CropLife
AFRICA MIDDLE EAST

Representing the Plant Science Industry

CropLife Africa Middle East

Annual Report 2010


this is agriculture

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision:
Working together for sustainable agriculture.

Mission Statement:
As a global network we act as an ambassador for the plant science industry, encouraging understanding and dialogue whilst promoting sound science and agricultural technology in the context of sustainable development.

Values and Beliefs:

Respect:
- Respect the views and values of the others and act with honesty, humility and humanity.
- Seek the respect of others for our values and beliefs.

Openness:
- Communication is a fundamental priority in all our activities.
- We will act with openness in all our dealings with stakeholders and actively engage in dialogue, exchanging opinions and facts, in order to increase society's understanding of our industry and our understanding of society.

Commitment:
- We are committed to serve our members and stakeholders operating to the highest possible standards of professionalism ensuring the effective and prudent management of our resources.

Technology:
- We believe in the benefits that technology brings to human development and progress, and to sustainable agriculture.
- We believe in the complementary and synergistic nature of technologies developed and offered by the plant science industry.
- We believe in science as the engine of innovation and the core principle of regulatory decision-making.

Sustainability:
- We are committed to promoting full and effective stewardship (the responsible and ethical management of a plant protection or biotechnology product throughout its life cycle) to the field level, and recognize that the appropriate management and use of our products is an important element underpinning sustainable agriculture.
- We will strive to work together with others to achieve a proper balance between all dimensions/pillars of sustainable development.
- We will strive to maintain a healthy, ethical and viable business environment for the plant science industry.




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Message from the President

Dear readers,

Following the many organizational changes in our member companies, 2010 was also a year of changes in the composition of our Board of Directors in CropLife Africa Middle East. I am pleased to be assisted by a group of competent and responsible colleagues who were able to take over various positions left vacant at the end of 2009.
The new comers bring new ideas and new visions which create an excellent mix with the already well established members. This has given the Board of CropLife Africa Middle East the opportunity to re-evaluate strategic priorities of our Association.
In our permanent efforts to promote approaches that enhance sustainable agriculture in the interest of farmers, consumers and the environment, we have reviewed the many challenges facing our industry and the numerous activities performed by our regional network. The following priorities have been confirmed:
▪ Regulatory matters including the goal of harmonization of regulatory systems at sub regional level remain a key priority. A sound and science based regulatory frame is a pre-requisite for the safe distribution and use of crop protection products.

▪ Stewardship and the promotion of Integrated Pest Management and Responsible Use must be addressed in complement to the previous point. Training efforts of CropLife Africa Middle East must focus on proactive (safe use, container management, international Code of Conduct) as well as curative (obsolete stocks) actions.
▪ The support of national associations is key to attain these objectives. CropLife Africa Middle East will have to carefully allocate its limited resources to well defined projects and countries with the ambition to increase the level of professionalism and efficiency of country associations.
▪ Counterfeit pesticides and infringement of intellectual property rights are a major concern in many countries. CropLife Africa Middle East is committed to raise awareness, communicate, promote and implement suitable counter measures to fight counterfeit pesticides.
Our new board has also made decisions to better secure the long term funding of the association. This is an important achievement which paves the way for the continued success of CropLife Africa Middle East.

Sincerely,
Eric Bureau

Message from the Executive President

Dear readers,

This 2010 Annual Report has been prepared in quite a different format compared to its previous versions. Instead of reviewing in many details the activities and achievements of the past year – all of these can be found on our website (www.croplifeafrica.org) by consultation of the monthly newsletter - we have tried to take a bigger picture and have taken a look at the overall situation of agricultural development and food security in Africa Middle East. In this regard I would like to particularly thank Les Hillowitz for his key contribution to this year's edition of the annual report and describing in detail the Malawi success story which in our view is an excellent example of a successful national development in our region.
For the third time since 2008 we have again conducted an external review on the performance of our regional network. The outcome of this review is the KPI Report 2010. Some selected stories from that report have been inserted in this Annual Report and feature primarily activities in the field of stewardship.
Stewardship will remain a top priority for our industry and the association also in the years to come. By conclusion of the phase I of the ASP (Africa Stockpiles Programme; www.africastockpiles.net) at the end of 2011 only a small portion of identified old obsolete pesticides and empty containers will have been recovered and destroyed. At this stage it is uncertain whether the initially envisaged project goal to rid the entire continent from obsolete pesticides will ever be achieved with the current project design. However, whatever the ultimate achievement with the ASP project may be there is a rapidly growing urgency to establish sustainable collection schemes for obsolete products and empty containers in all countries. Such schemes will be necessary irrespective of whether a local CropLife association exists or not. It is clear that such an objective can only be achieved through intelligently designed public private partnerships at the national level. We will therefore need to identify new stakeholders and establish new and creative cooperation arrangements to achieve this goal.
Also in the regulatory field and in combating illegal and counterfeit pesticides we have been very active in 2010 and we will continue with our efforts in the future. We hope that some real success stories will be achieved in the selected priority countries and can be reported in a coming year.
We would like to thank our members and also the many external stakeholders for their interest and contribution in 2010 and count on their continued support in the future.

Sincerely,
Rudolf Guyer

CropLife Africa Middle East is the Brussels based association that represents the Plant Science Industry in Africa and the Middle East, working at regional and national level with government institutions, private and public stakeholders, the media and the public.

Our membership comprises of 11 research and development companies as well as 30 country national associations. Our member companies provide a full range of chemical and biological crop science solutions to protect food crops from pests and diseases, safely and sustainably.

The Reality of Agriculture and Food Security

By 2030, the global food requirement will increase by 50%, driven by a population increase to 8 billion and the demand for improved nutrition, particularly in emerging markets. By 2025 the world population will grow by 1 billion, half of this growth being in Africa, Middle East.

According to the Chicago Council for Global Affairs, more than 700 million of the world's poorest people who survive on less than US$1 a day live in rural sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. They depend on agriculture for their livelihoods in order to acquire one of life's basic necessities – food.

For many years starving people in Africa have had to depend on food aid from various donors. This has become a lucrative business for the rich countries that sell their surplus crops to Africa instead of training farmers to grow their own food. This goes back to the old Chinese saying: "Give a man a fish and he has food for one day. Teach him how to fish and he will have food every day."

The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has spoken out strongly against food aid. It says that it is time for a shift in policy, from prioritising food aid to providing poor farmers with access to training, markets, and farm inputs such as fertilizer and improved seed.

Food aid fails to provide a sustainable solution to hunger and poverty, says the FAO. It is comparatively expensive. To deliver one tonne of maize from US food aid to a distribution point in Africa costs US$812.

To provide a smallholder farmer in Africa with fertilizer, training and good hybrid seed to produce an additional tonne of maize, costs an average US$135 (at April 2008 prices), six times less than food aid.

If smallholder farmers in Africa raise their average cereal yields to 3t/ha the additional 200 million tonnes grown on the 100 million ha smallholder cropland will more than compensate for the 3.2 million tonnes of food aid, says the FAO.

The Malawi Success Story

Malawi has set the example for Africa by following this route. At the World Economic Forum on Africa in Cape Town in June 2008, President Bingu wa Mutharika of Malawi, referring to the five million Malawians in 2005 that were in dire need of food aid, said: “Enough is enough. I am not going to go on my knees to beg for food. Let us grow the food ourselves. And indeed we have.”

Recognising the dire effects which would result from the famine in Malawi in 2005, one of the world’s leading seed companies donated 700 metric tons, valued at US$ 840 000, of quality hybrid white maize seed in five-kg bags – enough to reach 140 000 resource-poor smallholder farmers. Working with Malawian government officials and local NGOs, the team ensured that the donated hybrid seed – new to Malawi – could build on existing programmes to increase self sufficiency at the local family farm level. It was an innovation for Malawian farming.

With the donated seed, farmers harvested 4.5t/ha compared to 800kg/ha previously with Open Pollinated Varieties (OPVs).
The additional yield was sufficient to feed one million people for one year. The 2006/2007 harvest was estimated at 3.44 million tonnes, an all- time national record for Malawi, generating a surplus of approximately 1.34 million tonnes of maize. From the lesson learned, Malawian farmers are gradually moving away from OPVs to high quality hybrids. The adoption of hybrid seed has increased from 10% in 2006 to 46% in 2010.

From food aid dependence in 2005, Malawi achieved a surplus of 1.3 million tonnes of maize in 2009 for the fourth consecutive year since introducing a fertilizer and seed subsidy programme and hybrid seed in 2005. More than 100,000 tonnes were exported to neighbouring countries. The government retained 100,000 tonnes as a hedge against unforeseen food shortages.

Future Challenges for Malawi Farmers

Malawian farmers, as with all farmers in Africa, have no alternative but to adapt to climate change. Several practical options exist, thanks to modern and innovative science and research offering genetically modified crops, including drought and heat tolerant maize varieties.

Scientists researching drought tolerant maize are in an advanced stage with the development of maize varieties that can withstand the semi-arid conditions that characterise the greatest part of Africa, thereby addressing the devastating effects of drought on smallholder farmers. Five countries are participating in a project: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa. This is a public private partnership project led by the national agricultural research systems in the respective countries and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre. The project is known as the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) and is coordinated by the Nairobi-based non-profit organisation, the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)

The drought tolerant maize varieties will be made available, royalty- free, to smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. According to Dr Geoffrey Asea, WEMA Country Coordinator, the new maize variety is expected to increase yields by 20–35 per cent over current varieties under drought conditions. This is equal to an additional two million metric tonnes to feed 21 million people during drought years.

Soaring Fertilizer Prices

In Malawi, fertilizer prices rose dramatically in 2007 and 2008 – more than doubling the cost of the government's input subsidy program and leading to a projected budget shortfall of almost US$80 million. Worldwide, fertilizer prices surged more than 200% in 2007. In 2009, prices were six times higher than ten years ago and the surge continues.

This places a heavy burden on Malawi and Africa's smallholder farmers. But here again there is light at the end of the tunnel. With innovative breeding technology, fertilizer application could be reduced from 180kg/ha to 40kg/ha to produce the same yield. A development that could make a massive difference to a farmer's input cost.

Learning the Malawi Lesson on Food Security

It's technology and knowledge sharing that allows us to break through the limits to growth, creating greater output with the same or reduced inputs. It's technology that can enable us to unlock the full potential of plants, to grow more from less – doubling our food supply and creating alternative energy resources while husbanding our scarce water resources and decreasing our carbon emissions.
Clearly, better farming practices, supportive farming policies and new technology deserve considerable credit.

Two of the fastest growing technologies for improved productivity are seed treatment and fungicides.

No-till has many benefits, including retaining moisture in the soil and preventing erosion. But only in recent years have people begun to focus on the extraordinary amount of CO^2 that ploughing – used largely as a method to control weeds -- releases into the atmosphere. The effective application of herbicides, however, can make that ploughing unnecessary.

Technology improves Quality of Life in Rural Communities

The present practice and sad reality in Africa is that weeding is women's work…with hand hoes – back-breaking work, in many instances permanently deforming women's spines. Enete, Nweke & Tollens (2002) found that an average of 126 hours' labour was required to weed one hectare. In the process one woman walks 10 kilometres in a stooped position. 50% to 70% of the labour in crop production is spent weeding (Chikoye, et al, 2007). Crops require a weed-free period after planting for optimal yields; for cassava 84 days; maize 56 days, rice 42 days and sorghum 45 days.

Male labour for weeding is becoming scarce due to off-farm employment, urban migration for better-paid jobs, HIV + AIDS; furthermore it has become expensive.

In Zimbabwe one third of the maize is planted late because of labour constraints with a yield loss of up to 75% in late planted fields; 21% of cotton farmers abandon more than 20% of their cropped area as a result of weed infestation. Labour shortage often leads to more land on the farm lying fallow and the cultivated area often being reduced by 50%. In Africa yield losses due to weeds range from 25% to total crop failure. In Ghana the majority of farmers identify weeding as the major constraint in their farming systems (Vissoh, et al, 2004).

There is an alternative…chemical herbicides…

In 2001 Overfield, et al, found that just more than 3% of African smallholder farmers were using herbicides in their maize fields. In 2006 Gouse, Piesse & Thirtle reported that killing weeds with herbicides before planting was highly beneficial – it saved 124 hours of hand weeding per hectare and required only 2 hours per hectare spraying time.
Some chemicals can be sprayed on the soil and stay active for weeks, killing germinating weed seeds because they are weed specific.
In Cameroon the impact of herbicide use on cotton was profound – it reduced labour by 12 days/hectare; reduced cost of weeding by 50% and increased yield by 400 kg/ha.

In a Kenya maize experiment, Manina, et al, found in 2003 that the cost of chemical weeding was one-third of the cost of two hand weedings. Another Kenyan experiment found that maize yields were up 53% and bean yields 94% on fields weeded with herbicides.
The question can then be posed as to why herbicides are not used more widely. The answer lies in the fact that weeding is still seen as women's work and, secondly, that the men control the purse strings. Herbicides cost money; women are mostly free labour; traditionally it is their job.

Herbicide application by hand spray is fairly simple provided the farmer has the necessary knowledge of how to mix the chemical and, especially, how to calibrate the sprayer.
It was found that lack of knowledge was the most limiting factor in the adoption of herbicide technology. Weed control and fertiliser use go hand in hand…for bigger crops.
Given the strategic importance of fertiliser to end hunger, the African Union member states resolve to increase the level of fertilizer use by 500% by 2015. – Africa Fertiliser Summit, 2006.

In sub-Saharan Africa it was established that the small number of farmers who use herbicides were able to send a higher proportion of their children to school. Furthermore that the lives of women could be improved, leading to fewer back problems, more schooling, more time off for other activities such as off-farm employment and the growing of additional cash crops; a 20-50% increase in crop production; more fields being planted; and an increase in fertiliser use.

However, there is a long uphill battle ahead. In 2004 Dar & Twomlow (ICRISAT – an organisation working on ecological farming in Africa and India) found that 5% of farmers in sub-Saharan Africa were using fertiliser with an application rate <50kg/ha against recommended rates of 250-350 kg/ha. Fertiliser benefits depend on weed control. Certain weeds absorb nutrients faster than crops; without weed control increased fertiliser use then only leads to more weeds. Farmers reluctant to increase inorganic fertiliser use (because of the cost) create a need for hand weeding and a resultant "labour bottleneck" leaving no labour to apply fertilisers. On the other hand Wubeneh & Sanders found in 2006 that fertiliser application increases labour requirement during peak season by 64 hours/ha in sorghum, which includes increased weeding time.

We are here together… (Kofi Annan)

"We are here together to discuss one of the most serious problems on earth: the plague of hunger that has blighted hundreds of millions of African lives – and will continue to do so unless we act with greater purpose and urgency…nearly a third of all men, women and children in sub-Saharan Africa are severely undernourished. Africa is the only continent where child malnutrition is getting worse rather than better…in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East a green revolution tripled food productivity and helped lift hundreds of millions of people out of hunger. Africa has not yet had a green revolution of its own…let us generate a uniquely African green revolution – a revolution that is long overdue, a revolution that will help the continent in its quest for dignity and peace." Kofi Annan, then Secretary-General of the United Nations at a summit of African leaders in Addis Ababa.

"Technology makes the difference as Malawi has clearly shown".

The CropLife Commitment to Stewardship

Our industry upholds the fact that our duty does not end once the product has been sold to the farmer. This is realised and validated by our numerous stewardship programmes. CropLife Africa Middle East and its members undertake a range of activities to ensure that not only is the product used as intended, but that the chance of accidental misuse is minimised and follow-up activities such as empty container management is a priority development.

In 2010 the Region had 12 “pilot schemes” operating, some in a more advanced stage than others. South Africa is currently the only country where properly rinsed containers are classified as non-hazardous. The importance of Triple Rinsing is included within our Responsible Use training programmes.

With the smallholder farmer as our prime target, the transfer of knowledge in the “responsible use” of our products is paramount. For the 2010 period, 22 of our associations reported active involvement in IPM / Responsible Use training programmes, totalling 113 programmes and reaching in excess of 26,000 participants.

Malawi trains Dealers and Farmers on IPM in COMESA Project

COMESA (Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa) started a project with IFDC known as the Regional Agro-Dealers Program in 8 land-locked countries in East and Southern Africa. In Malawi the project is being implemented by Rumark, a service provider for the agricultural sector. However, the technical training component on IPM / Responsible Use was left in the hands of CropLife Malawi and AISAM, the input dealers association.

Over a 4 month period approximately 1000 dealers and farmers were trained in the use of agro-inputs and business skills, 35% of which were female.

Enthusiastic participants during training

CropLife Syria Distributes Poison Chart

CropLife Syria translated the CropLife International chart on Diagnosis and Management of Pesticide Poisoning Cases into Arabic. The association printed 1,500 copies and distributed these to more than 100 rural medical centres and hospitals throughout the country.

The Poison Chart in Arabic

Sudan trains 18,000 Farmers together with MOA

The CropLife association in Sudan (SAGA) successfully trained, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture in excess of 18,000 farmers in four states. The training programs were facilitated by a pool of Master Trainers who were based in the states were the programs took place.
The program followed the "farmer school" approach (not to be confused with Farmer Field Schools that undertake on-farm training). The topics focused on were Responsible Use and IPM.

Training on application, PPE and the responsible use of pesticides

In the area of managing obsolete pesticides we have 7 countries in the Region which were or are part of the Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP), namely: Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Tunisia. The programmes in both Morocco and Nigeria ended prematurely based on performance issues. On the finalisation of this project at end 2011 or June 2012, a total of approximately 6,000 tonnes of obsolete pesticides will have been removed from the respective countries and suitably destroyed.

The CropLife Safeguarding project aims at obsolete pesticides in the private sector, which started in 2009 and continued into 2010 with Nigeria joining the countries of Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya and Malawi, already in the project. The following volumes of obsolete stocks have so far been identified:

- Ghana 170 tonnes
- Malawi 380 tonnes
- Kenya 160 tonnes
- Nigeria 10 tonnes

Kenya guides Other Countries in CleanFarms Activities

Kenya was the first country in Africa to start a CleanFarms project. The objectives of the CleanFarms project are to take inventory of all obsolete pesticides and empty containers in the private sector and to eventually safeguard and dispose of theses. Due to the interest created, several other countries visited Kenya to see firsthand how a CleanFarms project works.
Ghana was the first to visit the CleanFarms team in Kenya, followed in February by Nigeria, and in May by Ethiopia and Tanzania. Aside from representatives of the CropLife national associations, nominated persons from various government institutions participated in the study tours.

During the visits, details were provided on the organization of the outreach campaign, the collaboration with and role of the Ministry of Agriculture, the use of inventory forms, the entry of data into a database, safeguarding and other activities. In addition, a field visit was arranged to allow interaction with stakeholders. All the study tours were highly appreciated by the participants. For Nigeria the visit was the kick-off of activities in Nigeria that started in May 2010, while CropLife Tanzania organized a workshop with the Ministry to brainstorm on how to set up activities in Tanzania.

CleanFarms in Nigeria starts Activities

Although Nigeria was part of the Africa Stockpiles Programme, no inventory was taken of stocks in the private sector. CropLife International decided to take on this task and in May 2010, activities were started in five pilot states. An active radio campaign alerted agro-dealers and farmers on the upcoming inventory exercise, after which extension officers took this into the field with inventory forms.
By year end, 1,200 forms were collected and entered into a database. A total of 10 tonnes of obsolete pesticides had been identified of which 10% comprised of highly hazardous products and which were leaking. More than 70,000 empty containers were also identified.
A stakeholders' meeting will be organized in 2011 to discuss with partner organizations how to fund the safeguarding of the stocks and how to set up a sustainable system for the collection of future obstocks and empty containers.

The importance and understanding of the "International Code of Conduct" cannot be overstated and during the 2010 period the CropLife e-learning tool was rolled out to:

- Executive Members: 69
- Companies: 106
- Third Parties (including regulatory authorities): 440

Empty containers and obstocks in Kaduna State in Nigeria

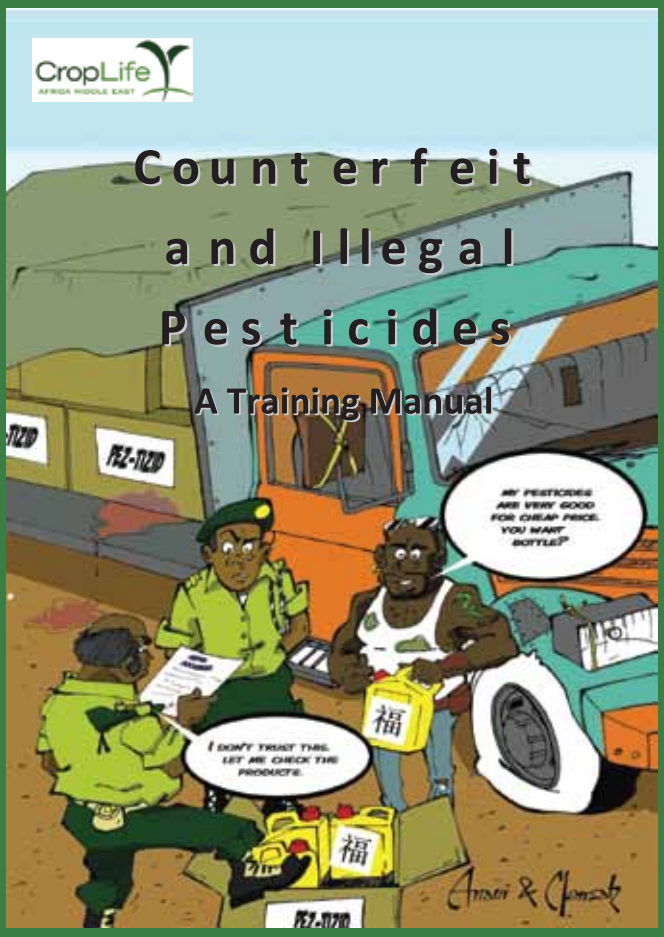
Mobilisation against Illegal and Counterfeit Pesticides

Counterfeit pesticides constitute one of the biggest threats to our aspirations towards sustainability in agriculture. It is not sufficient to merely have regulations in place, which generally in Africa are weak, but effective enforcement is essential. Strict and practical measures must be put in place to prevent the criminal importation and use of counterfeit products which pay no heed to any considerations of human or environmental health or that of the farm economy. In Africa the social damage to communities caused by counterfeit products is overwhelming. Our anti-counterfeiting efforts in 2010 achieved some successes with several seizures taking place.

Also, late in the year the Region developed an Anti-Counterfeiting Training Programme aimed at customs officers and enforcement agencies. This will be rolled out during 2011.

CropLife Africa Middle East developed new Training Materials on Anti-Counterfeiting

CropLife Africa Middle East has developed a new training course for customs officers and enforcement agencies on anti-counterfeiting and illegal pesticides. The course was developed after several national associations started with their own initiative and asked CropLife for available material. The training manual was written by Manon Dohmen and the first pilot course took place in October 2010 in Damascus for CropLife Africa Middle East staff.
The manual has been finalized and will be available to all national associations for roll-out. The manual will be translated into both French and Arabic.



Product Registration and Regulatory Harmonisation

Our industry manufactures and distributes a full array of products to increase food production. We are continually improving our products to make them safer and kinder to the environment. In this we have achieved impressive results: farmers today have the best set of safe, environmentally sound tools, ever, to protect our food supply and to avoid the food crises and ecological damage that have plagued mankind throughout history.

It takes about 10 years to achieve a registration for a new plant protection product at an approximate cost of $ 268 mil. Given these high costs and long time lines we believe that regulators should develop and maintain a science-based regulatory framework.

To assist regulators in this task, CropLife developed the programme “Principals of Regulation” of which the roll-out started during 2010.

The year also witnessed positive movement in the area of regulatory harmonisation where SADC’s guidelines are at an advanced stage whilst COMESA started on the development of guidelines covering biosafety requirements for the introduction of plant biotechnology. Good liaison was also made with ECOWAS on their harmonisation initiative.

Alliances and Partnerships

In the context of broadening outreach and impact of regional and country activities, our network continued to maintain emphasis on building alliances and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, particularly in the stewardship and regulatory domains.

Within Eastern and Southern Africa a number of partnerships were formalized during 2010 focusing on IPM and container management. At national association level, a number of such activities took place in Ethiopia, Uganda, RSA, Zambia, Tanzania and Mauritius with CFC/EHPEA, CAPESPAN, Care International, PROFIT, CNFA, NEMC and APEXHOM respectively. Joint activities covered a number of domains including IPM/RU, container management and warehouse management.

Upgrading national regulations and regulatory harmonization initiatives in West Central Africa were of utmost importance during the year. During the various seminars and workshops CropLife Africa Middle East advocated balanced risk-benefit based regulatory decision making resulting in clear regulations that are enforced and equally applicable to all products and players in the market.
CropLife Africa Middle East thus invested much effort in this connection and supported the harmonized trial protocols which were adopted by country experts, regulators and registrars in ECOWAS sub-region. By so doing CropLife Africa Middle East in cooperation with IFDC-MIR Plus provided the initiative with about 60 trial protocols which are being finalized for the sub-region.

In addition to the regulatory harmonization process CropLife Africa Middle East co-organized with COLEACP-PIP and USDA-FAS a workshop to share knowledge and provide tools to handle the MRLs issues at country and at sub-regional levels. The workshop made relevant recommendations to integrate the MRL issues in domestic and regional pesticide policies and management across the sub-region based on trade related aspects. Cooperation with the above-mentioned organizations is being strengthened to implement the needed measures to meet the challenges posed by the MRL issue.

In October 2010, CropLife Africa Middle East entered into a cooperation agreement with ACDI-VOCA towards establishing a sustainable national programme for training, certification and licensing of pesticide operators and applicators in Egypt, with a view to expanding the programme in other countries of North Africa Middle East.

Broadening the scope of stakeholder alliances and partnerships will continue as an ongoing engagement within our regional network.

CropLife Africa Middle East and ACDI-VOCA exchange signed MoU

Looking ahead

In 2010 CropLife Africa Middle East continued its efforts in strengthening the “stewardship” activities related to the sales and use of our members’ products in the region. We made progress in the regulatory field and in fighting the scourge of counterfeiting. Given our limited resources and only partial presence at country level we cooperated with stakeholders pursuing the same objectives wherever an opportunity was identified. Several long standing relationships, particularly with development organisations representing civil society exist. New relationships were added during 2010. Equally, we engage with government organisations from across the region with the primary goal to support and facilitate regional regulatory harmonisation.

More importantly our industry and its member companies have been able to convincingly demonstrate that with the acceptance of technology, the region can contribute to food security and sustainable agriculture thereby reducing its heavy dependence on food aid. We are working hard to add to the success stories of Malawi. It is, and remains the passion of our member companies and of our association to continue our efforts to help achieve the Millennium Goal 1 set for 2015, which is to reduce extreme poverty and hunger by half since 1990. (http://www.mdgmonitor.org)

CropLife Africa Middle East

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Rudolf Guyer
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Director

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Sumitomo

Marc Hullebroek
FMC

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Africa Middle East

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West & Central Africa

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Area Coordinator
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Manon Dohmen
Association Specialist

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West and Central Africa

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Ghana

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Senegal

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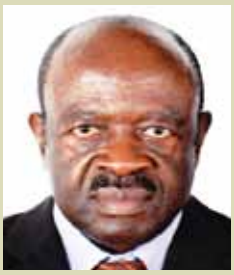

Henri Fosso
Cameroun

Mariamme Dosso
Côte D'Ivoire

CropLife Africa Middle East

National Associations
North Africa Middle East

Michel Akl
Lebanon

Ibrahim Samhan
Saudi Arabia

Abdulhamid Alwazan
Kuwait

Ahmed Elaghil
Yemen

Sarwat Sakr
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National Associations
East and Southern Africa

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Malawi

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Mauritius

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Kenya

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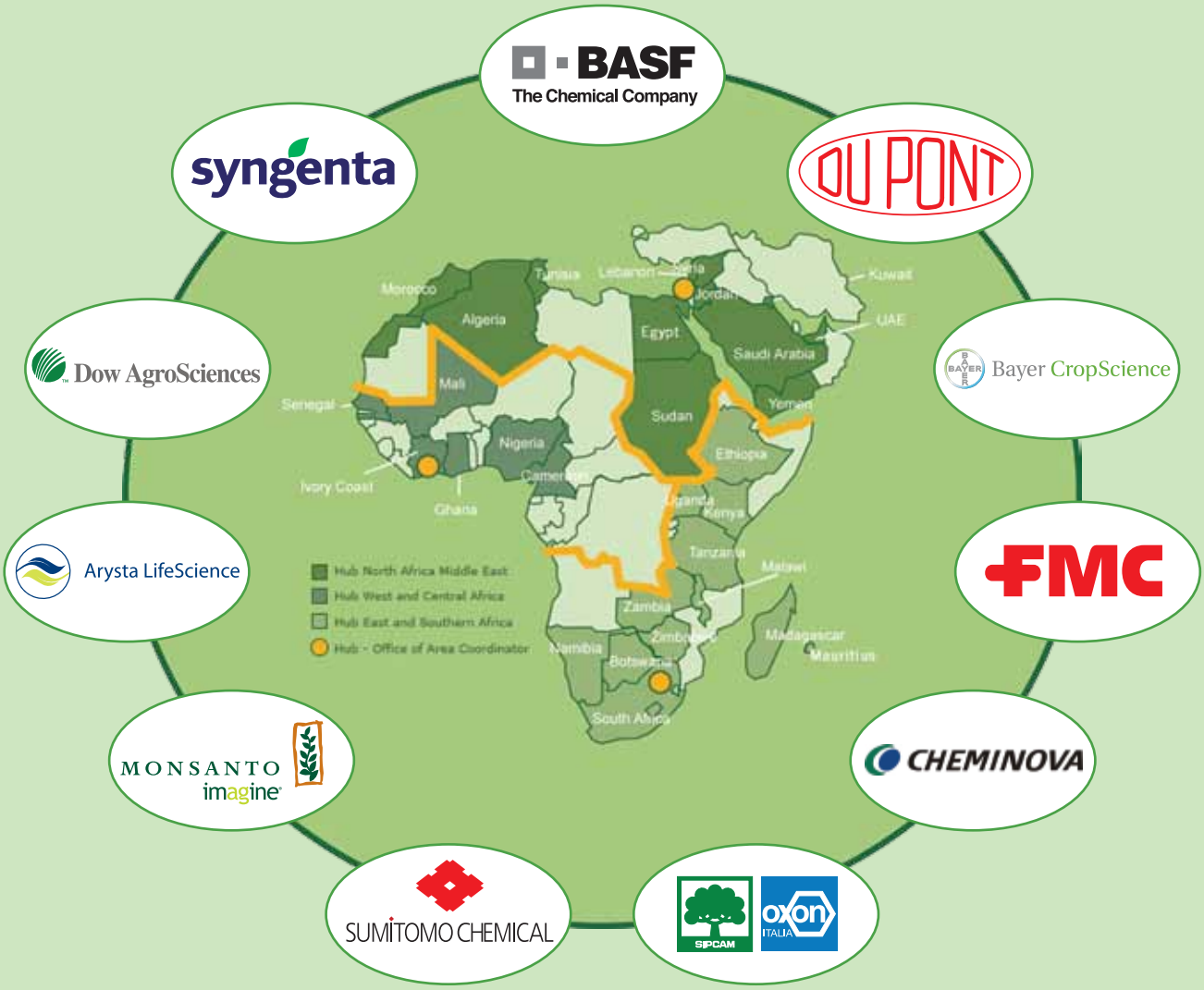

CropLife Africa Middle East
Avenue Louise 326, Box 35
1050 Brussels
Belgium

www.croplifeafrica.org

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