Swarms of locusts cause devastation to crops and farmland, malaria-spreading mosquitoes cause sickness and even death across the tropics. To save lives and livelihoods, pesticides are used to control crop pests and disease vectors. Usually the systems for procuring, distributing, and using pesticides work effectively, but sometimes there is an over-purchase of pesticide stocks.

When pesticide products cannot be used before they reach their expiration date, they are termed obsolete stocks.

**How do we prevent 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.

### Prevention and Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides

#### STAGES IN THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF OBsolete STOCKS

1. **Obsolete stocks are identified and inventoried.**
2. **Operators employed to safeguard the stocks receive training and full sets 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.**
Disposal of obsolete pesticides

CropLife International supports a multi-stakeholder approach to finding disposal solutions. While the 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 2022, CropLife International funding had enabled the removal of 8,200 tonnes of obsolete pesticides from Africa and incinerated them safely.

Plan for the future

CropLife International continues to support activities to safeguard and ultimately destroy obsolete stocks. However, increasingly it is working with partner organizations - such as the FAO - to develop measures to prevent the accumulation of obsolete stocks from both private and public sector sources.

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

For more information on how to tackle obsolete stocks, visit the stewardship section of our website.