

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## GIVING BACK

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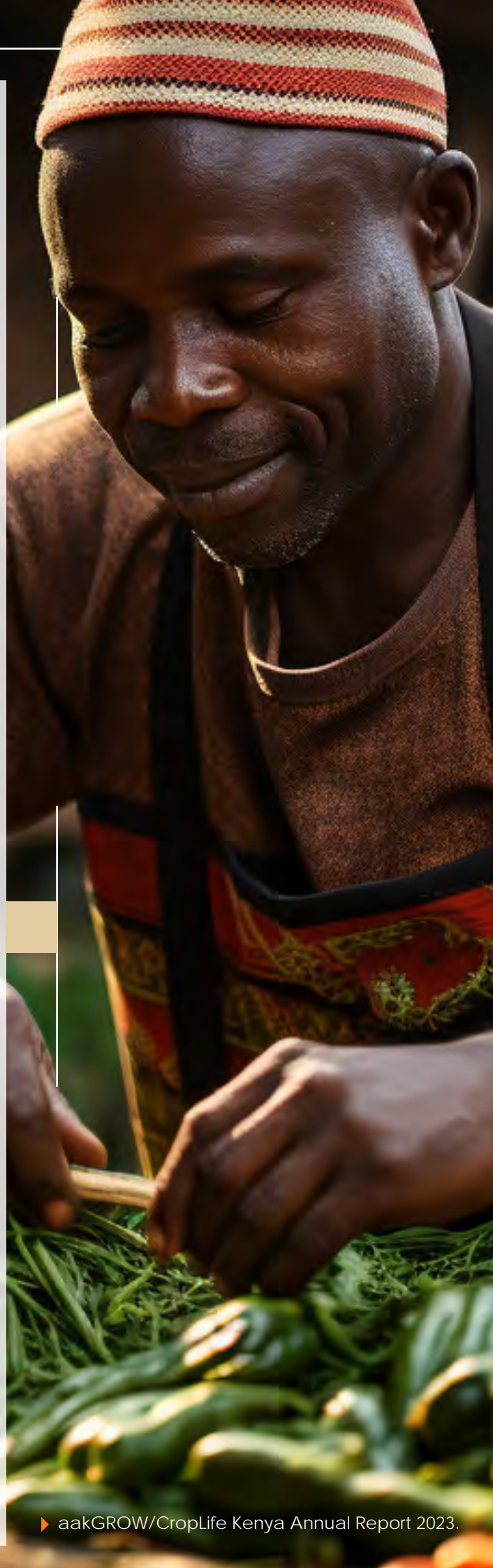
2023, our 65th anniversary year, marked a period of significant growth and innovation, aptly dubbed the "year of new dawns." We initiated bold ventures, including the unveiling of our new brand and the re-launch of the Poison Information Centre (PIC), solidifying our commitment to safety and progress. Collaborating with longstanding partners like Kenyatta National Hospital, we fortified our efforts through a Memorandum of Understanding, signaling our dedication to collective advancement.

Notable highlights included a visit from Ms. Emily Rees, President and CEO of CropLife International, and Dr. Christoph Neumann, the then Head of International Regulatory Affairs for Crop Protection, who conducted a comprehensive assessment of the Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework (SPMF) impact and progress in Kenya. Their visit underscored CropLife International's commitment to sustainable agricultural development in Africa and the importance of collaborative partnerships.

In advocating for our industry, we successfully defended against proposed taxation amendments that could have jeopardized the accessibility of pest control products and in turn the national food security. Through initiatives like the e-submission system, we streamlined processes, reducing paperwork burdens for members. Additionally, we championed awareness campaigns on Maximum Residue Limits and combated illegal pest control products along Kenya's borders.

As we reflect on the strides made since the launch of the Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework, we invite you to explore our achievements in the past one year and anticipate future endeavors. Join us as we continue to pave the way for better farming, better food and better health.

***aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya is the umbrella body in Kenya for manufacturers, formulators, re-packers, importers, consultants, distributors, farmers, and users of pest control products.***







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# Chairman's *Note*



aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya's legacy spans over six decades, evolving with the dynamic landscape of Kenya's agricultural sector while steadfastly advocating for sustainability and human health.

Today, aak-GROW stands as a beacon of change, advocating for responsible pesticide use, environmental conservation, and sustainable farming practices. Embodying the mantra "Better Farming, Better Food, Better Health," our organization has strategically shifted towards holistic agricultural development advocating for responsible pesticide use, environmental conservation, and the adoption of sustainable farming practices.

Over the past six years of my tenure as Chairman, significant strides have been made to strengthen our governance structures, ensuring effective leadership and performance within the association. Through the implementation of the Board Charter and the appointment of trustees, we have laid a solid foundation for transparent and accountable governance, facilitating enhanced decision-making and member representation.

Our membership base has grown dynamically, welcoming diverse companies and organizations into our fold. From 58 members six years ago, we now boast 74 members, including notable affiliates such as Pest Management Association of Kenya (PEMAK), Veterinary Input Suppliers of Kenya (VISAK), and Fertilizer Association of Kenya (FAK). This growth underscores our commitment to inclusivity and member development, positioning us for broader industry impact.

Financially, our organization has witnessed commendable growth, with levy collection increasing by 60% over the past six years. Notably, 2023 saw a remarkable 32% growth in levy collection, reaching Kes 71.8 million. These figures reflect the resilience and vibrancy of our industry, despite external factors such as weather fluctuations and currency depreciation.

Central to our mission is stewardship in pesticide usage, and during my tenure, we have championed initiatives such as the adoption of Spray Service Providers and the integration of drone technology for precise application. These efforts not only enhance productivity but also promote safety and environmental sustainability. Our commitment to stewardship is further exemplified through the Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework (SPMF), which prioritizes the transition to safer alternatives and responsible product usage.

In line with global initiatives on environmental sustainability, we have expanded our efforts in collecting empty pesticide containers, establishing 42 new collection centres in 2023. Additionally, the formation of HAPROK (Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Organization of Kenya) underscores our commitment to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and environmental stewardship.

Addressing the challenge of counterfeit products remains a priority, and collaborative efforts with government agencies and neighbouring countries have resulted in significant seizures of illegal products. However, we must remain vigilant in safeguarding our industry's integrity and consumer safety. Advocacy efforts have yielded positive outcomes, including maintaining zero-rated status for agricultural pest control products and fertilizers. Furthermore, baseline studies on residue exceedances provide assurance of the safety of locally produced vegetables, countering misinformation and enhancing consumer confidence.

In closing, I extend sincere appreciation to our partners, members, secretariat and the Board for their unwavering support and commitment. Together, we have achieved significant milestones and overcome challenges, positioning aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya as a leader in sustainable agriculture. As we look ahead, let us continue to uphold our brand promise of "Better Farming, Better Food, Better Health" and work collaboratively towards shaping the future of agriculture in Kenya. Thank you, and God bless.

*Mr. Patrick Amuyunzu - Chairman, aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya (2018-2023)*



# CEO's *Message*



From humble beginnings to its current position as a leader in sustainable agriculture, the journey of aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya showcases the transformative power of adaptation and dedication to positive change in Kenya's agricultural sector. Amidst our evolution, one principle remains constant: our steadfast commitment to advocating for sustainable food systems, shaping the future of agriculture in Kenya for generations to come.

Our commitment to "Better Farming, Better Food, Better Health," as enshrined in our brand promise has guided our strategic pursuits, driving us to deepen our commitment to responsible use of crop protection and adoption of sustainable farming practices that ensures minimum or no risk to human health and the environment. Through our recent rebranding, introduced in early 2023, we have reaffirmed our allegiance to these values, emphasizing our aim to nurture growth through sustainable farming practices, thereby actualizing our commitment and contributions for maintaining and increasing agricultural productivity and improving farmer livelihoods.

With your support, we firmly believe that significant strides have been taken in implementing our strategy and expanding our stewardship outreach initiatives. We are enhancing our operational prowess, fostering innovation, and delivering tailored solutions to fulfill the needs of our members and stakeholders. By empowering farmers and stakeholders with our services, we are contributing to their success while advancing on our journey towards sustainability.

Over the past three years, we've collaborated with diverse stakeholders to enhance the resilience of decision-making by advancing regulatory frameworks, particularly through the progression of the PCP bill and regulation, conducting risk assessments, and harmonizing guidelines across the East African region. Our continual efforts, in tandem with close cooperation with regulatory bodies, have increased societal trust.

Considerable progress was made in stewardship – we focused on sustainability and proactive stewardship. Spray Service Providers have further been developed to be the main anchor of our Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and responsible use training with our key partners, regulators, the Ministry of Agriculture and County Governments. Last year 452 SSPs were trained and linked to Potato, tomato, mango and coffee value chains for enhanced application and food safety.

Recognising the need for a reliable disposal of Empty Pesticide Containers (EPCs) system as part of proactive stewardship, in 2023 we enhanced our collection centres and established 42 new collection centres bringing to a total of 326 centres. From these centres, we collected and disposed of 19.4 tons of Empty Pesticide Containers (EPC). Recalling the Promulgation of the Waste management act, aak-GROW in partnership with the Kenya Association of Manufactures (KAM) successfully completed registration of the Producer Responsibility Organization - Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Organization of Kenya (HAPROK). HAPROK shall undertake PRO obligations on behalf of all its members. We are currently developing Extended Producer Responsibility Plan (EPR).

The transformation of the Poison Information Centre (PIC) is notable, with enhanced capabilities and infrastructure, including an offline Afritox system for improved data collection and inquiry handling. This has enabled the PIC to respond to a wider range of poisoning emergencies, thanks to expanded partnership with Kenyatta National Hospital and toxicological society of Kenya. We continue creating awareness on the hotline and linkages to other poison centres for improved outcomes.

Continuing our advocacy efforts, I had the privilege of participating in the 5th session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) in Bonn, Germany, as part of the CropLife delegation. The conference resulted in key outcomes aligned with our industry's commitment to transitioning from Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) to safer and more sustainable alternatives and agricultural practices.



I therefore reiterate our industry commitment to portfolio review is to advocate for responsible pesticide use and accelerate transitions to newer, less risky solutions by creating a regulatory framework that facilitates access to innovations.

The implementation of an E-submission system for data and registration processing is clear demonstration of our commitment to strengthening the regulatory framework and modernizing the registration process which is line with the government desire to digitalise its services. The E submission system process is meant to improve the efficiency and reduce time on registration.

All the above interventions would not have been possible without the Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework (SPMF) and other partners. SPMF aims to build capacity of the local countries to establish a framework that manages pesticides sustainably to protect human health, safeguard the environment and optimize crop production in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and food insecurity.

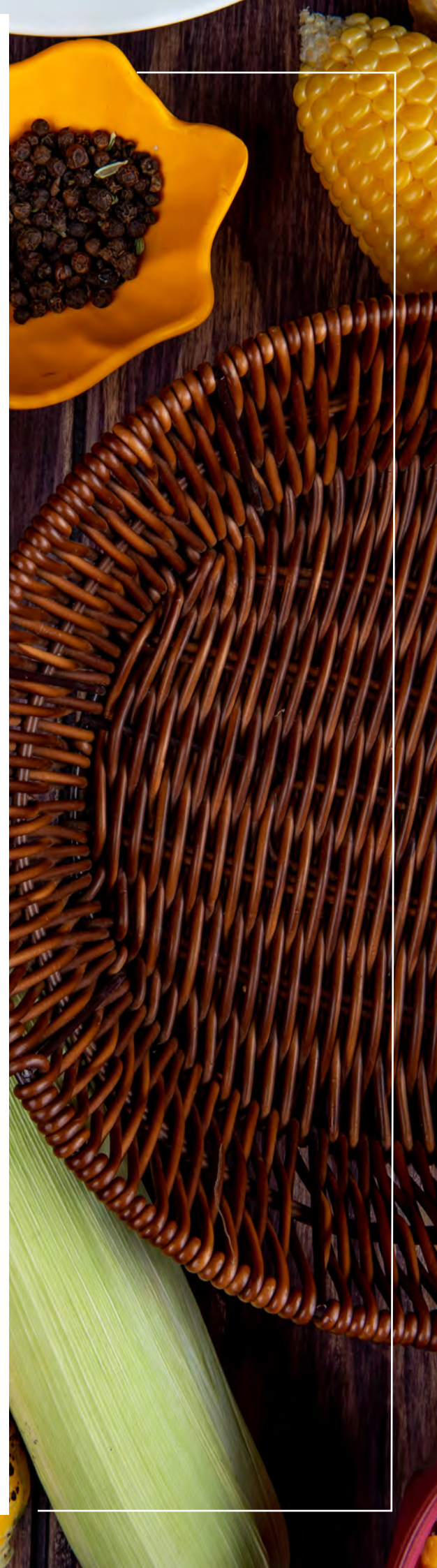
It has 3 pillars; ensuring transparent and systemic risk management measures are in place where HHPs continue to serve essential needs, accelerate transition away from HHPs by enabling new innovations for the farmer toolbox through an enabling regulatory framework and risk reduction activities through the promotion of responsible and safe use of pesticide.

Despite these accomplishments, we acknowledge persistent challenges, including feedback indicating that farmer behaviour change remains a hurdle. Moving forward, we are committed to addressing this issue by exploring avenues for behaviour change, such as immersive learning, and implementing our stewardship programs at the grassroots level (Mashinani).

Special thanks to all our partners including but not limited to Kenyatta National Hospital, Toxicological Society of Kenya, Kenya Veterinary Association/Self-employed Veterinarians, The Agriculture Sector Network, FairTrade Africa, GIZ, Kenya Tea Development Authority, Cereal Growers Association, National Potato Council of Kenya, CropLife Africa Middle East (CLAME) and the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI).

As the industry evolves rapidly, we must keep pace with newer, safer, and more sustainable solutions for agricultural production. We should support innovations such as drone applications, which not only reduce exposure and ensure precision in pest control product application but also provide opportunities for women and youth in agriculture, ensuring food security for future generations. Let our focus remain on living our brand by promoting better farming, better food, and better health.

Eric Kimunguyi  
CEO, aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya





# aak-GROW'S STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS

## Product Stewardship

aak-GROW's core business and mandate of promoting responsible use of different products for the well-being of users and the environment

## Regulatory, Policy and Standards

Development and enforcement of the industry's standards and best practices regulatory frameworks

## Institutional Development

To grow and develop aak-GROW into a dynamic, effective and sustainable development actor

## Partnership Building

Focus on enabling strategic engagements and collaborations within the industry and with other relevant actors





# 1 PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

## The Transformative Impact Of The Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework (SPMF) In Kenya

SPMF marks a big step forward in the responsible handling of pesticides. Developed by CropLife International and piloted in Kenya, this program is all about working together to keep users of pest control products safe and protect human and the environment through responsible pesticide use for sustainable production of safe food. Since it launched in 2021, SPMF continues to make a real difference in how pesticides are used and managed in Kenya.

In May 2023, Dr. Christoph Neumann, the then head of International Regulatory Affairs for Crop Protection at CropLife International, led a comprehensive assessment of SPMF's impact and progress in Kenya. The findings highlight achievements across SPMF's three core pillars that aim to address challenges associated with the use of pesticides in Kenya and in turn, promote responsible use.



### PILLAR ONE

Reducing reliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) while ensuring transparent risk management measures are in place where HHPs continue to serve essential needs and have no replacement.



### PILLAR TWO

Increasing innovation by fostering an enabling regulatory environment for modern crop protection tools and technologies.



### PILLAR Three

Promoting responsible and effective pesticide use through farmer training and responsible pesticide life cycle management.

*SPMF three core pillars*





## Pillar One Achievements

1

Review of the Pest Control Products (PCP) bill & respective regulations – The PCP Bill is currently 95% to promulgation. It has moved from Ministry of Agriculture to the Attorney General for legal drafting. The regulations, after submissions by the ministry of agriculture to the delegated committee on legislation for their comments has reverted to the ministry for further processing towards gazettelement.

2

Review of Active Ingredients and PCP's in line with Parliamentary committee on health recommendations in response to Petition No. 70 of 2019 - A review process flowchart was adopted by PCPB by May 2022 which guided the process until the end of the piloted review process. There are several new developments regarding the review process, with significant trainings on risk assessment to the regulatory staff of the industry and even regulators. The industry, with agreed process flow and timeline progressively submitted pest control products for review by the regulator. The impact assessment of the various regulatory decisions including restriction, withdrawal of uses on food security, safety and GDP is currently ongoing.

3

Three border sensitization workshops conducted at Kenya's borders with Uganda (Busia, Malaba) and Tanzania (Namanga) in November and December 2023 to educate stakeholders on identifying and reporting illegal products. CropLife Kenya also supported PCPB in training 19 staff at the National Criminal Investigations Academy empowering them to conduct thorough investigations on illegal products, with two officers from the DCI also joining PCPB enhancing operational capacities.

4

Improved surveillance through the establishment of baseline data on pesticide residues (MRLs) and Pesticide use patterns- Studies and trainings undertaken in this area have enhanced understanding of GAP Violations and informed interventions on high-risk value chains. The data has been useful especially to demystify facts about the exceedance of MRLs by farmers and presence of residues in produce. Importance in providing assurance on food safety.

5

Improved incidence reporting through institutionalization and reconfiguration of the Poison Information Centre. The centre was expanded and upgraded with infrastructure such as laptops and cell phones to accommodate better data collection, efficient routing of calls to medical experts and handling inquiries beyond pesticide poisoning. An Afritox system was availed for the Center. This implementation will assist health professionals with various components of diagnosis, management and treatment guidelines.





## Pillar Two Achievements

Critical initiatives successfully achieved in collaboration with regulators and other stakeholders to offer an enabling regulatory environment for access to existing and new solutions including biologicals and other low risk products. They include:

- Targeted advocacy for the legal frameworks & support to enable low risk innovations- pheromones & other low risk products for IPM/IVM
- Increased awareness on application technology such as drones that can remove the operator from exposure risks- Precision and enhanced safety.
- E-submission of data which has been piloted will lead to faster processing of registrations of new innovations for the farmer to use.



## Pillar Three Achievements

Increase in the number of farmers reached and behavior on responsible pesticide use influenced. For a two-year comparison 5,140 farmers reached in 2021 through stewardship activities to now 20,005 in 2023.

1

Sustainable pesticide waste management through increased efficiency in waste management, in terms of safeguarding and proper disposal of over 63 tonnes of Empty pesticide containers Collected and safely disposed in 2023.

3

Sustainable pesticide waste management through increased efficiency in waste collection and compliance with Extended Producer Responsibility regulations- Formation of an industry Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Organization of Kenya (HAPROK) formerly Kenya Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Organization (KEHAPRO) - 7 hazard waste streams have been identified by NEMA for formation of a hazardous waste PRO. 74 membership applications received with 32 applications from the Agrochemical sector.

2

SPMF's success in Kenya shows how well it's working to encourage safe pesticide use. By following global standards, like the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, SPMF is helping countries with fewer resources to build local capacity and to use sustainable farming methods.

As SPMF prepares to expand to more countries in Africa, what it has achieved in Kenya can serve as a model for how stakeholder cooperation can improve agriculture. The ongoing collaboration and teamwork between the industry and its stakeholders notably, the Pest Control Products Board, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, National Environmental Management Authority, Kenyatta Hospital, Astra, Kenya Airways, Anti-counterfeit authority and the media among many other stakeholders in the implementation of SPMF will continue to make agriculture more sustainable and resilient in Kenya and beyond.





# Croplife International President Empowers Kenyan Agricultural Sector: A Vision For Sustainable Growth

In a public display of global commitment to teamwork, Ms. Emily Rees, President and CEO of CropLife International, made a significant visit to Kenya toward the end of October 2023 during which she met with key officials from sectors vital to the country's agricultural scene.

She held fruitful talks with the Pest Control Products Board and followed this with strategic discussions with senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and the Ministry of Environment (NEMA). Discussions delved into critical issues, including strategies to tackle the increasing interceptions of Maximum Residue Limits (MRL), anti-counterfeit campaigns, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), container management and the importance of improving access to cutting-edge technologies like drones for pest management.



The Board Chair, Mr. Patrick Amuyunzu shares a gift with Ms. Emily Rees

## Insights from the Ground

An immersive visit to a farm in Magumu, Nyandarua County, provided Ms. Rees with firsthand experience of the challenges and opportunities facing local farmers including the unavailability and unaffordability of Personal Protective Equipment and the slow uptake of Spray Service Providers both of which contribute to the challenge of irresponsible pest control use. These insights informed her discussions and helped to shape the agenda for promoting sustainable agricultural practices in Kenya.



“ Stewardship is key to implementation in the field and across value chain actors and I was impressed beyond words by the impact achieved by the aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya as part of our global Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework - the team trains farmers, most often smallholders, in Good Agricultural Practices and do so with unrivalled passion. ”

Ms. Emily Rees



Ms. Emily Rees shares dinner with the board, sub-committee heads and staff of CropLife Kenya

As a testament to the commitment to mutual growth, Ms. Rees shared a warm dinner with the board, sub-committee heads, and secretariat of CropLife Kenya and recognized the important work to advance the global Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework through farmer training in Good Agricultural Practices, especially for small-holder farmers.

Ms. Emily Rees' visit to Kenya was a strong affirmation of CropLife International's dedication to fostering sustainable growth in Africa's agricultural sector and her visit symbolises the power of collective action in shaping a greener, more prosperous future.



# ? A NEW DAWN

## THE EVOLUTION OF aak-GROW/CROPLIFE KENYA

In the dynamic landscape of Kenya's agricultural sector, aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya has seen remarkable change over the six decades. From its inception in 1958 to its recent rebranding, aak-GROW has undergone a profound transformation, as it adapts to industry shifts and people's needs while championing sustainability and human health.

Today, aak-GROW is a beacon of change, advocating for responsible pesticide use, environmental conservation, and sustainable farming practices. Our mantra, "Better Farming, Better Food, Better Health," sums up this strategic shift towards holistic agricultural development.

Central to this evolution is the association's rebranding, unveiled in early 2023. Formerly known as the Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK), aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya's new identity emphasizes its commitment to human wellbeing and sustainable agriculture.

### New Mission, Vision, Purpose and core attributes

The change in the brand comes along with a new mission, vision, purpose and the behaviors we exhibit at the core of our association.



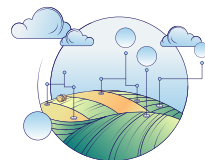
#### BEHAVIORS WE EXHIBIT

- We bring together companies that promote sustainable food ecosystems
- We promote a culture of quality inputs to produce safe food for people
- We encourage trust in quality food growth

#### INNOVATIVE



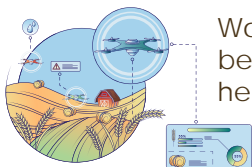
- Driven by science and best practice
- We find better ways to do the same thing



#### INCLUSIVE

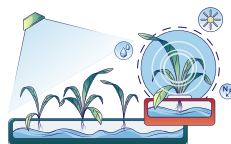
- We work collaboratively with our stakeholders
- We draw from our experience and from others

#### FUTURE - FOCUSED



Working for a better and healthier people

#### PIONEERING



We lead the way and lead by example

#### STEWARDSHIP



We hold our members accountable to our sustainable practices



Through a fresh logo and renewed purpose, the association aims to promote sustainable, high-quality food production while ensuring the health benefits for all Kenyans.

But it's not just about branding. aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya is actively engaging with global partners like CropLife International to strengthen its impact. By fostering collaboration and advocating for policies that enhance food production, the association is positioning itself as a trusted facilitator and advocate for change.

Beyond crop protection, aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya is paving the way for agricultural innovation and collaboration. Through partnerships with the government and stakeholders, we are striving for 100 percent food security, safety, and nutrition in a sustainable manner.

From its humble beginnings to its current role as a leader in sustainable agriculture, aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya's journey exemplifies the power of adaptation and commitment to positive change in Kenya's agricultural landscape. As we continue to evolve, one thing remains clear: our dedication to "Better Farming, Better Food, Better Health" will shape the future of agriculture in Kenya for generations to come.



## aak-GROW Embraces Change Through Constitutional Amendments



The Board Chair, Mr. Patrick Amuyunzu shares a gift with Ms. Emily Rees

On 6th December 2023, aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya held a Special General Meeting to ratify proposed amendments to its constitution. The changes aim to align with evolving trends and address emerging issues within the association. Key areas addressed include aligning with the new brand, membership fees, and membership categories. The chairperson, Mr. Patrick Amuyunzu highlighted the areas below that necessitated the review:

- ✓ **Aligning the constitution with the new brand- introducing the new brand identity into the document**
- ✓ **Review of membership fee for the full membership category**
- ✓ **Review of membership category – redefining the affiliate membership category into two sub- categories; Business Membership Organizations and Regional Distributors**

As the association moves forward, we aim to uphold our commitment to partnership heading into the future for better farming, better food, and better health.



A Warm *welcome*  
to our new members in  
**2023**







# Relaunch of The Poison Information Center

For nearly a decade, the Poison Information Centre (PIC) has been a lifeline for accidental and intentional exposure to pesticide poisoning. Recently, on September 5th, 2023, the PIC underwent a remarkable transformation, unveiling upgraded capabilities to better serve the public.

The center was expanded and upgraded with infrastructure such as laptops and cell phones to accommodate better data collection, efficient routing of calls to medical experts and handling inquiries beyond pesticide poisoning. An offline Afritox system was availed for the Poison Center. This implementation assists health professionals with various components such as diagnosis, management and treatment guidelines.

With improved data collection and streamlined call routing, the PIC stands ready to handle poison-related emergencies with greater efficiency. Beyond pesticides, it now addresses toxins from industrial, medical, and natural sources, thanks to expanded partnerships and support from various stakeholders including Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, PCPB among others together with the Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework (SPMF).

The relaunch celebrated not only technological advancements but also the enduring collaboration between aak-GROW and Kenyatta National Hospital, cemented by a new Memorandum of Understanding.



Participants of the relaunch event pose for a group photo

The public was reminded that help is just a phone call away, with toll-free lines

**0800-720021/0800-730030,**

prominently displayed on registered Pest Control Product packaging.

As the PIC enters this new chapter, it symbolizes the collective commitment to safeguarding lives.



Mr. Eric Kimunguyi, CEO aak-GROW and Dr. Evanson Kamuri of KNH seal the long-standing partnership between the two organizations with an MOU.

**3,905**  
2023 Total inquiries

265  
Poisoning cases



3,640  
Unrelated inquiries

3,269  
Unrelated inquiries

**3,554**  
2022 Total inquiries

285  
Poisoning cases

2022 2023

The number of general enquiries went up due to the increased awareness creation on the center and the toll-free numbers together with improved label reading. Similarly, the decline in poison cases in 2023 can be attributed to these factors.



# Stewardship Activities

## Responsible Use Trainings



Farmer Field Days, Exhibitions and Trade Fairs

Reached  
**20,005**  
Farmers

56 field days

4 ASK Shows

8 Exhibitions



Member Company and ToT trainings

Reached

**233**

Participants

6 trainings

Pest Control Operator trainings

3 trainings



Trained

**126**

Operators

on grain storage and fumigation



Reached

**452**

SSPs in Horticulture, Potato, Maize and Coffee value chains.

SSP trainings

12 trainings

Key partners were CABI, VegPro, HortFresh, DanChurch Aid, MESPT and CGA, GIZ Trans Nzoia County, Wezesha and coffee Societies

Agronomists and Technical Assistants

7 trainings



Reached

**221**

Technical Assistants and Extension staff.



## HAPROK Membership

The Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Organization of Kenya (HAPROK) formerly Kenya Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Organization (KEHAPRO) in collaboration with the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) established a one-stop shop for HAPROK at KAM Offices.



**80**

membership applications

with **32 applications** from the Agrochemical sector.

Waste Management

Collection Centers

**326**

Serving Centers



**42** New collection centers

Empty Pesticide Containers Collections

**19,418**  
Kilograms

collected and safely disposed





# 3 A CONDUCTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT



## Agriculture Industry Prevails: Levy Status Remains Zero-Rated

In a significant victory for the agricultural sector, aak-GROW defended the pest control industry against a proposed taxation amendment on the Finance Bill 2023 to re-categorize pest control products from zero-rated to Value Added Tax (VAT) exempt. The change would have locked out the product suppliers from claiming their input tax from the Kenya Revenue Authority. To the farmer, this would have meant shouldering the increase in the cost of farming inputs which would have also intensified issues such as food insecurity, reduced household incomes and increased unemployment. Additionally, the amount of illegal and counterfeit products flooding the market would have gone up, posing additional threats to agricultural sustainability and consumer welfare.

The industry retained its zero-rated levy status in the amended bill, now enshrined into law. This outcome not only preserves the financial stability of farmers but also safeguards the nation's food security, economic prosperity, and social cohesion. It underscores the importance of proactive advocacy and collaborative policymaking in ensuring the resilience and sustainability of vital industries.



Hon. Kuria Kimani, chairman of the National Assembly's Departmental Committee during the submission



Mr. Joel Mutai, Regulatory Manager at aak-GROW presenting the industry submission

## Combating Illegal Cross-Border Trade: A Collaborative Approach In East Africa

The proliferation of counterfeit products poses significant risks to agriculture and the environment across porous borders. Collaborating with the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB), Anti Counterfeit Authority of Kenya, CropLife Uganda and CropLife Tanzania among other government agencies, CropLife Kenya conducted three border sensitization workshops at the Kenya-Uganda Borders (Busia, Malaba) and at the Kenya-Tanzania Border (Namanga). Starting on November 7th and 9th, 2023, these sessions aimed to raise awareness and empower stakeholders to detect and report illegal products. Key concerns raised included the importance of continuous awareness creation campaigns on detection, deterrence and reporting of illegal products, harmonization of cross-border policies, collaboration among border stakeholders, upward reconsideration of penalties for counterfeit product use and the need for integrity to combat corruption. **Over 324 participants** ranging from agrodealers, agricultural extension staff, clearing and forwarding agents, border regulators to agricultural authorities and farmer associations took part in the trainings.



Mr. Onesmo Kenneth, CEO CropLife Tanzania addressing the participant during the session

These efforts highlight a unified front against the illicit trade of agricultural goods, emphasizing the shared responsibility of all involved parties.



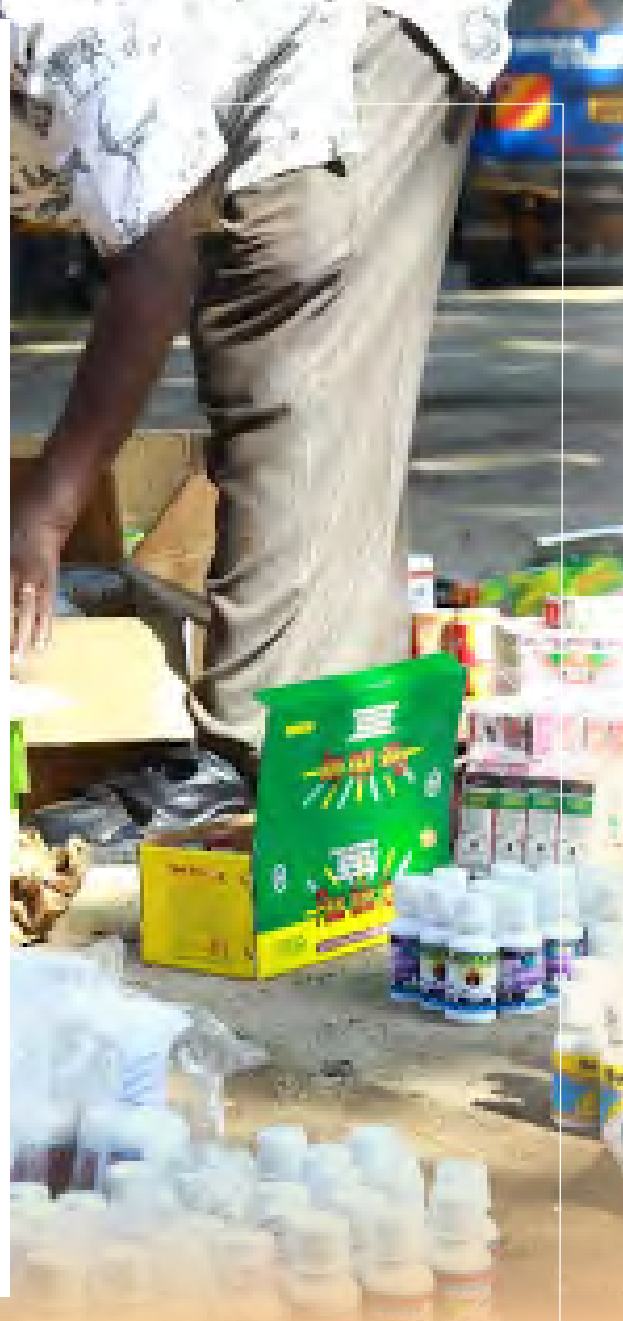
## Battling the Counterfeit Menace

On the same note of combating illegal pesticide trade, in November 2023, the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) received crucial support from aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya aiding in the training of 19 PCPB staff at the National Criminal Investigations Academy, empowering them to conduct thorough investigations.

This collaboration led to successful raids across regions like Eldoret, Kisumu, Mombasa, Malindi, Busia and Lungalunga, resulting in the **seizure of over 30 tons of illegal products estimated at a value of Kshs 22.5 million.**

In tandem, two officers from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) joined PCPB, enhancing operational capacities. This collaboration led to successful raids across regions like Eldoret, Kisumu, Mombasa, Malindi, Busia and Lungalunga, resulting in the seizure of over 30 tons of illegal products estimated at a value of Kshs 22.5 million.

These efforts not only disrupt the supply chain of counterfeit pesticides but also safeguard biodiversity, ensure food safety, and bolster Kenya's global market position. As stakeholders continue to collaborate, the fight against counterfeit pesticides gains momentum, promising a safer, more sustainable future for agriculture and the environment.



## Streamlining Regulatory Processes:

### E-Submission Amidst COVID-19 In Africa-Middle East

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted regulatory services in the Africa-Middle East region, particularly in product registration. To overcome this challenge, innovative digital tools like e-submission systems have been introduced.

Several countries and regions, including Egypt, have implemented e-submission systems to facilitate the registration of products like crop protection. Kenya has been able to facilitate the dossier submission partially through e-submission. In April 2023, aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya brought together stakeholders in the industry to track the development of a full-fledged e-submission platform for crop protection products in Kenya. It also ensured the benchmark with jurisdictions that have already established successful e-submission systems such as the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

The system, hosted by PCPB is currently in use and will scale down on the bulky paperwork thus increasing efficiency in the registration process. Industry members are encouraged to highlight the challenges faced during this pre-launch period for effective resolution before the full launch. This transition to e-submission systems is crucial for modernizing regulatory processes and ensuring resilience in the face of future disruptions.



# 4 ENHANCING FOOD SAFETY

Kenya's horticulture sector stands as a pivotal player in the nation's economy, ranking third in foreign exchange earnings and annually generating approximately **Kshs 150 billion**.

Small-scale farmers are crucial contributors to this status. However, challenges such as observance of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) persist in integrating them into international markets with non-compliance risking export market viability, notably in Europe. Recent initiatives, like those led by aak-GROW, aim to address this gap, focusing on quality production practices.

Workshops held in November 2023 in Mwea and Kimana towns by aak-GROW in collaboration with stakeholders such as PCPB, KEPHIS, Agriculture and Food Authority and Fresh Produce Consortium to train technical assistants in various horticultural value chains underscored the need for increased technical knowledge among farmers, agro-dealers, extension officers and collaboration with regulatory bodies to ensure adherence to international standards.

Moving forward, ongoing collaboration and technical training are vital. aak-GROW continues to spearhead efforts in enhancing produce quality, facilitating compliance with international food safety standards, and fostering sustainable growth in Kenya's horticulture industry.



*Participants pose for a photo after the workshop in Kimana*



*Participants of the Mwea MRL Sensitization workshop pose for a group photo*



# EMPOWERING FARMERS FOR FOOD SAFETY

## aak-GROW'S WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY CELEBRATION

In a vibrant celebration of World Food Safety Day 2023, aak-GROW/CropLife Kenya joined hands with stakeholders at Kaguru ATC, Meru County. Over 2,500 farmers convened for a day filled with practical training sessions and insightful discussions. With the theme "Food Standards Save Lives," the event highlighted the pivotal role of farmers in ensuring food safety from practicing Integrated Pest Management to identifying and avoiding counterfeit products to label reading and observing Pre-Harvest Interval, participants left equipped with essential knowledge to safeguard our food supply chain.



The CEO aak-GROW, Mr. Eric Kimunguyi addressing participants of the 2023 WFS Day



aak-GROW facilitating farmer training during the World Food Safety Day 2023



The guest of honor, Mr. Douglas Kangi during the WFS Day 2023



aak-GROW staff among other event participants plant a ceremonial tree



aak-GROW team pose with the founders of the Heart-to-Heart Foundation, Dr. BM and Dr. Dan Gikonyo during the charity gala dinner

## 5 GIVING BACK

*aak-GROW: GROWING TREES, HEARTS, AND HOPE*

In Mau Likia, aak-GROW's Forest thrives with over 50% survival rate with some trees towering at 10 feet. The association has planted 56 out of 100 acres as part of a national effort to plant **15 billion trees** by 2032. Partnering with the Kenya Forest Service and the local community, aak-GROW aims to complete the remaining 44 acres by the end of 2024. Beyond trees, our heart shines in supporting the **Heart-to-Heart Foundation**. At a recent gala, we raised funds to treat children with heart diseases, giving over 600 kids a second chance at life. aak-GROW's commitment to growth extends from the earth to the heart, fostering hope for a better future.



# Expenditure and Income Statement

**aak-GROW**  
**Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December

	<b>2,023</b> <b>Kshs</b>	<b>2,022</b> <b>Kshs</b>
Reserves		
General reserves	<u>65,374,111</u>	<u>63,079,429</u>
	65,374,111	63,079,429
Non current liabilities		
Borrowings	5,994,458	-
	<u>5,994,458</u>	<u>-</u>
Net non current liabilities	71,368,569	63,079,429
Represented by		
Non-current assets		
Property and equipment	26,344,860	7,193,503
Intangible assets	<u>106,027</u>	<u>132,534</u>
	26,450,887	7,326,037
<b>Current assets</b>		
Other receivables	2,478,386	2,219,139
Financial assets	66,284,200	55,976,679
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>15,456,532</u>	<u>38,587,247</u>
	84,219,118	96,783,065
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	4,708,819	6,092,291
Borrowings	4,632,816	-
Tax payable	1,107,750	777,682
Designated funds	<u>28,852,051</u>	<u>34,159,700</u>
	39,301,436	41,029,673
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>71,368,569</b>	<b>63,079,429</b>



# Expenditure and Income Statement

**aak-GROW**  
**Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December**

	<b>2,023</b>	<b>2,022</b>
	Kshs	Kshs
Income		
Association income	77,779,242	60,514,125
Other income	7,577,787	12,835,906
<b>Total income</b>	<b>85,357,029</b>	<b>73,350,031</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Product stewardship	36,345,017	26,190,629
Stewardship and partnership activities	14,730,548	17,076,969
Regulatory, policy and stewardship activities	1,432,174	2,292,009
Institutional development stewardship support	27,356,049	22,982,197
Anti-counterfeit stewardship activities	434,430	1,038,510
Risk and audit activities	537,950	490,200
Other associations	295,444	312,603
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>81,131,611</b>	<b>70,383,117</b>
Surplus before taxation	4,225,418	2,966,914
Tax charge	(1,930,736)	(1,341,743)
Surplus from operations	2,294,682	1,625,170
Designated project		
Grants received	29,825,337	45,580,354
Projects expenditure	(35,132,984)	(39,792,440)
	(5,307,648)	5,787,913
<b>(Deficit)/surplus for the year</b>	<b>(3,012,966)</b>	<b>7,413,083</b>





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