

Can you introduce yourself and share what drives your passion for agriculture?

I am a public and regulatory affairs professional, a proud mom, and passionate about driving agricultural innovation for a more sustainable future. With 23 years in regulatory and policy work, I've learned that success isn't just about science - political decision - making and societal values matter. Effective policies require diverse voices, and I believe in fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue to find common ground and drive progress.

What challenges have you faced in your career and how did you overcome them?

My biggest career challenges were often self-imposed - setting high expectations and worrying about meeting them, especially with increasing responsibilities. Fortunately, supportive mentors, colleagues, and loved ones encouraged me to leverage my strengths and take on new challenges, giving me the confidence to grow professionally.

What led you to your current role? Was there a defining moment?

I studied Bioengineering at the University of Leuven, Belgium, specializing in Crop Protection. Fascinated by glyphosate's impact on agriculture, I initially sought a role at the company that invented it. While I didn't secure a position at its manufacturing plant, I was offered a role in regulatory affairs - an ideal fit that combined my passion for science, agriculture, law, and policy.

Over the years, I held various regulatory roles across crop protection, seeds, biotechnology, and stewardship, covering Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. More recently, I transitioned to public affairs, first in global policy advocacy and later focusing on Europe, the Middle East, and Africa during the launch of the European Green Deal.



Annick Pleysier
Head of EMEA Public Affairs,
Science and Sustainability at
Bayer Crop Science

What advice would you give to women entering your field today?

I encourage others to embrace traits often seen as feminine, like empathy, doubt, and collaboration. Balancing and leveraging these qualities fosters curiosity, active listening, and finding common ground, leading to better solutions that benefit everyone involved.

How does your work contribute to the future of agriculture?

As Head of Agricultural Affairs at Bayer Crop Science EMEA, I lead a fantastic team that engages with stakeholders across the agricultural value chain. We collaborate to create a science - and evidence-based regulatory and policy environment, ensuring farmers' access to innovations and defending a broad portfolio of solutions for sustainable agriculture.

We focus on understanding our innovation pipeline and how our solutions meet customer needs, identifying opportunities and challenges in policies, and engaging in dialogue with key stakeholders. As a team leader, I also work to remove obstacles and help people excel in their roles.

Can you share a moment when you felt particularly supported or uplifted by other women in your field?

Small moments of recognition from female peers, like feedback on my contributions in meetings or projects, are incredibly uplifting. These simple acknowledgments provide meaningful support and encouragement in my professional journey.