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CropLife Africa Middle East signs MoU with” The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa” (COMESA)

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is a regional integration grouping of African states (Burundi, Comoros, DRC, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) which have agreed to promote regional integration through trade development and to develop their natural and human resources for the mutual benefit of all their peoples.

COMESA evolved from the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa on 8 December 1994 and this date is now celebrated within the region as COMESA Day. A special event took place at the COMESA Secretariat in Lusaka, Zambia on COMESA Day this year in that a MoU was signed between the regional organization and CropLife Africa Middle East.

The MoU was signed on 8 December 2006 by the Secretary General of COMESA, Erastus J.O. Mwencha, MBS and the Vice President of CropLife Africa Middle East, Björn Neumann. The MoU outlines the framework of the partnership covering the promotion and facilitation of regional harmonization efforts on:

- Pesticide regulatory measures and registration systems.
- Biosafety regulations for the registration and commercialization of genetically modified organisms (GMO's)





Secretary General of COMESA, Erastus J.O. Mwencha, MBS and the Vice President of CropLife Africa Middle East, Björn Neumann.

A meeting is scheduled for early in the new year to develop and roll out the action plans required.

Les Hillowitz
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