

Banana Farm and Agricultural Inputs Vendor (Kenitra, near Sidi Allal Tazi)

SCENARIO

The Kenitra region is very fertile with many greenhouse-based farms in the area at which bananas, strawberries and other vegetables and fruit are grown. These products may be sold in Morocco or Europe.

Mr. BEN DAIF, the owner of the banana farm and vendor of pesticides and other agricultural inputs, has invested in the cultivation of various varieties of bananas in greenhouses on his farm near Sidi Allal Tazi. He also sells pesticides to local farms and trains the farmers in pesticide use and application at this farm. He is a former agronomist with the Moroccan government and uses his expertise to develop new varieties of bananas as demonstrations for his clients.

ORMVAG, the local farm extension agency, works with Mr. BEN DAIF.

HORTICULTURE MODERNE FARM AND STORE

The banana farm includes several greenhouses, irrigation infrastructure (including two groundwater wells and distribution system) and a training building. Mr. BEN DAIF has a store in the nearby town from which he sells pesticides, other agricultural inputs as well as irrigation equipment.

Context/Known Issues. It appears that the farm uses manure to fertilize the banana trees and minimal amounts of pesticides. In addition, Mr. BEN DAIF stores a small quantity of used pesticide in small containers in the building in which the well pump engine is located. He is concerned about the storage and disposal of such containers and does not have an obvious location for disposal. Given the location of the wells adjacent to the greenhouses, there may be potential for groundwater contamination at the site.

During a brief interview with a local farmer at the store, it was noted that farmers are reluctant to don face masks and other PPE during pesticide application. Apparently they are sold at the store at a reasonable cost.