



Leonard Gianessi has served as Director of the Crop Protection Research Institute since January 2004. He has authored comprehensive reports on the benefits of using herbicides, fungicides and insecticides in US crop production. In addition to publishing his results in peer-reviewed journals, Leonard has developed popular slide shows (*War of the Weeds*, *Spore Wars*, *BugBusters*) that serve as educational overviews of pest problems. Leonard's educational efforts include about 40 presentations per year for a wide variety of audiences. Leonard's research and outreach activities are being supported financially by CropLife America and 17 of its member companies. His international research activities are supported by CropLife International.

Prior to joining the CropLife Foundation, Leonard was a Senior Research Associate at the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy where he led studies of the potential impacts of biotechnology on US and European crop production. His work at NCFAP was partially supported by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. Leonard began his professional career with a 17-year appointment at Resources for the Future where he specialized in the development of databases for studies of air and water pollution and pesticide use. His work at RFF was supported by USEPA, USGS, and USDA and led to published articles in numerous conference proceedings and journal articles including *Quarterly Journal of Economics* and *Land Economics*.

Leonard has testified before Congressional Committees regarding pesticide policies in four hearings.

Leonard has a BA in public affairs from George Washington University.



Jay Vroom became the chief executive of the trade association known as CropLife America in 1989 and has been a leader in U.S. agribusiness trade associations for his entire career. He has served as chairman of the CropLife Foundation since its inception in 2001. At CropLife he heads the organization that is the leading U.S. trade group for the crop protection industry in the States. CLA is primarily involved in issue management and advocacy for the industry and its U.S. agricultural allies.

CLA does Federal and state lobbying, science and regulatory advocacy and proactive litigation work on behalf of its members. Its principal issues revolve around 1) articulating the benefits of crop technology in enhancing food, fiber and renewable fuel production; 2) advocating for clear, science-based regulations, which ensure the safe and effective use of crop protection tools. Through CLA's membership in the Brussels-based global federation CropLife International, the US organization is a strong voice in many international venues on critical issues to the plant science industry. Vroom is a senior member of CropLife International's Crop Protection Steering Council.

Based in Washington, DC, CropLife America has a principal staff of 30 professionals. CLA operates with several affiliated organizations—CropLife Foundation of which Vroom is Board Chairman, CropLife Political Action Committee of which he is Treasurer and RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), which is a parallel organization to CLA working on issues pertinent to the non-agricultural uses of public health protection products and fertilizers.

Prior to joining the CropLife staff, Jay Vroom served in various executive capacities with the National Fertilizer Solutions Association, the Merchants Exchange of St. Louis and The Fertilizer Institute. He graduated with honors from the University of Illinois College of Agriculture. Vroom was raised on a grain and livestock farm in north-central Illinois, and he continues to own that farming operation.



Dr. Albert Ayeni joined Rutgers in 1995 as Visiting Weed Scientist and was appointed Coordinator of International Programs in 2002.

Professional Preparation:

Undergrad: University of Ibadan (Ibadan, Nigeria) Major: Agronomy (Crop Science)

Degree: B.Sc, Year: 1974

Graduate: Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) Specialization: Weed Science

Degree: M.S.; Year: 1978

Graduate: Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) Specialization: Weed Science;

Degree: Ph.D. Year: 1982

Professional Appointments:

2003 – present: Assistant Director, Cook/NJAES International Programs

2001 – 2003: Coordinator, Cook/NJAES International Programs

2000 – 2003: Program Associate in Weed Science, RAREC, Bridgeton.

1999 – 2000: Research Associate in Weed Science, RAREC, Bridgeton

1997 – 1998: Interim Weed Extension Specialist, Turf & Ornamentals, RAREC, Bridgeton

1995 – 1997: Visiting Weed Scientist, RAREC, Bridgeton

1978 – 1999: From Assistant Lecturer to Senior Lecturer in Agronomy and Weed

Science, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

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