

CROP CIRCULAR

CropLife
SOUTH AFRICA

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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

As I write this welcome note for the latest edition of the CropLife SA newsletter, we are between the summer rainfall growing season and the winter rainfall growing season. The sporadic, and in many areas, insufficient, rainfall during the summer rainfall season has left many farmers in tough situations due to either failed or poor yielding harvests.

The impact on the industry and CropLife SA member companies in particular is not yet fully known, but we do expect there to be a negative impact for sure. We hope that the pending winter rainfall growing season will provide a better scenario for farmers and CropLife SA members alike.

As you all know, holding a product registration in terms of Act No. 36 of 1947 is our industry's 'right to operate'. The new regulation in support of this act was published in August of 2023 and it contains a number of new pieces of legislation that will have a significant impact on CropLife SA member companies, whether supplier, distributor or associate member. Therefore, compliance with the many pieces of legislation impacting our members and our industry will be the theme of the 2024 CropLife SA CropCon roadshow. Communications as to the various venues around our country where the CropCon event will be presented, will continue to be shared with all industry role players.

You will be able to read more about the CropLife SA team elsewhere in this newsletter, but I am delighted to welcome our new team members. Mr Quade Sing Jam has joined the team as Compliance Specialist and Ms Anushka Gokul has joined us as Regulatory Specialist. We all look forward to working with our new colleagues going forward as they join the team in serving the CropLife SA member companies.

On the subject of compliance, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulation for pesticide containers is now fully in force. The deadline for a supplier company to register itself with the Dept Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment has passed and any registration holder seeking the services of the Office of the Registrar (Act No. 36 of 1947) now has to provide proof of compliance with the EPR legislation – proof of having registered with the DFFE and proof of participation in a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) that handles the collection and recycling of empty pesticide containers.

Those member companies that have elected to be a part of the CropLife SA PRO are also required to submit their annual returns, in terms of the volume of pesticide packaging they have placed on the local market, to the CropLife SA PRO and this process is nearly completed for the current cycle.

The end of April was also the end of the annual CropLife SA Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme. Overall, there has been good compliance with the programme this cycle, but we are still not at 100% compliance for all participants.

Thank you for reading this edition of the CropLife SA Crop Circular.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rod".

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CropLife SA AGM 2024 – SUMMARY

CropLife South Africa conducted its Annual General Meeting as a hybrid event on 10 April 2024, with participants having the choice of attending in person at the Grain Building in Pretoria, or via MS Teams. The meeting was opened by CropLife SA CEO, Rod Bell, who initiated the proceedings by presenting Dr. Gerhard Verdoorn an acclaimed *Appreciation of Service to the Industry* award. Gerhard has been an embodiment of the saying “Just do the right thing”, and the CropLife SA team and the entire industry are fortunate to have him as part of the team, providing ongoing guidance and support.



Bell continued the meeting by providing attendees with an overview of the strategic direction that was discussed and approved at the last Executive Council meeting of 2023. The focus areas for the CropLife SA team going forward are stewardship, regulatory, advocacy, compliance and information resources. This will form the basis for all the association's activities, and each portfolio has an ExCo member assigned to it to provide support, guidance and report back to ExCo on the activities.

David Wood then presented his report as CropLife SA President, and reminded everyone about what the association is doing for its members. He noted that the

question of “What does CropLife do for me” is one that is too often asked without realising the enormous effort and strides made by the association, ultimately in service to its members. He then proceeded to highlight some of these achievements, including the efforts in obtaining a phase-out period for substances of concern and the huge effort in getting the CropLife SA PRO (Producer Responsibility Organisation) off the ground for its members to comply with the new Extended Producer Responsibility regulations.

Bell continued with the agenda, which importantly required eligible members to vote on four resolutions:

- 1. Resolution 1:** The term of office for serving on the CropLife SA ExCo for elected representatives from member companies shall be increased from one year to two years, effective from the CropLife SA AGM 2024.
 - a. Reasoning: ExCo has noticed that changing the composition at each AGM is not conducive to continuity with key ExCo efforts aimed at improving the industry for all role players. As a result, a proposal was sent to all member companies at the time of announcement of the CropLife SA AGM 2024, proposing that as of the AGM 2024, ExCo members serve for two years versus the current one year as per the association's current rules.
 - b. This proposal was sent out to members prior to the AGM, and due to no objections raised, it was accepted as being approved, therefore voting for a new ExCo was not scheduled at the 2024 AGM.
- 2. Resolution 2:** All CropLife SA members that hold registrations of agricultural remedies (as defined in Act No. 36 of 1947 and its supporting regulations) shall ensure that at all times, the latest agricultural product remedy labels are provided to Agri-Intel by the registration holder for inclusion of all commercial labels in the Agri-Intel database.
 - a. Reasoning: To ensure that all persons accessing the Agri-Intel database have the latest product use and GHS information (information available from product labels & safety data sheets). The new GHS-linked legislation requires that all end-users are provided with the latest information relating to the hazards involved with the use of the agricultural remedy. The responsibility for communicating this information lies with all stages of the value chain, from registration holders and suppliers, to distribu-

tors and finally to Crop Advisers. Further, the new Regulation in support of Act No. 36 of 1947 published in August 2023, contains a requirement for the creation of a publicly accessible database that lists ALL agricultural remedies registered in South Africa. Therefore, this information will soon, and quite correctly so, be considered public information.

3. Resolution 3: Any person involved with the promotion, marketing and sale of plant protection solutions registered and supplied by CropLife SA member companies shall participate in the CropLife SA Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme.

- a. Reasoning: Currently, participation in the CropLife SA CPD programme is voluntary, however, linked to the legislation mentioned in the reasoning for resolution 2, the responsibility of communication and education about the hazards linked to an agricultural remedy lies throughout the value chain. Therefore, as part of the CropLife SA ExCo's commitment to improving the public image of the plant protection solutions industry, plus ensuring compliance to all relevant legislation, it is proposed that participation in the CropLife SA CPD programme becomes mandatory for all those involved in any form of recommendation of plant protection solutions manufactured and sold by CropLife SA member companies. This is applicable to suppliers who train distributor members on the use of their products, as well as distributors who in turn train farmers and farmworkers.

4. Resolution 4: An average of declared turnover made by supplier member companies for their last 3 calendar year sales will be used to calculate the supplier members' annual CropLife SA membership fees.

- a. Reasoning: Currently, the membership fee for CropLife SA supplier members is based on the declared sales the supplier company recorded for the previous calendar year. Given the vagaries of our climate and international trading conditions, this method of calculating supplier membership fees results in great annual fluctuations in the income of the association from supplier members. In order to mitigate these annual variations and to allow for greater accuracy with budgeting for the association, it is proposed that the average of the previous three years of sales be used to calculate supplier membership fees versus the current use

of only the previous year. The proposal is that this is effective from the 2025/26 membership cycle.

Members were asked to cast their vote online or in person. While the votes were being tallied, CropLife SA's appointed auditors provided their report, once again praising the association for its effective management of the finances, and subsequently, the CEO announced the budget for the 2024/2025 financial year, which was approved by the members. In addition, the auditors were reappointed, and the seat of the association remained unchanged.

Finally, the day concluded with the results of the resolution votes. As mentioned, the first resolution was sent out prior to the AGM for voting, and no objections were received.

Therefore, the Executive Council for 2024 at the time of the AGM remained as:

Distributor Member Representatives

- David Wood (President) - Farmers Agricare
- Chris Thompson - Laeveld Agrochem
- Gideon Hefer - Inteligro
- Quintin Cross - AECI Plant Health

Supplier Member Representatives

- Marius Boshoff (Vice-President) - Villa (Winfield United)
- Ben Krog - Andermatt Madumbi
- Christian Giesel - Syngenta
- Fanie van der Merwe - Corteva
- Matt Fryer - UPL
- Kobus Meintjes - Bayer
- Ockie Olivier - Adama
- Vikesh Vallabh - BASF

The votes for resolutions 2 – 4 were tallied as follows:

- Resolution 2: 89% For
- Resolution 3: 86% For
- Resolution 4: 83% For

This means that all the resolutions brought to the AGM by the Executive Council were passed, as a 70% majority vote is required by the Articles of the Association. Further communication about the exact details of how these resolutions will be incorporated and facilitated, including the process for CPD participation and submitting labels to Agri-Intel will be communicated to members in due course.

The meeting concluded with Rod Bell thanking each member for their commitment to the industry and the Association, as well as the Executive Council and the CropLife SA team for their service.

New Team Members for CropLife SA

As the CropLife SA team is taking on more and more responsibilities in order to serve its members, we are thrilled to have two more colleagues join the team:

Quade Sing Jam joins as Compliance Specialist



Being no stranger to the CropLife SA stewardship team, Quade has an excellent working knowledge of how various pieces of legislation (such as Act No. 36 of 1947, NEMA, National Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996 and OHS Act) impact the warehousing, transportation and regional storage of agricultural remedies in South Africa as well as of the various applicable SANS codes. In addition, he has hands-on experience with government and municipal inspectors visiting warehouses in our industry to conduct compliance checks, making him the ideal candidate for the position.

Anushka Gokul joins as Regulatory Specialist

Anushka joins us from the SA Sugar Research institute (where she led a team looking at various agrochemical uses to boost sugarcane production).

Also no stranger to the CropLife SA family, she has been participating in several industry activities such as participation in the resistance action committees, SABS, SACNASP, SASPP, SASTA & SASIAA.



She has previously worked on the impact of soil-borne pathogens on key South African row crops at the ARC and she has experience in working with the development, registration, and commercial production, of biological agricultural remedies. Anushka studied at Stellenbosch University, with the following qualifications:

- MSc in Plant Pathology (*Fusarium graminearum* species complex (FGSC) composition in South African wheat and maize grown in rotation)
- BSc (Hons) in Chemical Pathology (High leptin levels and obesity in the mixed ancestry population from the Bellville South study)
- BSc in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

Please join us in welcoming them to the CropLife SA team.

Continued Collaboration Between CropLife SA and SAPCA

Hiresh Ramanand (Stewardship Specialist)

DISPOSAL OF EMPTY PESTICIDE PACKAGING BY PEST CONTROL OPERATORS

Although a concerted effort has been made to raise awareness, currently, compliance among pest control operators (PCOs) could certainly improve. In terms of empty pesticide packaging management, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Declaration were compiled, in collaboration with the South African Pest Control Association (SAPCA), with the aim to significantly increase compliance and will be used by the 15 dedicated PCO collection points to remind PCOs of their responsibilities. The Declaration will be signed by all SAPCA members upon renewal of their membership. To accompany the Declaration and SOP, a reporting form was compiled by SAPCA and CropLife SA, where non-compliance can be reported anonymously. Reports received by SAPCA will be directed to the CropLife SA PRO for further action. Further, details of the 15 dedicated PCO collection points have been summarised by CropLife SA and made available by SAPCA to simplify the process of identifying CropLife SA certified recyclers for the disposal of empty pesticide packaging in this context.

Finally, the Pest Control Industries Training Academy (PCITA) was permitted to use the PCO cleaning guidelines available for various forms of empty pesticide packaging that were developed by the CropLife SA PRO, to train individuals looking to enter the PCO industry. In addition, a one-page introductory note was compiled and shared with PCITA highlighting key legislation in this regard. The reason for this decision by the CropLife SA PRO is simple - not all PCOs are SAPCA members and therefore, in this way, a much wider audience can be reached where trainees are targeted to instill this knowledge before they enter the sector.

The CropLife SA PRO will continue to closely collaborate with SAPCA and PCITA in order to achieve a respectable level of compliance when it comes to the disposal of empty pesticide packaging by PCOs.





Container Management from a Recylers' Perspective

Zweli Mgayo (Olimekayo Agriculture Solutions)

At Olimekayo Agriculture Solutions, we're proud to play our part in promoting sustainable agriculture through responsible recycling. Every day, we work with farmers and growers across the country to collect and safely recycle their agricultural empty pesticide containers, from large drums to small containers and fertilizer bags, keeping them out of landfills and our environment.

We believe that product stewardship is an important part of creating a more sustainable future for everyone. By working together to recover plastic and recycle materials, we can help to protect our planet and ensure a healthy future for generations to come.

We want to give a massive shout out to all our farmers and growers who are doing the right thing and making the effort to recycle their agricultural plastics, as well as the brands, merchants and stakeholders who support us in our programme. Let's continue to work together to

provide sustainable options for more agricultural plastics and achieve better environmental outcomes for our communities.

As a member of CropLife South Africa, Olimekayo Agriculture Solutions remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing safety and education within the agricultural industry. The success of the *Safe and Responsible Use Pesticides - Train the Trainer* serves as a testament to the collective dedication of industry stakeholders towards building safer and more sustainable agricultural practices. With a wealth of knowledge gained and connections forged, attendees depart trainings empowered to effect positive change in their respective spheres of influence.

We're thrilled to witness the enthusiastic response from the farmers as they embrace CropLife South Africa's message on the safe and responsible use of pesticides.

Don't Forget to Register for CropCon 2024 – THE ROADSHOW EDITION

CropLife
SOUTH AFRICA

CROPCon 2024 The Roadshow Edition

Register Now >>

22 May
Pretoria

11 July
Paarl

20 August
Bloemfontein

27 August
Mbombela

4 September
Durban

We are thrilled to invite you to the **biennial CropLife SA Conference (CropCon)** scheduled to take place in five different regions this year. The events will be hybrid; however, we strongly recommend attending in person. Not only does this give us a chance to network, but CropLife SA CPD participants who attend in person will receive points without the need to complete an assessment.

This year's **CropCon** will focus on compliance, aiming to equip all our members with the necessary information to ensure they can do the right thing – from manufacturing to empty pesticide container management. The programme can be downloaded [here](#).

The dates are as follows (venues subject to change):

- 22 May – Pretoria, The Capital (RSVPs close 17 May)
- 11 July – Paarl, Laborie Estate
- 20 August – Bloemfontein, President Hotel
- 27 August – Mbombela, Southern Sun
- 4 September – Durban, Hilton Garden Inn

Please register (link on top) at your earliest convenience to book your space, as in-person attendance is based on a first-rsvp-first-served basis.

We look forward to welcoming you to CropCon 2024 – The Roadshow Edition.

RESPONSIBLE PESTICIDE USE: CropLife SA Train the Trainer Initiative

Hiresh Ramanand (Stewardship Specialist)

In 2023, CropLife SA embarked on an initiative to train and certify as many individuals as possible in responsible use. This was achieved through training webinars conducted by Gerhard Verdoorn (Operations & Stewardship Manager). The aim of the training was that the certified responsible use trainers would spread the CropLife SA responsible use message to those who need it most, and report on the number of people trained. During the first Stewardship Forum held for 2024, the responsible use training statistics based on this initiative, were summarised and discussed.

TOTAL NUMBER TRAINED

CropLife SA and its members certified as responsible use trainers trained a total of 5 700 individuals. Certified trainers who are not CropLife SA members (independent) trained a total of 196 individuals. Overall, the CropLife SA responsible use message reached 5 896 individuals during 2023. The responsible use training sessions were predominantly theory based; however, there were a few practical training sessions conducted as well.

CROPLIFE SA & CERTIFIED CROPLIFE SA MEMBERS

CropLife SA and members certified as responsible use trainers conducted 93 training sessions. A total of 71 sessions involved individuals being trained for the first time in responsible pesticide use. Six refresher sessions were held, while 16 training sessions involved individuals being trained for the first time, together with individuals returning to keep updated on responsible pesticide use.

Training sessions largely involved individuals at the farm/grower level. A total of 1 700 individuals involved officials from state agencies, training academies, universities, consultants, auditors and so forth.

INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED TRAINERS

Independent certified responsible use trainers conducted a total of six training sessions. This involved four sessions

where individuals that attended were trained for the first time in responsible pesticide use. Two sessions were dedicated to refresher training in this regard.

These training sessions largely focused on individuals appointed as part of the state's 'Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)'. A total of 68 individuals from the 196 trained were individuals at the farm/grower level.

BARRIERS

Comments received from CropLife SA certified responsible use trainers highlighted the language barrier during certain training sessions. The advice here is to identify someone who can translate what is being said during the training session. The idea is to keep the information very direct to avoid confusion.

A WORTHWHILE INITIATIVE

Now, the key question is whether this initiative by CropLife SA has been worthwhile or not. To get a clear picture, when the training statistics from CropLife SA is removed from the total of 5 896 individuals, 3 396 individuals were trained based on the 28 responses received from the 242 certified trainers. Given that this initiative commenced in 2023, the return has been fruitful thus far. In addition, this now provides the association with solid figures based on reports and sets a baseline to track improvement going forward.

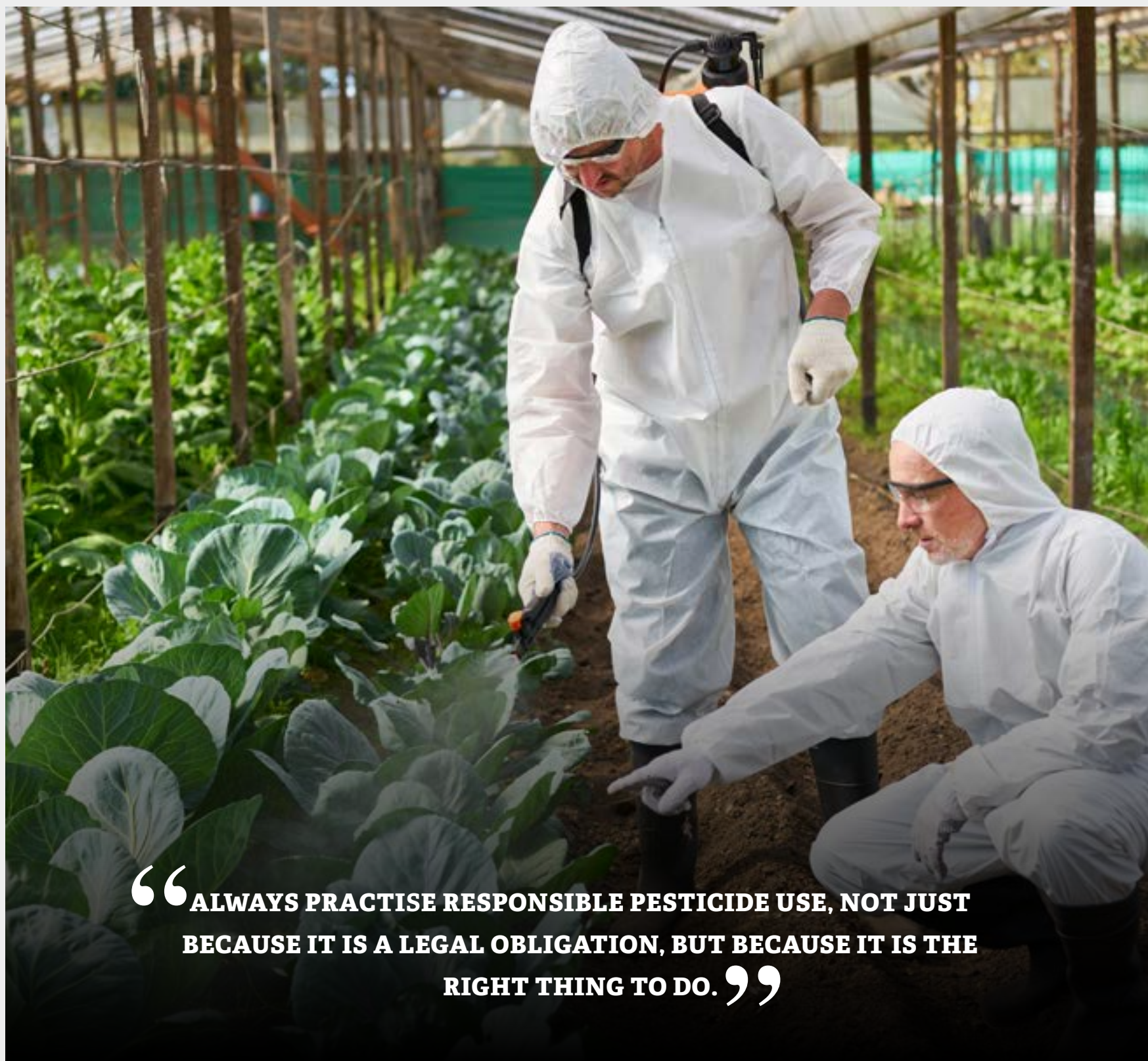
During the Stewardship Forum discussion on this topic, Mr Gordon Khauoe, who is an Assistant Director: Chemicals Management at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), applauded all CropLife SA certified responsible use trainers, as well as the association on a job well done. Mr Khauoe noted that the total number of individuals trained on responsible pesticide use through this initiative was impressive and requested that CropLife SA present the returns on this "investment" at the Multi-stakeholder Committee for Chemicals Management (MCCM) meeting held on 28 February 2024. This was well received by the chair of the

committee, Mr Obed Baloyi – Chief Director: Chemicals Management (DFFE), who thanked CropLife SA and all those involved.

Going forward, the portfolio will continue to invite a selected state official to share their thoughts, ideas, plans and ultimately ascertain how the state and CropLife SA can continue to work together in an impactful manner to address key issues which have relevance on both sides during discussions on specific topics that will be workshopped during Stewardship Forums this year.

Finally, CropLife SA would like to thank all our certified responsible use trainers who submitted training

statistics. Without this information, the association would not have had the tools to evaluate the success of the train the trainer initiative. CropLife SA continues to encourage all certified responsible use trainers to submit training statistics as requested and to adopt innovative methods when transferring information by incorporating more practical training sessions. Always remember that training is one thing, but the impact of the training conducted is another. It is important to ensure that training sessions result in positive actions by attendees when it comes to using pesticides responsibly.



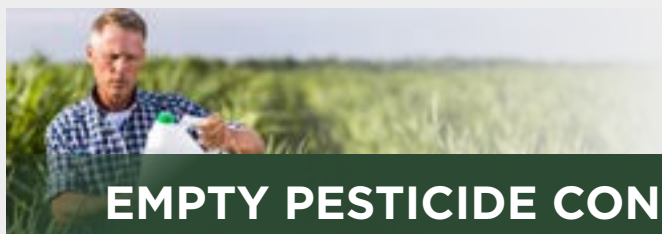
“ALWAYS PRACTISE RESPONSIBLE PESTICIDE USE, NOT JUST BECAUSE IT IS A LEGAL OBLIGATION, BUT BECAUSE IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.”

New Resources Available

In case you missed it, we created a few new resources for our members and the public to use as they see fit

Farmer's Guide to Container Management

(click to download or find it on our website <https://croplife.co.za/CropProtection>):



EMPTY PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

A FARMER'S GUIDE TO DOING THE RIGHT THING

DO ✓

- ▶ Ensure empty containers are **triple rinsed** according to the [CropLife SA protocol](#).
As much as 2.5% of the total product volume is saved by triple rinsing and decanting into the spray tank.
- ▶ Make sure **all farmworkers know** how to triple rinse an empty container.
Triple rinse posters are available in 7 languages on the [CropLife SA website](#).
- ▶ Ensure triple rinsed containers are **punctured** so that they cannot be used again.
- ▶ Arrange for containers to be handed over to a **CropLife SA certified recycler**.
Find a list of recyclers [here](#).
- ▶ **Only transport triple rinsed containers** as they are considered nominally clean.
Triple rinsing removes 99.99% or more of product residue.
- ▶ **Insist on a CropLife SA CoDi Intel Declaration** from the recycler when empty containers are handed over.

DON'T ✗

- ▶ **Do not ever burn or bury pesticide containers.**
It is a criminal offence and could result in fines or jail time.
- ▶ **Do not transport containers that are not triple rinsed if you are not licensed to transport dangerous goods.**
Only qualified drivers and vehicles with a dangerous goods license may transport these.
- ▶ **Do not reuse, sell or donate empty containers, even if they are triple rinsed.**
It is unlawful.

TRIPLE RINSE → **PUNCTURE** → **RECYCLE**

For more, visit www.croplife.co.za/ContainerManagement or email info@croplife.co.za



Know your plastic



KNOW YOUR PLASTIC AND RECYCLE

RECYCLE:



High density polyethylene (HDPE) pesticide containers can be any colour and are generally firm, but soft to the touch (different volumes).



Low density polyethylene (LDPE) bags are clear and usually used as lining in paper or PP bags for granular or powdery pesticides.



Polypropylene (PP) pesticide bags and tubs can be any colour and there's a large variety of sizes. The bags crumble easily if left in the sun.

KEEP SEPARATE AND SEND FOR INCINERATION:



Polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE) pesticide bottles are thin and firm (mostly 1 litre, 2 litre, 5 litre and Ready-To-Use).

Look out for identification triangles embossed underneath the containers or printed on bags.

TRIPLE RINSE → **PUNCTURE** → **RECYCLE**

For more, visit www.croplife.co.za/ContainerManagement or email info@croplife.co.za



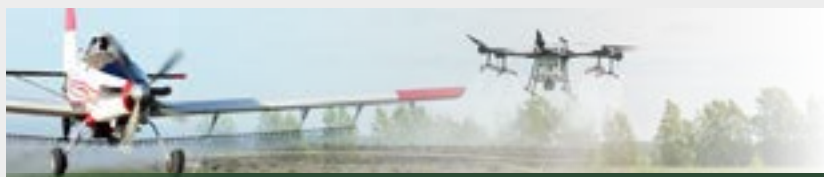
Waste to Wonder



Responsibilities of agricultural remedy role players

Responsibilities of agricultural remedy role players	Manufacturer	Distribution company	Sales agent/ crop adviser	Farmer	Farmworker
Register the product in South Africa	✓				
Only sell/distribute or recommend products that are registered in South Africa	✓	✓	✓		
Only use and apply products that are registered in South Africa				✓	✓
Ensure the product is of the chemical and physical properties as approved for its registration	✓				
Ensure the product is effective as claimed in the registration application	✓				
Package the product in an approved container that doesn't leak and in the prescribed volume	✓				
Supply the product with the approved GHS label, including all safety instructions and directions for use	✓				
Only distribute properly packaged and GHS-labelled products		✓	✓		
Only buy and/or use products that are properly packaged and GHS-labelled				✓	✓
Only distribute products for those purposes as on the product label		✓	✓		
Only use products for those purposes (pests and plants) as on the product label				✓	✓
Provide training and awareness on safety instructions of the product to users		✓	✓	✓	
Follow every label instruction when applying the product				✓	✓
Be licensed to sell Group I Category B agricultural remedies under the Hazardous Substances Act, No. 15 of 1973	✓	✓			
Keep strict records of the sale of Group I Category B agricultural remedies in a poison register		✓	✓		
Ensure the product does not exceed the local MRL if applied according to label instructions	✓				
Apply product during label instructed window of application to ensure that MRL is not exceeded				✓	✓
Triple rinse and puncture empty pesticide containers				✓	✓
Send empty, triple rinsed pesticide containers for recycling				✓	
Be part of a producer responsibility organisation (PRO) that ensures mechanisms are in place to recycle empty plastic pesticide containers	✓				
Store pesticides according to the relevant legislation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supply appropriate personal protective clothing to person applying the product				✓	
Wear appropriate personal protective clothing when handling the product as applicable				✓	✓

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COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST GUIDELINE

AERIAL APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES

DISCLAIMER: The information provided by CropLife South Africa on this document is for general information purposes only. The information contained in this document is based on information sourced from references at the time of compilation. While all information and recommendations are provided to the best of our knowledge, the association takes no responsibility regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, availability, or completeness of the information contained in this document. The information serves to guide farmers in terms of compliance.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

1. Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (**Act No. 36 of 1947**) and the corresponding pest control operator regulations.
2. Civil Aviation Act, 2009 (**Act No. 13 of 2009**).
3. South African National Standard (SANS) for Aerial Application of Pesticides, **SANS 10118** – read in conjunction with supporting regulations of the two Acts mentioned above.

DISCLAIMER:

This document is a summary of the existing legislation that control the aerial application of pesticides. It is **NOT** a list of requirements compiled by CropLife SA, but a guideline checklist to assist farmers (where applicable). Farmers and CropLife SA members (where applicable) are free to utilise this checklist as they wish.

1. Farmers are strongly advised to utilise this guideline checklist to ensure compliance prior to undertaking any aerial application operation. The “KEY NOTE(S)” provide further explanatory detail and may be removed.
2. Note that in South Africa, the same set of legislation which applies to fixed and rotary wing aircrafts, as well as microlights, also applies to drones.
3. Note that farmers or their spray operators (direct employees) who wish to utilise drones for pesticide application must be licensed, as well as the drone(s) to be used, but do not have to be registered under Act No. 36 of 1947 although they must abide by the requirements of SANS 10118.
4. It is recommended that farmers refer to the CropLife SA Position Statement pertaining to drones on the CropLife SA website www.croplife.co.za
5. For any assistance, please email hiresh@croplife.co.za or gerhard@croplife.co.za
6. Practise legal and responsible aerial application of pesticides, not just because it's a legal obligation but because it's the right thing to do.

TRIPLE RINSE YOUR EMPTY PESTICIDE CONTAINERS / HLAMBULULA/GEZA KATHATHU ISIGUBHU SESIBULALA ZINAMBUZANE ESESISEBENZILE

Follow these steps | Latela ditaelo tše di latelago

1



Pour leftover pesticides from the container by placing it upside down over the spray tank and holding it there for at least 30 seconds.
Thulula sonke isibulala zinambuzane, ngokubhekisa isigubhu phansi ngaphezu kwethange lokufafaza. Usibambe lapho imizuzwana ewu 30.

2



Fill with one quarter clean water.
Gcwalisa isigubhu nge kota elilodwa lamanzi.

3



Shake for 30 seconds.
Shukuza imizuzwana ewu 30.

4



Pour into spray tank for 30 seconds.
Thululela ethangini lokufafaza.



Always wear protective clothing.
Uhlale njalo ugqoke izimpahla zokuzivikela.

Follow steps
2 - 4
**Landela lezin-
yathelo 2 - 4**

x3

5



Puncture the rinsed container to render it useless and send to a CropLife SA certified recycler.
Bhoboza isigubhu osusigezile, ukuze singasetshenziswa futhi. Usithumele kulabo anaguqula kabusha (recyclers) abasebenzisa na no CropLife SA, futhi abasemthethweni e South Africa.



| VulPro (Vulture Programme) established in 2007 |



VULTURES NEED YOUR HELP!

The Problem

Vultures are an essential part of the ecosystem, serving to minimise disease and vermin outbreaks by removing carcasses from the environment. This in turn keeps our wildlife, livestock and human populations healthy, the ecosystem balanced and provides benefits to farming and local communities. Vultures are also important sentinels to alert rangers when poaching has taken place, which unfortunately puts them at risk of secondary poisoning.

Africa's vultures have declined by a catastrophic 90% over the last three decades. They face a variety of threats, from accidental death through collisions with electricity infrastructure, electrocutions and secondary poisoning to deliberate poisoning for the traditional medicine trade or for food. This is in addition to the problem of widespread habitat loss affecting all of Africa's wildlife.

Despite their vital role in human health, vultures are often underappreciated and misunderstood.

Our Objective

Saving the vultures from extinction through:

- Vulture rehabilitation
- Monitoring distribution and foraging ranges throughout sub-Saharan Africa
- Monitoring vulture populations and breeding success
- Veterinary and ecological research related to vultures
- Conservation breeding
- Public education and awareness programmes.

Get with the Programme!

Getting involved with vulture conservation is as easy as donating a couple of bucks to VulPro. Why not 'adopt' a vulture at a minimal cost for the year. Get your entire family involved or make it a school project. What's more, you'll get to visit your adopted wild child once a month at the rehab centre!

For an even more hands-on experience, get your company to sponsor a GPS tracking device and you could witness or even participate in, the capture and tagging of a vulture. It definitely beats a day at the office!

"Vultures, as the crown jewels of the avian world, have roamed our skies for millions of years. They have seen species appearing and disappearing below them, yet their own kind has not changed much in the recent history of the earth. Humankind has yearned throughout our own evolution to fly like the vultures and we have embedded vultures in our hieroglyphs and rock art. The negligence and ignorance of modern humankind, however, has taken an enormous toll on vultures. We have a duty to conserve these masters of flight."
Gerhard Verdoorn



Banking details:

Name: VulPro NPC
Bank: First National Bank
Branch: Benmore Gardens
Branch code: 250-655
Account No: 63008172403
Type of account: Business
Reference: Your name



www.vulpro.com

Stewardship Portfolio – WHAT’S NEW?

Hiresh Ramanand (Stewardship Specialist)

ASSIGNED EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EXCO) MEMBER

During the last CropLife SA ExCo meeting of 2023, a decision was taken to have a CropLife SA ExCo member assigned to each CropLife SA portfolio. Assigned ExCo members would then be responsible for reporting on a quarterly basis to the CropLife SA ExCo on each portfolio’s activities.

Mr Vikesh Vallabh (BASF) has been assigned to the stewardship portfolio for this role. The portfolio welcomes Mr Vallabh and looks forward to working with him in this regard. All pertinent details regarding the portfolio’s activities will be communicated with Mr Vallabh for reporting purposes during ExCo meetings.

Mr Vallabh was introduced to all stewardship forum participants during the first forum held on 15 February 2024, where he provided an introductory note focusing on the strategic direction of the stewardship portfolio while also encouraging active participation in stewardship activities.

CHANGES TO FORUMS

CropLife SA members will be aware that forums falling under the portfolio included the four distribution and small pack forums, in addition to the four stewardship forums. While there are no significant changes to the content covered during stewardship forums, the four small pack forums have been discontinued and will no longer feature on the association’s calendar. The key reason for this decision is to avoid duplication of the content covered. All pertinent small pack matters will be incorporated into the stewardship forum agenda as required. Dates and times for all four stewardship forums to be held during 2024 have been circulated to all CropLife SA members.

The distribution forums have been replaced by two hybrid compliance forums, given that compliance matters are far reaching and therefore, distinguishing between distributors and suppliers no longer makes

sense. What this means is that the compliance forums will be open to all CropLife SA members. These forums will be chaired by the Compliance Specialist. Dates and times for both hybrid compliance forums have been circulated to all CropLife SA members. Further details will follow in time.

Two CropLife SA Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) forums will be scheduled during 2024. This will be an important platform to provide feedback to all CropLife SA PRO participants. Participants will be updated on all matters relevant to the finances of the PRO, collection statistics, reporting, BBBEE requirements and compliance, post-consumer recycle (PCR) incorporation into containers and finally, any issues where solutions are highlighted.

Two CropLife SA recycler summits will also be scheduled during 2024. The summits will be open to all certified CropLife SA recyclers in order to communicate any changes in the verification process, solutions to issues, actions taken and misconduct on the part of recyclers are some examples. In essence the summits will be crucial in ensuring effective communication of key details to recyclers so that operations are not hindered in any manner.

As communicated by the portfolio’s manager, Gerhard Verdoorn, during the first stewardship forum of 2024, this strategy pertaining to forums has reduced the number of meeting dates, where clear steps have been taken to attract keen interest, increase and maintain attendance levels, maintain uniqueness between forums and ultimately have a positive impact on all CropLife SA members that attend.

ADVISORY STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The reason for establishing an advisory stewardship committee is to put forward plans, ideas or issues for comment, suggestions, and practicality before proceeding with any major actions. This is envisaged to support the stewardship portfolio with clear direction on what is



feasible and what is not. This is crucial to ensure that any activities or plans by the portfolio are indeed relevant and required.

The stewardship portfolio is delighted to announce that Roy Cackett (Farmers Agri-Care), Henk van der Westhuizen (Philagro), Divesh Govender (Dawns trucking), Lizelle Schwarte (NexusAG), Ricky Rajkaran (UPL) and Elmarie De Lange (Syngenta) have agreed to be part of this committee. This committee offers experience, expertise in different fields in terms of compliance, constructive operational and financial advice with regard to the CropLife SA PRO and ultimately longevity in maintaining the core of this committee going forward.

The stewardship portfolio is most grateful to these individuals, as well as their respective companies for allowing their participation.

THREE INFORMATION RESOURCES TO SUPPORT CROPLIFE SA MEMBERS

1. *PESTICIDE WAREHOUSE COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST – SELF GOVERNANCE*

This practical guideline checklist is a summary of the many pieces of existing legislation impacting the commercial storage of agricultural remedies at the warehouse level. It is not a list of requirements compiled by CropLife SA, nor will CropLife SA be conducting audits of member's facilities. The onus remains on all CropLife SA member companies to ensure compliance with all applicable South African laws whilst conducting business. CropLife SA members are encouraged to take time to study the checklist and adapt it to business operations in order to conduct self-audits.

Distributors with facilities where storage of pesticides (according to class/division) is in excess of the quantities given in Table E.1 of SANS 10206 must refer to this checklist and not the "PESTICIDE DISTRIBUTOR/AGENT DEPOT COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST". Note that on "Sheet2" of the "PESTICIDE DISTRIBUTOR/AGENT DEPOT COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST", a summarised version of Table E.1 is provided based on SANS 10206:2020.

It remains crucial to understand what's in place, what's not and where attention may be required. A concerted effort to address shortcomings, while setting practical targets, will serve members well in the long-term.

“MONEY SPENT ON COMPLIANCE WILL PALE IN COMPARISON TO WHAT WILL HAVE TO BE SPENT IN THE EVENT OF A DISASTER.”

Finally, Ricky Rajkaran (UPL), is thanked for the valuable advice provided on the draft version.

2. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ACT, 1973 - A QUICK GUIDE: WHAT CROPLIFE SA MEMBERS MUST KNOW TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE

Given the many queries received from our members regarding the Hazardous Substances Act, 1973 (Act No. 15 of 1973), the stewardship portfolio has compiled a quick guide for CropLife SA members highlighting what members must know to ensure compliance. This includes, how to determine if a Section 4 Group1 Category A or B licence is required, storage of such products, as well as sales and record keeping. Further, the document briefly touches on the potential implications of the draft regulations published in 2022, as well as an additional information resource for CropLife SA members to exploit. During the first stewardship forum of 2024, participants were encouraged to share this guide with the responsible employee in each respective company.

3. THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT (PIC) PROCEDURE FOR SUBSTANCES LISTED ON THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ANNEX III AND REGULATION (EU) No 649/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

From mid-2023, the stewardship portfolio communicated to CropLife SA members that the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) commissioned an information technology consultant to revise the South African Waste Information Centre, better known as SAWIC, to accommodate the Rotterdam Convention on Prior

Informed Consent (PIC) for substances listed on Annex III and the EU regulations. While the SAWIC's Chemicals Management System has been functional since mid-2023 to apply for a notification (permit) for import and export of Annex III and related substances, it appears that CropLife SA member companies are not utilising the simplified online procedure, given the number of member queries to date. To remedy this, the stewardship portfolio has compiled and circulated to all stewardship forum participants a comprehensive guide to assist CropLife SA member companies with utilising the SAWIC's Chemicals Management System, where applicable. Also circulated with this guide was the EU REGULATION No. 649 of 2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL, which is referenced and noted in the guide document.

CropLife SA member companies (where applicable) must share and institutionalise this document with the respective head of supply chain. This is to avoid issues where products are held in harbours, at a cost per day per container, only to find out that the product cannot enter South Africa.

CONTACT

For any further queries or clarity regarding the guideline documents or any other matters pertaining to stewardship, please feel free to contact hiresh@croplife.co.za.



REPORT: Agbiz Workshop on Campaigns to Effect Social, Political, Economic and Environmental Change in the Agricultural Sector

Annelize Crosby (Legal Intelligence Manager – Agbiz)



Agbiz hosted a workshop on 13 March 2024 in Pretoria on the subject of campaigns that are aimed at bringing about change in the agricultural sector. The workshop was attended by members, some in person and some attending online. The aim of the workshop was to create awareness amongst members of the role and impact of campaigning by non-governmental organisations in the policy and implementation space in the sector.

By way of background, Agbiz has, as one of its core objectives, a role to try and create and maintain an enabling environment for our members to function in. Agbiz is therefore very involved in the policy space. There are, however, many other actors that are also active in the

policy space and sometimes their views are diametrically opposed to that of Agbiz and its members. The approach of many of these NGO's can be quite ideological, emotionally driven and even confrontational. It is important that members understand how these groupings operate and how to respond appropriately.

Presentation by Dr Alan Hardacre on the international context

Dr Hardacre is global public affairs leader based in Brussels with vast experience in advocacy, public affairs and policy work. He presented on the international context of campaigning. He explained that NGO's involved in campaigning can range from billion dollar, well known global, professional organisations such as the

WWF, Greenpeace and Oxfam to small community-based organisations and ideological style NGO's. Large NGO's spend lots of money on marketing. Many of the NGO's in Europe have an international focus and footprint. NGO's are in essence businesses that influence political decisions. Some of these NGO's are very good at what they do and very influential.

It is important to understand that NGO's campaign, rather than engage in dialogue, and that they do not have regard for science and evidence. Industry, on the other hand, tends to rely heavily on science and evidence. The focus of NGO's is more on what people feel and would like to see in society. NGO's exist to create and sell ideas. Campaigns are aimed both at influencing policy and attracting more funding. NGO's might create a sense of crisis and urgency in order to achieve their objectives. They might also use tactics to exclude industry from important policy debates. Sometimes the integrity and credibility of industry organisations are called into question.

Dr Hardacre had some advice for businesses that are targeted in campaigns. Some of the participants also shared their experiences and lessons learnt. It was stressed just how important it is to acknowledge the issues that NGOs may be raising about the industry – with an excellent example from a participant of how they embraced the criticism they were facing and engaged with the NGO in question to good effect.

Presentation by Annelize Crosby on the South African context

Agbiz's legal intelligence manager shared her perspective on the South African context. She said that the South African landscape is very well suited to activism because of our political history and the very serious problems that we are faced with as a country such as poverty, inequality and unemployment. Climate change, poor service delivery and infrastructure collapse also contribute to creating a fertile ground for frustration, which in turn opens up possibilities for groupings to launch various campaigns. Whilst our Constitution is very progressive and provides for the protection and achievement of human rights, many people still lack access to basic rights and services such as healthcare, housing, and education. Our political history is one of activism and many of our politicians are still proudly

activist. There are also quite a few activist academics in our society.

Activism is not always a bad thing - it can be quite effective in bringing positive change in a society where such change is sorely needed. The Treatment Action Campaign around Aids treatment is one such example. In the agricultural space, the popular themes for campaigns are seed, pesticides, GMO's, farmworker rights, land and water. Groupings that typically are targeted in campaigns, include big corporate companies in the value chain, commercial farmers, the seed industry, the pesticide industry, the tobacco industry and specific commodities such as wine and fruit.

Presentation by Elriza Theron on communication challenges and possible solutions

Elriza Theron is the advocacy and communications manager at CropLife SA. She has extensive experience in advocacy and communication. Elriza explained how the approach to communication has changed over time and she shared the challenges regarding the public understanding of science. Increasing the public's understanding of science, does not necessarily translate into support for science as the public can still make moral judgements about science even if it doesn't understand it. There is a lot more public participation in science nowadays and this brings its own challenges. The public is increasingly engaged in science debates even before certain science projects are initiated. The relationship between science and society will continue to change. The internet also brought about a whole new dynamic in what information is publicly available. It is a well-known fact that falsehoods spread faster and wider than accurate information. There is a lot of mis- and disinformation out there, which is very difficult to correct. Good science communication requires more than language. Communication is not one-size-fits-all. Personal relationships with journalists and other stakeholders are important. Communication needs to be pitched at the right level.

Way forward

It was decided that this report will be circulated to members together with the presentations. A working group will be established to take the debate forward and also to make recommendations regarding how this can be dealt with as a discussion point at the Agbiz congress.

CropLife SA at the Young Farmers' Indaba

The team was proud to once again attend and be part of the Young Farmers Indaba programme hosted from 4 to 6 April at the Lavender Kontrei market in Pretoria North. The event saw over 1 300 farmers and agricultural role players come together to learn about the numerous aspects of successful farming and was opened by minister Thoko Didiza (Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural development).

Chantel Arendse (Lead for Plant Biotech) presented a master class on the opening day of the event to explore the bounty of biotech. She discussed the synergies between biotechnology and agriculture, delving into the intricate regulatory landscape that guides the integration of cutting-edge technologies. Attendees gained insights into the transformative impact of existing biotechnological advancements on crop yields and

resource efficiency. She also spoke about promising genome editing techniques on the horizon, offering a glimpse into a future where crops boast enhanced nutritional profiles and resilience.

On the second day of the event, Hires Ramanand (Stewardship Specialist) discussed the core aspects of farmers' rights and responsibilities. He explored crucial topics such as crop protection, the importance of personal protective equipment, and the intricate regulations governing pesticides in South Africa. Meanwhile, in the exhibition area, Hires and Zweli Mgayo provided visitors with a glimpse of the resources CropLife SA has available, what they need to know in terms of managing empty pesticide containers and provided general stewardship advice to ensure the "do the right thing" message reached as many people as possible.



Training, Training and More Training

Quade Sing Jam and Gerhard Verdoorn offered training on responsible use of pesticides to 21 farmworkers on Thursday 4 April 2024 at the Pineapple Growers Association premises, close to Bathurst in the Eastern Cape.

The audience was introduced to the new GHS format labels, principles of safe pesticide storage on farms, self-protection using the correct personal protective clothing and equipment, correct measuring and mixing of pesticides in spray tanks, post application self-decontamination, cleaning of spray equipment, washing of personal protective clothing, empty container triple rinsing and recycling and how to prevent unnecessary exposure to pesticides. Lee Botha of the PGA was the official interpreter and added lots of flavour to Quade and Gerhard's messages. The workers made a commitment to work towards 100% self-protection by the end of 2024. CropLife SA and the PGA will work together to achieve this objective.

Quade also provided responsible use training to farmers and farmworkers in Mthatha, Eastern Cape on 16 April. The event was organised in partnership with Food for Mzansi and iBuyambo Maize and Feeds Multipurpose Co-op, the event drew an impressive 350 attendees. Quade highlighted the critical importance of responsible handling and storage of pesticides, the proper procedures for disposing of containers, as well as the essential use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in agricultural activities.

Another series of training events include informing farmworkers about their rights and responsibilities on farm when working with plant protection solutions, presented by Gerhard Verdoorn and also in partnership with Food for Mzansi. These events are held throughout April and May, and include sessions in Queenstown, Paarl, Ceres, Robertson and Upington.

In addition to all these training sessions, we will start with our new webinar series which is free for any person to attend online. This year we are covering a range of

topics with expert guest speakers, so make sure you visit our website to regularly to register as the schedule gets updated: <https://croplife.co.za/CropProtection/WebinarSeries>



Gerhard Verdoorn



Quade Sing Jam

In case you missed it

Pesticide Warehouse Compliance Checklist - Self Governance

Please find herewith for your benefit the new **[“PESTICIDE WAREHOUSE COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST – SELF GOVERNANCE”](#)** (click to download). Please note that CropLife SA has developed a guideline checklist for pesticide warehouses and not a directive (we have no mandate or authority to do so). In other words, CropLife SA is not instructing members to implement compliance measures indicated in any of our checklists, but rather, we are offering members a glimpse of national, provincial and local legislation requirements. Read more [here](#).

IRAC SA chair, secretary and meeting dates for 2024

Gustav Venter from Syngenta (GustavVenter@syngenta.com) is the new chair of IRAC SA, and Bianca Steytler from Villa Crop Protection (bsteytler@villacrop.co.za) as the secretary.

Please take note of the remaining IRAC SA meeting dates for 2024:

- 19 July
- 11 October

Please reach out to the Chairperson or Secretary if you have any questions.

Stewardship Forum Dates 2024

Please note that the Small Pack Forum has been discontinued. Important small pack matters will be incorporated into each Stewardship Forum agenda as required. The remaining stewardship forum dates for 2024 are:

- 07 May
- 15 August
- 07 November

The necessary documentation will be circulated prior to each forum date.

CropLife SA Online Calendar

We have moved the CropLife SA event calendar to a live webpage that will be updated as our meetings and events are confirmed. The calendar is available here: <https://croplife.co.za/Home/Calendar>

Please note that this calendar is just for referencing purposes and will not contain the actual

meeting documents or links. These will be sent to the relevant working groups or forums directly.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of our team.

Update: Phase-out of Products Based on GHS Classification

Kindly find herewith an [update on the phase-out of products based on GHS classification](#).

If you have any questions not covered in this or the previous communications, please feel free to contact a member of our team.

Prohibition of Paraquat

Please note that the Registrar (Act No. 36 of 1947) has shared with us his intent to prohibit the sale and use of paraquat in South Africa due to the number of paraquat poisonings resulting in death. The Registrar will be issuing his intent in due course whereafter the public will be invited to provide comments on the proposed prohibition.

CropLife SA will keep members informed of any further developments in this regard.

CropLife SA Compliance Forum Dates

The Distribution Forums will be replaced by two Compliance Forums for 2024. Given that compliance matters are far reaching, each Compliance Forum will be open to all CropLife SA members.

Both meetings will be hybrid events starting at 09h00 and concluding at 12h00. Dates for 2024 are as follows:

1. Tuesday, 28 May
2. Wednesday, 23 October

For CropLife SA members who wish to attend in person - the first Compliance Forum will be held in Gauteng and the second Forum will be held in the Western Cape. Those who choose to attend online, can do so via MS Teams. More details on the exact location and venue, as well as the agenda and any additional meeting documents, will be communicated and circulated in time. In the interim, CropLife SA members are encouraged to propose topics that require attention during each Compliance Forum. Suggestions can be emailed to hiresh@croplife.co.za.

Please ensure that someone from your company attends each Compliance Forum either online or in person if you are not able to do so.



CropLife in the Media

Kyk Plaas TV: Die herwinning van plaagdoderverpakking – goeie samewerking van bedryf ontvang

CropLife SA het 'n paar jaar gelede 'n plaagdoderverpakking-herwinningsprogram van stapel gestuur. Dr Gerhard Verdoorn brei hieroor uit:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqzQxnxlxFo>

Luister RSG:

Die korrekte gebruik van chemikalieë op melkplase kom onder bespreking op RSG Landbou. Die Suiwelstandaard-agentskap het aan die einde van 2023 'n webinaar hieroor aangebied. Dr Gerhard Verdoorn van CropLife SA was die aanbieder en hy gesels verder met ons oor dié onderwerp in Woensdag se aflewering van RSG Landbou:
<https://clyp.it/1aeqlfez>

Kyk GROOTplaas:

Mia gesels op GROOTplaas met Gerhard Verdoorn van CropLife Suid-Afrika en fokus op die voortbestaan van aasvoëls:
<https://youtu.be/IwoUKqJEgJw?si=XoclWf7OOgQ46c90>



Read: Food For Mzansi's KZN farmers' day sparks many a-ha moments

Nearly 180 people, ranging from small growers to commercial farmers, attended Food For Mzansi's farmers' day in KwaZulu-Natal. The event left participants equipped and inspired for a prosperous future in agriculture: <https://www.foodformzansi.co.za/kzn-farmers-day-over-400-farmers-flock-to-farmers-day/>

Kyk GROOTplaas:

Mia gesels op GROOTplaas met Gerhard Verdoorn van CropLife Suid-Afrika oor die belangrikheid van beskermde klere in die bedryf:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QY8CaujJjkI>

Read: Why there are ants all over your home?

Ever wondered why your home is suddenly infested with ants sometimes in the most awkward places of your home? Residents of Gauteng and other parts of SA are facing an unusual infestation of ants which can damage property and cause allergic reaction to humans:
<https://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/south-africa/2024-03-22-why-there-are-ants-all-over-your-home/>

Read: Before going into carrot production, read this

Chemical remedies used in agriculture can be classified as being of natural or synthetic origin and are used to keep crops, livestock, poultry and pets free from pests such as insects, fungi and bacteria, as well as fungal and viral diseases and weeds.

Common agricultural chemicals (agrochemicals) include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, adjuvants, fertilisers and veterinary chemicals. Agricultural chemicals may be purchased in various concentrations and forms such as liquids, powders, granules and pellets, depending on their intended use. Widespread use of



CropLife in the Media

agrochemicals necessitates the need for regulating these products.

“Regulations should be in place to protect not only the crops and animals, but also the health of workers handling plant protection solutions, the environment and consumers,” Rodney Bell, CEO of CropLife South Africa (CropLife SA), said during a media briefing held recently: <https://greenafricamagazine.com/2024/03/23/before-going-into-carrot-production-read-this/>

Read: Safeguard your crops against pesky pests

Pests can wreak havoc on farms, jeopardising crop yields and global food security. Farmers must prioritise effective pest management strategies to combat these intruders and ensure sustainable agriculture. Learn more about protecting your crops and livelihood from pests: <https://www.foodformzansi.co.za/safeguarding-crops-and-the-environment-pesticide-use-in-agriculture/>

Read: Recycling network shakes up empty agricultural container game

InteliGro joined in the fight against agricultural waste as part of the in the CropLife SA stewardship programme. InteliGro currently has 11 empty container points across South Africa. This initiative provides farmers with a convenient solution for responsible disposal and compliance with new regulations: <https://www.foodformzansi.co.za/recycling-network-launched-for-empty-agricultural-containers/>

Read: Biotech seed – what you need to know

South Africa has a long track record with biotech seed and producers across the farming spectrum often choose this seed option even though it can be a major contributor to the cost of overall farming inputs. The widescale adoption of biotech maize, soybean and cotton

has been delivering benefits to producers in South Africa for more than two decades: <https://sagrainmag.co.za/2024/03/01/biotech-seed-what-you-need-to-know/>

Luister: Landbouradio

Dr Gerhard Verdoorn gesels oor die moets en moenies van lugbespuiting: <https://soundcloud.com/andbouadio/lr-240415-dr-gerhard-verdoorn-dr-corrie-swanepoel-louise-rabie-henk-jacobs>

Read: Are your farmworkers trained in the responsible use of pesticides?

Crop protection is a vital pillar in the continuous pursuit of our producers to provide enough food for the growing population, but it should not pose a risk to human health or the environment. That is why it is so important that everyone who works with these products are properly trained in the responsible use thereof: <https://sagrainmag.co.za/2024/04/12/are-your-farmworkers-trained-in-the-responsible-use-of-pesticides/>

Read: Gerbils can destroy a grain harvest

Gerbils are one of the agricultural pests that drive grain farmers into a frenzy. Unfortunately, ignorance about gerbils still seems to be a problem, simply because farmers are often completely unfamiliar with their appearance and behaviour: <https://www.grainsa.co.za/gerbils-can-destroy-a-grain-harvest>

Read: From exports to biotech: Farmers sharpen skills at masterclasses

Dynamic masterclasses at this year's Mzansi Young Farmers Indaba equipped agricultural stakeholders with insights into exports, biotechnology, and market access: <https://www.foodformzansi.co.za/from-exports-to-biotech-farmers-sharpen-skills-at-masterclasses/>

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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Chantel Arendse – Lead: Plant Biotechnology

Elriza Theron – Advocacy & Communications Manager

Gerhard Verdoorn – Operations & Stewardship Manager

Hiresh Ramanand – Stewardship Specialist

Liezel Cronje – Agri-Intel Administrator

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