

CROP CIRCULAR

CropLife
SOUTH AFRICA

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IN THIS ISSUE

- CropLife SA conference invite
- Pula Mvula - **Know your pests**
- What the **EU Green Deal** means for potato production in SA



CONTRIBUTE

We are always looking for news, photographs or event updates from our members. Please forward your contributions to elriza@croplife.co.za

WELCOME



Rod Bell

Chief Executive Officer
CropLife South Africa

A warm welcome to our latest issue of the CropLife SA Crop Circular. We are at an exciting stage of the agricultural season, with the summer rainfall season starting now and the first rains of the season have fallen.

A key discussion point in recent weeks has been the possible negative impact of the Transnet strike on our industry. A great deal of focus was placed on the difficulties of exporting fresh produce as a result of the closure of transportation routes and port operations. However, CropLife SA members have been equally impacted by the inability to import active ingredients, co-formulants or finished plant protection solutions into the country via our ports. Personal communication with several CropLife SA member companies highlighted similar issues – stock is going to be available for the start of the summer rainfall region plant season, but in some cases, perhaps slightly late. Further, all member companies I have spoken to have made contingency plans – this usually entails the importation of excess stock and/or the importation of active ingredients or local formulation of stock well in advance of the season. The impact on the companies' working capital is significant, but such actions do ensure sufficient stock availability in the country for the first part of the summer rainfall season.

The CropLife SA team continues to engage with government to find solutions to the delays in getting applications for the registration of agricultural remedies processed in a timely manner. As previously reported, CropLife SA also participates in engagements with government via the Agricultural Business Chamber (AgBiz) and the Strategic Agricultural Inputs Forum (SAIF). I am delighted to report that at the end of September 2022, the SAIF team joined the DALRRD team of Director General Ramesodi, Deputy Director General Serage and the Registrar (Act No. 36 of 1947) Mr Mudzunga at the DALRRD office

to jointly sign a document detailing the results of a gap analysis that was conducted by SAIF members and the Office of the Registrar. The result of having the gap analysis formally accepted and adopted is that efforts can now move to finding solutions to close the identified gaps, gaps which are hindering the timely processing of registration dossiers by the Office of the Registrar, Act No. 36 of 1947. There is a huge amount of work to be done to develop and implement an improvement plan, but we are moving in the right direction, with government working with industry.

Another exciting development since our last newsletter is the decision to open the CropLife SA Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme to technical and marketing people from all member companies, instead of it being available only to salespeople from distribution member companies, as was the case previously. The uptake of the new situation has been excellent to date, and we expect the number of CPD programme participants to grow every year.

As a follow-up to the session on the EU Green Deal and its possible negative consequences for South African farmers, held during the CropLife SA conference (CropCon) earlier this year, CropLife SA is hosting a conference on 24 November 2022 to explore the concept further. The event will be held in Cape Town but will also be a hybrid event, meaning that those who cannot travel to the Cape for the event will be able to participate remotely. More details are available further on in this newsletter and invitations have already been sent to all CropLife SA member companies.

I extend to you all our very best wishes for a successful summer rainfall growing season.

CONTENT

01

Welcome message from our Chief Executive Officer

03

Poster - Label Directions Responsibility

GHS Training Module

CPD Programme Extension to Supplier and Associate Members

Translated GHS Terminology

Gap analysis report signed by SAIF and DALRRD

Media statement: Safeguarding homeowners against the unlawful use of aluminium phosphide containing products

Good Experimental Practice (GEP) Forum

04

CropLife SA Conference invite



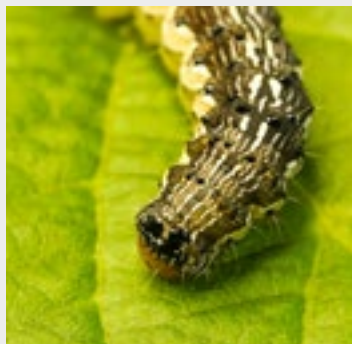
05

Media and communications



06

Pula Mvula - Know your pests



KYK: GROOTplaas

Opportunities to incorporate Plant Biotech in IPM Strategies

07

What the EU Green Deal means for potato production in SA



Kontantgewasse is uiters kwesbaar vir nagmuisskade



08

Listen: Industry experts discuss the aluminium phosphide poisoning case

Locust outbreaks expected to increase this season

Pest control laws 'widely disregarded' — experts after fumigation deaths

Nog sprinkaanswerms in die Wes-Kaap aangemeld

Luister: Dr Gerhard Verdoorn praat oor sprinkane



09

Giving farmers access to technology and ensuring responsible use

In case you missed it

A friendly reminder to all CropLife SA members that the bulk email communications sent out by the team are also loaded on the member portal in the “Notices” section. We recommend logging in at least once a week to see if you may have missed anything important.

Poster - Label Directions Responsibility

We’ve created a simple poster for members with depots or outlets to inform their clients buying over-the-counter products that they remain legally responsible for ensuring they apply the purchased product strictly according to the label directions.

The poster is available on the member portal and can be downloaded [here](#). Please feel free to use it as you see fit.



GHS Training Module

The new GHS compliance regulations are upon us, and as part of our objective to ensure that our members are compliant, we have introduced a GHS training module into the CPD programme. Although crop advisers who wish to obtain CPD points for completing the module are required to complete an assessment, we realise that this information is of paramount importance to many other members, which is why we have made the content available on the member portal. Click [here](#) for more information.

CPD Programme Extension to Supplier and Associate Members

The CropLife SA team is delighted to inform all member companies that the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme that has previously only been open to salespersons of distributor member companies, is now available for all persons working for CropLife SA member companies. Click [here](#) for more information.

Translated GHS Terminology

Recently, it has become necessary to have the Afrikaans GHS terminology available for agricultural remedy labels and we now have a set of GHS hazard statements and GHS precautionary statements for CropLife SA members, which is available on the member portal in the Regulatory > Guidelines for Compliance section.

Please do your level best to use these terms because they are linguistically and scientifically correct. We trust that it will assist the registration holders with speeding up the transformation of labels and SDSs into the GHS format.

Gap analysis report signed by SAIF and DALRRD

The SAIF Gap Analysis was accepted and signed by DG Ramesodi on Tuesday 20 September 2022. The Gap Analysis was conducted jointly by all industry associations that operate under Act No. 36 of 1947 to show how under-resourced the Office of the Registrar is, with the ultimate goal of having this office correctly resourced and functional. It provides a foundation for the creation of an implementation plan which is expected to include a formal public-private-partnership between industry & DALRRD.

This is a monumental moment for our industry as we now have a commitment from DALRRD to work with industry to find long-term solutions for the regulatory challenges in the Office of the Registrar (Act No. 36 of 1947). You can download the official press release [here](#) and photos [here](#).

Media statement: Safeguarding homeowners against the unlawful use of aluminium phosphide containing products

The shocking death of a Durban couple that became the latest victims of the unlawful use of a highly regulated stored grain fumigant, namely aluminium phosphide, is one of several such incidents over the past two years in which residents were exposed to the criminal misuse of a pesticide for indoor pest control. CropLife South Africa has requested registration holders of registered aluminium phosphide containing pesticides to immediately implement stringent measures to prevent similar grave incidents from occurring again. Read the full statement [here](#).



INVITATION: HYBRID CONFERENCE

24 November 2022

08:30 - 16:00

Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West

The event will be followed by networking and cocktails

You are invited to join CropLife SA for a conference aimed at providing insights into the **impact of the EU Green Deal on SA Agriculture**.

The discussions will focus on the impacts on **agricultural exports, MRLs, regulatory** challenges, phasing out of **hazardous chemicals** and more.

The conference will be a hybrid event with the option to attend in person or virtually. Limited seating available.

[Click here](#) to register and RSVP for the event

(You will receive your confirmation email within 24-72 hours)

We look forward to hosting you



Good Experimental Practice (GEP) Forum

As you are aware, the pending draft regulation in support of Act No. 36 of 1947 is going to include the requirement for certain field trials to be conducted according to Good Experimental Practice (GEP) standards. To assist CropLife SA member companies prepare for this new requirement, it seems prudent that CropLife SA facilitates a discussion in this regard within the industry. Click [here](#) for more information.

Media and communications





Pula Mvula - **Know your pests**

Pests such as Fall armyworm, Cotton bollworm and Maize stem borers can have devastating results on their preferred host plants, which is why it is imperative that farmers can identify these pests early to ensure effective management with the right set of tools. A series of articles were published in Pula Mvula to give farmers an overview of what to look for when scouting for these pests, and how best to manage them:

- [July 2022: Fall armyworm](#)
- [September 2022: Cotton bollworm](#)
- [October 2022: African maize stalk borer](#)
- [November 2022: Chilo borer](#)



KYK: GROOTplaas

September 2022

Die impak van klimaatsverandering word elke dag wêreldwyd gevoel en is steeds 'n ernstige bedreiging vir ons landboustelsels en die vermoë van ons boere om ons voedselvoorraad te verseker. Die aanpassing van ons voedselproduksiestelsels om veerkragtig te wees teen uiterste klimaat en ongunstige omgewingstoestande is 'n groeiende prioriteit en sal 'n reeks klimaatslim oplossings vereis, insluitend innovasies wat deur biotegnologie aangebied word. Mia gesels met Chantel Arendse oor dié blink planne. Kyk [hier](#) na die onderhoud.



Opportunities to incorporate Plant Biotech in IPM Strategies

Elriza Theron

SA Grain - September 2022

There are a few 'buzz concepts' that we keep reading about in agriculture. They are being repeated due to their importance: feeding a projected population of 9,9 billion by 2050, the effects of the European Green Deal on South African agriculture, mitigating climate change, embracing new technologies for sustainability, and of course, integrated crop management. Integrated pest management (IPM) plays a noteworthy role in integrated crop management.

At the end of the day, these topics are all interlinked because they have an underlying theme – how we as a species can ensure our optimal survival, including protecting the earth which is, after all, our home. Read the full article [here](#).



What the EU Green Deal means for potato production in SA

Dirk Uys
AgriOrbit – September 2022

The European Commission has initiated a bold strategy, stipulating that the European Union's (EU) production activities become climate-neutral by 2050. This forms part of the EU Green Deal which aims to enable sustainable and inclusive economic growth in all economic sectors without impacting natural resources.

The EU has committed a significant investment towards the restoration of ecosystems. This has triggered many debates on the viability of this strategy, as seen in recent farmer protests in the Netherlands against the EU's demands to reduce nitrogen oxide and ammonia produced by farm animals. Read the full article [here](#).

Kontantgewasse is uikers kwesbaar vir nagmuisskade

Dr Gerhard Verdoorn
SA Graan – September 2022

Graanprodusente is aan verskeie drukkante vanuit die natuur uitgelewer. Klimaatsverandering is sekerlik die grootste bedreiging, want dit veroorsaak nie slegs uiterstes wat droogte en reënval betref nie, maar skep ook groot onsekerheid oor weerpatrone wat volgens alle aanduiding ernstig aan die skuif is.

'n Sekondêre gevolg van klimaatsverandering is die voorkoms van plae, siektes en onkruid wat dikwels onbekend of onverwags is. Produsente het al met innoverende praktyke na vore gekom om dié uitdagings die hoof te bied, maar soms is daar chroniese probleme wat op geen manier heeltemal uitgewis kan word nie. Lees die volledige artikel [hier](#).



Listen: Industry experts discuss the aluminium phosphide poisoning case

Cape Talk – October 2022

Consumer Talk: A young couple died as a result of alleged poisoning. Listen to the interview [here](#).

Locust outbreaks expected to increase this season

Susan Marais
Farmers Weekly – October 2022

Following the first brown locust outbreak in the Northern Cape, there are fears that locust numbers could get out of hand due to vast areas of vacant land in the province. Read the article [here](#).

Pest control laws ‘widely disregarded’ — experts after fumigation deaths

Wendy Knowler
Sunday Times – October 2022

SA may have stringent controls pertaining to the sale of pest control products containing the highly toxic and potentially lethal ingredient aluminium phosphide, but they're being brazenly and widely disregarded — with fatal consequences.

That's according to Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, stewardship manager at CropLife SA and director of the Griffon Poison Information Centre. Read the full article [here](#).

Nog sprinkaanswerms in die Wes-Kaap aangemeld

Michelle van der Spuy
Landbou.com – October 2022

Sprinkaanswerms is einde September by Beaufort-Wes en Murraysburg in die Sentraal-Karoo, asook by Kliprand in die Weskus aangemeld.

Volgens die Wes-Kaapse departement van Landbou is die swerms by Beaufort-Wes nog klein en onder beheer. Distriksprinkaanbeamptes sal voortgaan om dié gebied te monitor. Lees die volledige artikel [hier](#).



Luister: Dr Gerhard Verdoorn praat oor sprinkane

Landbouradio – Oktober 2022

Dr Gerhard Verdoorn praat met Gerda le Roux oor die erns van die huidige sprinkaanuitbreking. Luister [hier](#) na die onderhoud.

Giving farmers access to technology and ensuring responsible use

Chantel Arendse (Lead: Plant Biotechnology)



As longstanding adopters of genetically modified (GM) seed technology, South African farmers have been in the fortunate position of not only being able to access the best available seed technology, but also being on the receiving end of benefits resulting from widespread use of GM insect resistant (IR) and herbicide tolerant (HT) traits. These derived benefits have included yield increases due to reduced crop damage/losses, improved farmer income and livelihoods, use of fewer resources and better flexibility with management of weeds and pests. While available evidence confirms that smallholder adopters of the technology have also enjoyed these benefits, this success does not equally translate to smallholder farmers in every corner of South Africa.

The invasion of Fall armyworm (*Spodoptera Frugiperda*) in South Africa in 2016 resulted in serious crop damage and losses for some farmers, and was for the most part mitigated by quick actioning of emergency response plans providing farmers with the necessary guidance to respond swiftly and responsibly in terms of pest control management options. In this instance, the outcomes were mostly better for farmers that had planted IR maize as opposed to those who had not, with smallholder maize farmers in Limpopo in particular being impacted.

As it becomes harder for our farmers, both commercial and smallholder, to keep up production levels in the face of extreme weather events, pests and disease outbreaks, rising costs of inputs etc., agricultural innovations will become increasingly important in the farmer's toolbox to help them produce our food in an efficient, affordable and sustainable way. It is therefore important that our farmers are aware of the technology options available to them and have adequate knowledge to make informed decisions about what works best for their farming operation.



In this regard, CropLife SA with the appointment of its service provider, Mega Biotech solutions, has teamed up with collaborating partners such as Corteva Agriscience and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD) to build the knowledge base of smallholder farmers in selected regions of Limpopo with regard to herbicide tolerant and insect resistant seed technology. The establishment of one hectare biotech maize demonstration plots located on smallholder farming locations in Giyani and Sekhukhune, will serve as a platform from which to convene farmer training and information days to achieve the following:



- Introduce IR and HT trait technology to smallholder farmers
- Demonstrate the efficacy of biotech maize varieties against target pests such as Fall armyworm
- Raise awareness about integrated pest management through good agricultural practices
- Provide training on responsible use for the handling, transport, storage and use of agrochemicals, including the proper disposal of containers.

As the October rains have finally arrived, there is a hive of activity underway at the two selected farm locations in Limpopo where soil preparation and planting of biotech seed has finally commenced. While the project is still in its infancy, we are excited at the prospect of finally getting back into the field engaging with farmers and planting seeds of knowledge. We thank all our partners for their support thus far, especially Corteva Agriscience for their sponsorship of some of the agricultural inputs.

CONTACT

If you have any queries, would like to become a member, or if you have general feedback, we would love to hear from you. Please contact any member of our team:

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