participants were passed and certified competent. They received an evaluation plan to help them assess their performance throughout the year.

J. Yoboué, Exécutive Director, CropLife Côte d’Ivoire

Participants exhibiting their certificates of competence at the end of the workshop