



HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2009

Cairo, Egypt

Framchem, Cairo, formulates agricultural and industrial chemicals

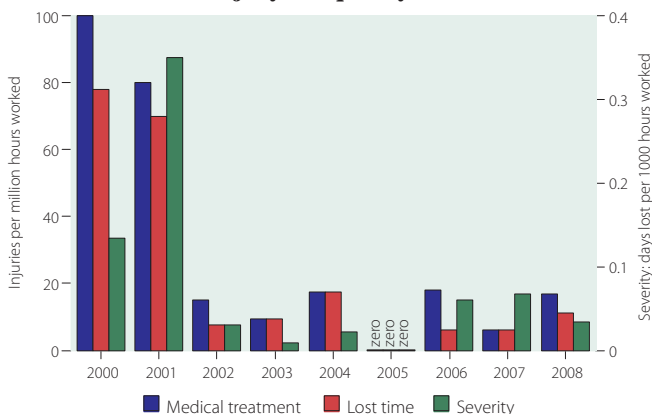
The plant

Framchem is now focused on its core activity of formulating and refilling agrochemicals into small packs (from 1kg/liter to 20g/ml). Based on a long experience in serving the Egyptian market, Framchem has participated in the development of Nufarm sales in the Middle East. A more recent Framchem task is to become a hub for supplying Nufarm regional entities and more specially the Mediterranean area while continuing to serve its traditional customers.

Health and safety performance

We have appointed an HS&E and Quality Officer who has carried out training seminars and workshops for improvements in safety. This has led to a continuing improvement in safe working over time, with significant improvements noted during 2008 and 2009 so far. We have also introduced internal inspection audits and trained our people to understand that each person has a responsibility to think about how to avoid injury even if that will take more time. During 2008, we had two injuries that were serious enough to need time away from work. Both were strain injuries, one caused by poor lifting technique and the other simply from bending over to pick up a small object from the floor.

Injury Frequency Rates



Note: All lost time injuries are also counted as medical treatment injuries

Projects

We have a number of projects in mind for the near future. We are starting to negotiate for the installation of our own on-site high temperature incinerator to deal with our wastes. We have requested permission to install a water well to improve supply and to reduce the cost of water which we use for watering our plants and to supply our fire fighting system. Another project is to upgrade our warehouses to comply with Croplife standards and ISO 18000.

Expenditure

We have continued to carry out projects to improve the safety of the operation and the look and cleanliness of the site (see below and site greening). While expenditure is modest, the improvements made to the site are gratifying.

	\$A
2003	13,528
2004	32,923
2005	24,462
2006	59,921
2007	34,582
2008	10,235



Wastes

Waste at Framchem comes in several forms. Waste generated from processes, whether aqueous or solvent, clean wastes from administration, obsolete stocks of Framchem products and obsolete stocks from our customers. Process wastes are the most difficult to handle.

To tackle this problem, we began some projects to firstly reduce the output of waste, and secondly to reduce existing wastes. The first project was completed in 2006 with the clean down processes implemented to standardise clean downs to reduce the amount of washings.

The second project, started in 2007, dealt with obsolete stocks of both raw materials and finished products. Where possible, we have reworked obsolete raw materials into products from the old businesses of Framchem and then sold them into the local market. The same held true for obsolete products, where possible they were reworked into new formulations. A 35% reduction in existing site waste was achieved through this method and relates mostly to the industrial products.

Customers' obsolete products however, were treated differently and more simply by obliging our customers to remove these stocks. The gain has not only been waste control but also the freeing up of space for storage. Another project involves incineration of some customers' obsolete Agrochem products. We succeeded in shipping more than 10 tonne of products (obsolete products) to Germany for high temperature incineration and also about 20 tonne of banned products were returned back to their principals. Accordingly, we have reduced our waste by another 38% in 2008.

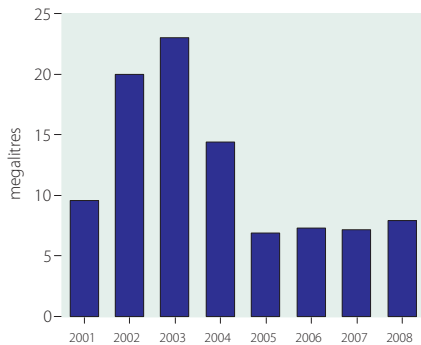
On the other hand, some of the obsolete and slow moving industrial items (water treatment / surface treatment) have been listed and proposed to some clients for export, but this is still awaiting decisions.

ISO 18001

We are in the process of establishing ISO 18001/2007 which is obligatory for each and every manufacturing facility in Egypt. In addition, we have passed the gap analysis step and we are on the way to reframe the buildings and roads and other points in the plant to be in line with the requirements.

Water

Over the past few years we have been focusing on controlling water consumption at the site. We have better control since water is now brought in by tanker daily and stored in tanks that feed both our fire water and factory needs. However, we have also been focusing on greening the site which brings with it an increased consumption of water.



Projects we have put in place to control water use are drip irrigation systems, water timers, a water pumping system for the football field and surrounds as well as workshop modifications to reduce washing volumes. Water pipes on site have been reviewed including the fire pumping system to ensure no losses are incurred in areas we cannot constantly monitor.

Community

We have a program whereby we provide some financial help to poor neighbours who are in critical need. We provide some financial support for a few charities and also provide some material support such as water heaters, irons and blankets.

Sport

During the holy month of Ramadan, together with several other similar companies, we hold a soccer football championship, involving five or six teams. Having our own football field on site helps our team to practice during the year.

Social events

During the year we had a free day where our employees and their families enjoyed an outing to watch sports events, followed by a variety of entertainment for the adults and their children. To get involved as a group, many had a Framchem stamp put on their foreheads.



Site greening

Over the years various types of chemicals have been stored on site and on bare soil. This has created possible contamination of some of these areas. The only thing that makes this less of a problem than normal is that it rains very seldom in Cairo, thus there is very little depth to any contamination. Once any known contamination is removed manually, the soils can be treated by the plantings of various types of crops that have the ability to remove contaminants from the soil through their root systems.



Sunflowers and soccer field

One such type of plant has been shown to be the sunflower. Sunflowers can remove pesticides, heavy metals and other toxic chemicals from soils. After taking soil samples for analysis we set about to plant a crop of sunflowers to determine if we could reduce any contamination levels in the soil. The first crop was small and stunted in growth and once it died off we took further soil samples (which we are still waiting to analyse). The second crops however, were three times the size and only in a few of spots were the flowers stunted in growth. Purely visually we can say that in some areas we have removed the background contamination and we know where to focus for the third crop. Once we sample again we shall be able to determine what benefit there has been to the soil. Apart from the contamination reduction, the sunflowers have brightened up the site and make for a lovely backdrop against the desert and warehouses. At the same time we have also been adding drip irrigation and planting several trees, cacti and bushes to add colour and variety to the site's drab factory feel.



Water pump for irrigation

Address: Framchem Private Free Zone, Km 26 Cairo – Alex
Desert Rd, Abu Rawash, Giza 12577 – Egypt
Telephone: +20 (2) 3539 0635
Facsimile: +20 (2) 3539 0638 **Website:** www.nufarm.com