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**Second meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach  
and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020**

Stockholm, Sweden, 13-15 March 2018

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**Considerations for Beyond 2020**

## **Ensuring the Sound Management of Pesticides – Submission by CropLife International**

### **Note by the secretariat**

1. The secretariat has the honour to provide, in the annex to the present note, the document, developed by CropLife International; *Ensuring the Sound Management of Pesticides*.
2. The report is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

## **Annex**

# **Ensuring the Sound Management of Pesticides**

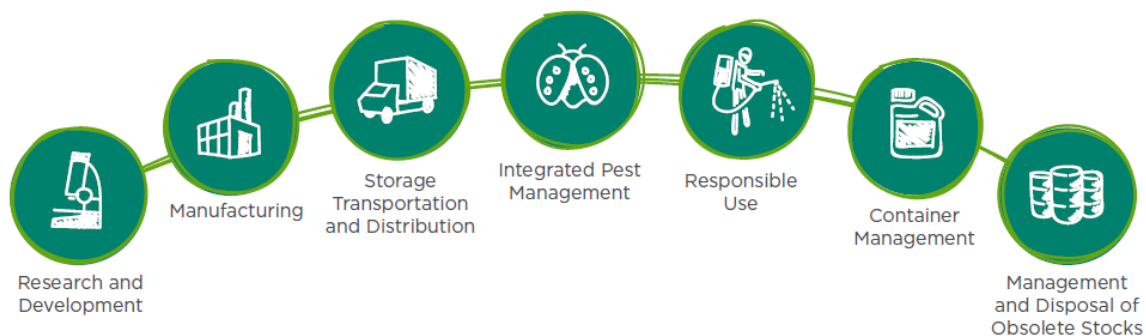
**Developed by CropLife International**

## Ensuring the Sound Management of Pesticides

### CropLife International Commitment to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

CropLife International is the global federation representing the plant science industry, made up of seven member companies that research, manufacture and sell crop protection and plant biotechnology products. The organization also serves a global network of regional and national associations which spans 91 countries.

A core activity of the global CropLife network is the promotion of stewardship – a lifecycle approach to managing pesticides from research and development, through use in the field and eventual disposal of any waste or product discontinuation:



Stewardship relies on the promotion of, and training in, best practices. CropLife International and its regional and national associations continuously work with a variety of partners to promote stewardship, and the responsible use of pesticides in the field. The industry's goal is to maximize the benefits and minimize any risk from their use.

### Commitment to SAICM Goals

CropLife International is fully committed to the aims of SAICM and its Global Plan of Action. The industry views its contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as an opportunity to improve the sustainable use and effective management of pesticides, and to communicate about their critical importance for the delivery of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In this context CropLife International is particularly engaged with two policy issues of highest priority to our industry and the global community:

- Highly Hazardous Pesticides

CropLife International supports the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (the Code) which calls for regulating crop protection products based on risk, not hazard. If a risk assessment finds that risk mitigation measures are insufficient to ensure that the product can be handled without unacceptable risk to humans and the environment – they should be withdrawn from the market, in line with the Code guidelines.

In support of this approach, CropLife International's member companies recently completed their voluntary portfolio review, evaluating more than 6,400 crop protection products. Any products

meeting the Code's HHP hazard criteria have undergone risk assessment, risk mitigation and, where the risk remains too high, the product has been withdrawn from the market.

CropLife International is also encouraging global stakeholders to adhere to similar risk management measures and has a longstanding commitment to building capacity for risk assessment in developing countries.

- **Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals**

The protection of human health is the number one concern for the crop protection industry when developing products for farmers and it is essential that people, and more specifically vulnerable populations, should not be exposed to harmful substances. We believe that, as in the United States and according to the European Food Safety Authority, endocrine disruptors can be regulated using a scientific risk assessment which includes hazard characterization and the probability of exposure under realistic conditions of use.

CropLife International members have been active participants in the US Environmental Protection Agency and OECD work on endocrine disruptors and members have submitted extensive dossiers for evaluation and use by regulators to determine whether chemicals activate the endocrine system and if so, whether they cause adverse health effects due to that interaction.

We have also set up an online platform – [www.endocrinesciencematters.org](http://www.endocrinesciencematters.org) – to help improve knowledge and understanding around the issue, and to help stakeholders to understand the industry's perspective. CropLife International supports continued research to advance the scientific understanding of the issue.

### **Core Industry Activities Towards Safe and Responsible use of Pesticides**

- **Training Farmers in the Responsible Use of Pesticides**

More than 3,7 million individuals in 70 countries have been directly trained in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and the responsible use of crop protection products through CropLife International programs since 2005. Further, more than 49 million have been reached through media outreach and stewardship awareness campaigns. The training has been delivered through over 300 partnerships across the global network, as seen in the map below:



Fig. 1: Countries with Supported IPM/RU Programs

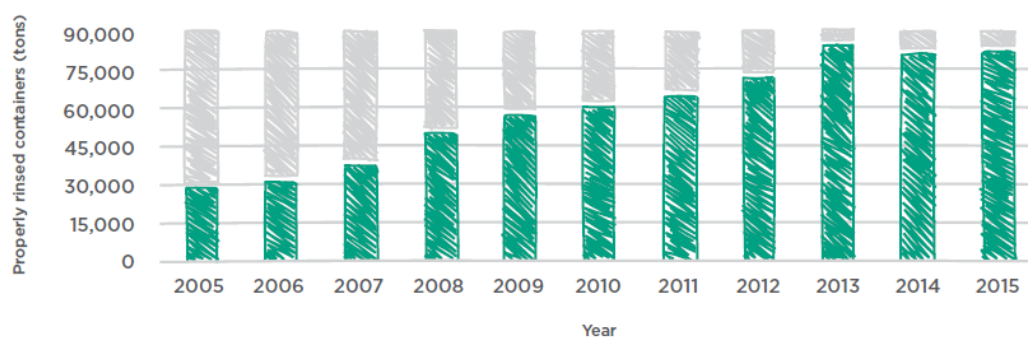
Here are some specific examples of IPM and responsible use training partnerships and their impact (all can be viewed in detail at [www.croplife.org](http://www.croplife.org)):

1. VIETNAM: In 2016, CropLife International partnered with the German international development organization GIZ and the Vietnamese government to train rice farmers in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. The three-year project aims to help improve productivity and profitability for 15,000 rice farming families through IPM and responsible use of pesticides. At least 300 pesticide retailers will also be trained to help farmers identify the correct crop protection products and use them responsibly.
2. INDIA: CropLife International, CropLife Asia and CropLife India partnered with two local organizations in the Adoni region of Andhra Pradesh, India, to provide IPM training, responsible use and the secure storage of crop protection products to 128,000 farmers.
3. HONDURAS: CropLife Latin America formed a partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to train Honduran farmers in good agricultural practices and responsible use of pesticides. The aim was to help lift 108,000 rural Hondurans out of extreme poverty by teaching farmers how to protect their crops from pests and disease.
4. WEST AFRICA: CropLife Africa Middle East entered into a two-year partnership with the World Cocoa Foundation to train professional Spray Service Providers (SSPs) in Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon. Spray Service Providers are dedicated professionals, trained to provide advice on IPM and, where needed, apply crop protection products. Over the course of the program 3,220 SSPs were trained benefitting more than 40,000 smallholder cocoa farms.
5. INDIA: CropLife India partnered with an Indian tech firm, RML Information Services (RML), to customize a phone app called MyRML for Indian farmers to get easy access to agricultural information on their smart phones. The app helped CropLife Asia send stewardship materials around best management practices to 1.4 million farmers in 50,000 villages across 18 states in India. MyRML "speaks" nine languages, and has information on 450 crop varieties, 1,300 markets and 4,000 weather locations.

6. **PROTECTING POLLINATORS:** There have been several initiatives to use mobile phone apps to ensure the responsible use of pesticides to maintain pollinator health. In 2015, the project MadhuSandesh was launched in India by CropLife Asia to connect bee keepers and farmers through an app which enables two-way communication on the location of hives and crop protection activity on registered farmer's property. There are other industry-led initiatives on bees including Beesmatter in Canada, Beeconnected in Australia and Polinizadores in Latin America.
  
7. **EMPOWERING WOMEN:** Women play a critical role in agricultural growth in developing countries, and female empowerment is an important aspect of CropLife International training programs. Grace Amma, who became the first female Master Trainer in her region as part of the CropLife International Adoni project, said: "It is good that women are becoming leaders. I teach men and women and what I am doing is very helpful to farmers." Go to [croplife.org](http://croplife.org) to see more about Grace Amma and other stories of women benefitting from CropLife training projects.

- **Safe Disposal of Pesticide Containers**

The industry has collected and safely disposed 706,000 tons of plastic pesticide containers since 2005.



Source: CropLife International with data from industry-led container management programs

In 2016, 95,000 thousand tons were collected, with 67 percent being recycled into end uses such as fence posts and car battery cases. Additionally, more than 11,000 tons of other packaging material were collected. Overall, this represents 28 percent of the total packaging entering the market.

So far, the crop protection industry has helped establish pesticide container management programs in 40 countries across the world, but more programs are being set up with pilot projects in an additional 24 countries, as seen in the map below:

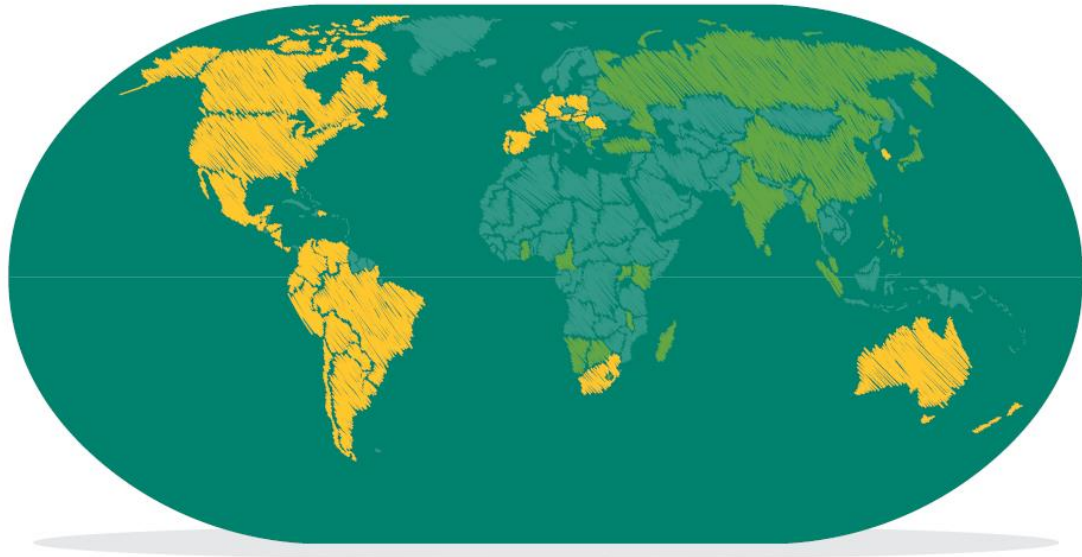


Fig. 2: Countries with Industry-led Container Management Programs

■ Established Program     ■ Pilot Program

Our CropLife International roadmap describes the steps a country can take to establish a new container management program. Find out more and see container management case studies at [www.croplife.org](http://www.croplife.org).

- **Removal of Obsolete Pesticide Stocks**

The crop protection industry has voluntarily contributed to multi-stakeholder programmes to remove obsolete pesticide stocks. Between 1991 and 2003, the crop protection industry participated in over 25 projects in 20 countries, leading to the safe disposal of an estimated 3,000 tons of obsolete pesticides. Since 2005 the focus has been on the African Stockpiles Programme, which included national governments, FAO, World Bank, as well as NGOs (PAN UK, PAN Africa and WWF). The program was established to remove all obsolete pesticides from the continent and help prevent their future build up. This, and subsequent activities with FAO and the World Bank, will have removed around 9,000 tonnes by the end of 2018, as demonstrated in this graph.



- **Tackling the Anti-Counterfeit Pesticide Market**

While the amount of counterfeit and illegal pesticides is unknown – given illegal activity can't be accurately measured – reliable third-party publications demonstrate that the problem is growing. The industry is therefore committed to work with law enforcement agencies to stop counterfeit pesticides before they reach countries, the market or farmers.

CropLife International is a member of, and in regular contact with, all major international anti-counterfeiting organizations including the Interpol Intellectual Property Crimes Action Group, Business Alliance to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy, REACT, Anti Counterfeiting Network and OECD Task Force on Charting Illicit Trade.

In user markets, we are focused on farmer awareness-raising, promoting the integrity of legal distribution and advocating local licensing and joint regulatory and police enforcement actions. Efforts are integrated wherever possible with existing CropLife stewardship programs to educate farmers on counterfeit and illegal pesticides.

Globally we are focused on promoting information linkages across borders on the trade of illegal pesticides. We are also developing international consensus and momentum with law enforcement to tackle the issue of counterfeits and in providing facts to their trans-national investigations. Among intergovernmental institutions we promote the full enforcement of existing legislation and improvements in legislation (especially for penalties) to target the growing trade in counterfeit and illegal pesticides.

In all markets, we are increasing voluntary due diligence through programs such as Know Your Customer and Know Your Supplier. These programs are based on all supply chain stakeholders knowing who is legally involved in trading pesticides.

- **Promotion of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management**

The [International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management](#) is the FAO/WHO's voluntary standard and point of reference for sound pesticide management practices and CropLife International members are committed to abide by the provisions of it. In 2013, the Code was revised to clearly reference public health and align with current best management practices and CropLife International developed an [e-learning tool](#) to help the industry understand it. So far more than 10,000 people have used the online tool to increase their knowledge.

