

## Prevention and Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides



When a rural community is plagued by mosquitoes that carry the deadly malaria parasite, or its food crops are infested with pests that decimate yields, it will often use vector control products or crop protection products to tackle the threat.

These products are essential in the daily fight to protect people from tropical diseases and maintain food production. But a combination of factors — including a lack of infrastructure, poor storage, late distribution, changing weather patterns, product bans and uncoordinated supplies from donors —

have led to pesticide stocks building up, no longer being needed and becoming out-of-date: in a word, obsolete.

### How do we fix the problem?

Prevention of unwanted and obsolete stocks through accurate ordering and donation estimates, good storage practices, and high-quality packaging, is immensely important in the control of buildup. CropLife International supports a multi-stakeholder approach to finding disposal solutions. While the



### STAGES IN THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE STOCKS



1

Obsolete stocks are identified and inventoried.



2

The operators employed to safeguard the stocks receive training and a full set of personal protective equipment. They are supervised by experts from international hazardous waste management companies.



3

The stocks are transferred to marked and labeled UN certified packaging to comply with the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code.



4

The repackaged stocks are transported to be incinerated.



5

The containers are shipped to a certified incineration plant.



6

The stocks are incinerated at high temperatures and a certification of destruction is issued.

main responsibility for disposal often lies with the owner of the stocks, the participation of other stakeholders is frequently essential for the successful completion of a disposal project.

Stakeholders include manufacturers, suppliers, donor agencies, exporting governments and regional bodies, as well as hazardous waste disposal companies.

Since the 1990s, more than 15,000 tons of obsolete pesticide stocks have been collected and destroyed in OECD countries.

### The Africa Stockpiles Programme

The Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP) was established in 2005 to remove obsolete pesticides from the African continent and provide capacity building and institutional strengthening to prevent and manage obsolete pesticides. Partners included national governments, FAO, World Bank, various NGOs and CropLife International.

Although the ASP partnership ended in 2014, CropLife International, together with the FAO and other stakeholders have continued to collaborate to remove obsolete stocks from Africa. By the end of 2018, the project had removed more than 6,000 tonnes of obsolete pesticides from Africa and incinerated them safely.

### Plan for the future

CropLife International has recently committed to a new project phase to manage obsolete stocks from 2019 to 2025. Working with the FAO, national governments and other partners, the project will have a core focus on prevention of obsolete stocks, as well as managing existing stocks and the small amounts of obsolete stocks that unavoidably rise from responsible pesticide use.

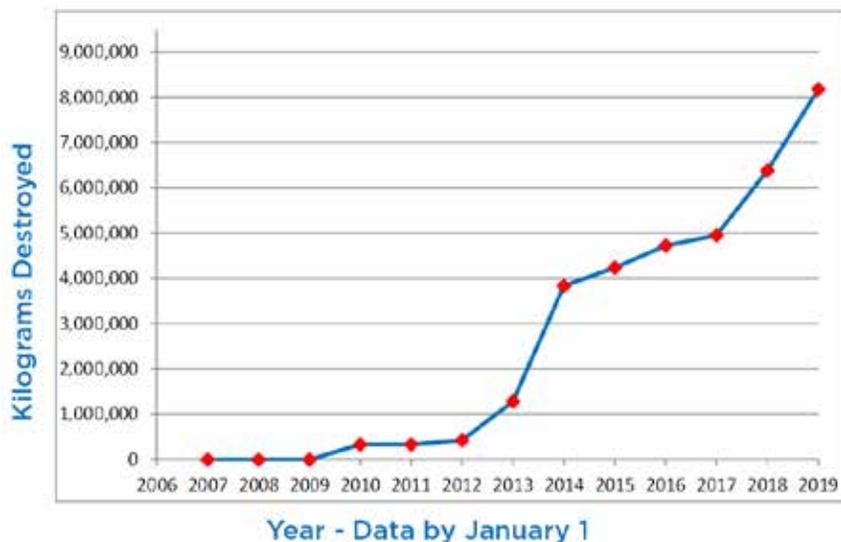


Figure 1: Quantity destroyed to date since the start of the Africa Stockpiles Programme.

CropLife International and its members, with the support of these critical partners, remain dedicated to the removal and disposal of obsolete stocks to promote sustainable agriculture and prevent pollution.

For more information on how to tackle obsolete stocks, see CropLife International's publication ["Obsolete and unwanted pesticide stocks: practical guidance on](#)

[safeguarding, disposal and prevention"](#) published in 2017. 

