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PRESS RELEASE

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USAID-ATP and CropLife Africa Middle East Agree To Increase Agricultural Incomes in West Africa

The Agribusiness and Trade Promotion (ATP) project funded by USAID and CropLife Africa Middle East signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their cooperation to improve the volume and value of agricultural produces in West Africa.

The MoU provides a framework for the two organizations to design and implement work programmes aimed at providing farmers with innovative agricultural technologies and knowhow to improve their productivity, secure their harvests, and establish and strengthen their access to input and output markets.

The partnership will support interventions in a number of thematic areas and sectors, including:

Technical capacity building: by sharing the existing technologies and available knowledge for immediate use, farmers will adopt sustainable practices for land use and management, such as Integrated Pest Management.

Business linkages: to improve and ensure that farmers have access to agricultural inputs, such as crop protection products, seeds, fertilizers and other tools, and also the needed services.

Awareness creation and Advocacy promotion: to encourage stakeholders and ensure that only quality agricultural inputs are supplied to the market and soundly managed to avoid the build-up of obsolete stocks, to avoid and combat the illegal trade of crop protection products and other agricultural inputs.

Interventions in these areas aim at improving agricultural productivity so as to ensure food security by supplying the food chain with healthy, affordable, and varied diets. Such a market-oriented approach will transform the subsistence agriculture into small scale enterprises, thus improving the livelihoods of the rural population in the sub-region.

The parties will hold annual consultative meetings to elaborate and approve joint annual work plans and promote regular information exchange.

“We are particularly pleased to establish this partnership with CropLife Africa Middle East, a successful international organization, which shares our vision. This is a win-win proposition for both of us and our projects’ beneficiaries”, said Dr Ismael Ouedraogo, the Chief of Party of USAID-ATP.

The MoU was signed by Dr Ismaël Ouedraogo, the Chief of Party of USAID-ATP, and Dr Rudolf Guyer, Executive President of CropLife Africa Middle East.

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