

CONTAINER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME



What is the CropLife SA container management programme?

The container management programme forms part of one of CropLife SA's founding pillars, stewardship. The programme's objective is to ensure that all empty plastic and other pesticide containers (in other words all packaging materials) used in agriculture are triple rinsed, collected and recycled by CropLife SA certified service providers.

Why participate in the CropLife SA container management programme?

While plastic has many valuable uses, half of all containers and products are designed to be used only once, before being thrown away. As a result, we produce more than 300 million tonnes of plastic waste every year, with severe environmental consequences. In agriculture, plastic is used for pesticide containers, fertiliser packaging, seed bags and polytunnels amongst others. The industry has a responsibility to manage the life cycles of those products. In addition, according to the new regulations regarding Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008), each producer of waste will be compelled to have a scheme in place for collecting and recycling of such items.

Container management programmes deliver a variety of benefits, including:

- Protecting the environment and operator from unnecessary exposure.
- Safe and responsible disposal of all spent packaging.
- Reducing solid waste and maximising recycling.
- Using recycled material in the manufacturing of new packaging.

- Resource conservation impacts:
 - Energy savings (reducing need to burn fuel or extract oil).
 - Saving landfill space.
 - Reducing carbon emissions.

Triple rinsing is not negotiable

Before containers can be recycled, it is imperative that they are triple rinsed with water on the farm at time of mixing, with the resultant rinsing water added to the spray tank and applied to the crop. This process removes 99.99% or more of product residue, meaning the containers are classified as non-hazardous according to the SABS standard SANS10402 and is safe for transportation and recycling.

Benefits of triple rinsing

- Ensures that the complete container content is added to the spray mixture, saving the producer money by eliminating unnecessary product waste. As much **as 2.5% of the total volume is saved** by triple rinsing and decanting into the spray tank.
- Decontaminates containers and ensures they are non-hazardous to humans, animals, or the environment.
- Rinsed containers are safe to handle.
- Enables containers to be recycled which is a sustainable method of disposal.
- Relieves the farmer from dealing with hazardous waste.
- Provides an incentive to participate in collection schemes and protects the environment.

It only makes sense that each role-player in the value chain does the right thing by participating in a container management programme.

