

North Africa Middle East

CropLife Africa Middle East Holds General Assembly and Board Meetings

On 27 June 2012, CropLife Africa Middle East held its General Assembly and Board meetings at the Blue Tower Boardroom in Brussels, Belgium.

10 Board members, 4 guest members and 4 CropLife Executives attended the General Assembly. The General Assembly resolved the following matters:

- Approval of the organisation's annual report for the year 2011.
- Approval of the financial accounts and audit report for the year 2011.
- The formal discharge was granted by the General Assembly to the members of the Board of Directors for the year 2011.
- Approval of the organisation's operational budget for the year 2012.

The election of a new Board of Directors composed of 10 full company members and 4 full national association members, for a term of office ending June 2014.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors held its 1st meeting in 2012 in two separate sessions, before and after the General Assembly. The first session addressed the following issues:

- Reviewed the annual report, financial accounts and audit report for the year 2011
- Reviewed the financial year-to-date accounts of the organization as at end May 2012
- Prepared proposals to the General Assembly to approve the above reports together with the operational budget for the year 2012

The Board took note of the resignations submitted by Jean-Louis Gazel of Dow AgroSciences, Luigi Coffano of DuPont and A.K. Otieno of CropLife Kenya. It also took note of the nominations for new members to the Board of Michel Villeneuve of Dow AgroSciences, Roman Tarnovski of DuPont, Denis Troalen of Sumitomo, Karim Benbrahim of CropLife Morocco, Kuria Gatonye of CropLife Kenya and Tom Mabesa of CropLife South Africa.

General Assembly & Board Meeting



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In the session held after the General Assembly meeting, the Board conducted the election for the constitution of the new Board. The following were elected and constituted as follows:

Name	Function	Company/Association
Eric Bureau	President	Bayer CropScience
Michel Chartouni	Vice-President	Sipcam
John Barnes	Vice-President	Arysta LifeScience
Kobus Steenekamp	Vice-President	Monsanto
Gabor Mehn	Director	BASF
Mats Edh	Director	Cheminova
Michel Villineuve	Director	Dow AgroSciences
Roman Tarnovski	Director	DuPont
Denis Troalen	Director	Sumitomo
Jan Suter	Director	Syngenta
Sarwat Sakr	Director	CropLife Egypt
Karim Benbrahim	Director	CropLife Morocco
Kuria Gatonye	Director	CropLife Kenya
Tom Mabesa	Director	CropLife South Africa

Following the election, the meeting reviewed progress activity reports on regulatory matters, IPM/ Responsible Use, CoC rollout, ASP obstocks and container management, presented by Rudolf Guyer, Ali Mohamed Ali and Les Hillowitz respectively.

The Board also reviewed the project activities for 2012 and the Strategic Blue Print of CropLife AME outlining the strategic objectives together with short and mid-term goals and actions.

Association Specialist, Manon Dohmen, presented the annual update on the key performance indicators for the national associations for 2011.

Global Committees and Project Team Meetings

A number of meetings of CropLife International's Committees and Project Teams were held in Brussels during the period 20-29 June.

A summary of these meetings is as follows:

The Stewardship Steering Committee and IPM/RU Project Team held their meetings on 20 and 21 June and covered the following:

Global Stewardship Dialogue

A final summary of the Global Stewardship Stakeholder Dialogue held on 19 and 20 October 2011 in Berlin has been concluded. A hard copy of the final report will be sent to each stakeholder who participated in the dialogue whilst a copy will also be placed on the CropLife International website.

The next global stakeholder dialogue will take place in a developing country in 2016.

Stewardship Training Strategies

Training strategies and stewardship programs conducted by the regional associations of Africa Middle East, Asia, Latin America, North America and ECPA were regarded as well in line with global objectives and Stewardship Vision 2020.

A review of the training materials concluded that all regions are equipped with adequate and relevant training materials and a pool of competent master trainers.

Due emphasis would in future be given to "resistance management" as an outlined stewardship key result area. The need for developing the required training kits, tools and materials was confirmed.

International Code of Conduct

It was noted that the revised version of the code was not accepted at the recent FAO COAG meeting in Rome and resulted in referring this back for more stakeholder consultation prior to final consideration by the JMPM.

ASP and Post-ASP Progress

ASP disposal projects to be concluded by end of 2012 are those of Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique, RSA, Tunisia, Morocco and Mali.

Disposal operations in partnership with FAO are committed for Cameroon in 2013, together with Malawi and Kenya in 2014.

The route forward for future involvement in safeguarding projects will be only in countries where disposal funds have been identified.

RU/Secure Storage Project (India)

The project targeted at training 100,000 farmers has successfully concluded its 3rd year of implementation. Five thousand farmers were trained directly and 20,000 indirectly each year of operation.

A survey of farmers was carried out each year recording data on the impact of the training and maintenance of the program over time.

Funds have been allocated to conclude the 4th year of project in 2013.

Regional Reports and Operational Budget

CropLife associations of Africa Middle East, Latin America, America, ECPA and Asia presented regional activity reports focusing on Responsible Use/IPM.

The total numbers trained in RU/IPM activities in all regions for different audiences were in excess of 760,000 individuals, out of which 112,000 were trained in Africa Middle East.



Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee



Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee

The meeting took place on 26 June 2012 and was chaired by Rik Miller and D'Arcy Quinn. The meeting reviewed advocacy and outreach in relation to counterfeiting activities in terms of disseminating media packs and the collection of company inputs. This together with outreach to regional and national associations and the customization of messages to address local situations.

Both CropLife Asia and CropLife Africa Middle East presented on their positive efforts in the fight against counterfeit and the illegal trade of pesticides.

CropLife America and CropLife Latin America also presented brief positive reviews.

Project proposals for activities in 2013 were reviewed and operational budgets approved.

Other presentations were delivered by the EU with Rand Corp, OHIM and Europol focusing on the issue of counterfeiting activities in the European continent.

Communications Steering Committee

The meeting took place on 29 June and was attended by 22 participants representing CropLife International and its regional associations.

The meeting focused on the following:

- Progress reports and activity updates with emphasis on the POR communication seminar, the PRD training manual and container management communications plan.
- A review of the 2013 communications operating plans and budget.

Ali Mohamed Ali gave a review of the CropLife Africa Middle East communications and advocacy activities.

The meeting also covered climate change discussions with a focus on the role of crop protection products.

A joint meeting of the Crop protection and Plant Biotechnology communication teams addressed the following:

- Global rollout of the Public Benefits Project.
- Review of RIO+20 feedback.
- Review of the advocacy strategy for 2013 and the IFPRI update and outreach plan.
- Cross-platform activities on the World Food Prize 2012 and an update of the Tell-Me-More toolkit.

Emerging issues to be addressed were outlined as being the issues of waste and corporate social responsibility.

A side meeting took place between the regional coordinators of CropLife Africa Middle East and the communications team of CropLife America and CropLife Canada. The meeting focused on the potential utilization of social media networks in driving communication activities and creation of online communities. An electronic aid was provided to allow for further investigation and initiation of access to the social media.



Communication Steering Committee

Responsible Use ToT conducted in Sudan

The Sudan Agrochemicals Association (SAGA) organized a master trainer course on the Responsible Use of Pesticides as part of their ongoing national training programme for 2012.

The course was held in the city of Marawi in the Northern Province, 17 - 21 June under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and was attended by 36 master trainers representing the following participating agricultural disciplines:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Plant Protection Directorate (MOA) | Blue Nile State MOA |
| Marawi Dam Project | Northern State MOA |
| Dongola State MOA | Private Sector Reps. |

Under the sponsorship of CropLife Africa Middle East, the regional trainer, Dr. Said Abdella, conducted the training.

Over the 5 days, the course addressed facilitation skills and technical training both as theoretical and practical aspects in the responsible use of pesticides. The course also included components of participative work exercises, written tests; lesson planning together with individual lesson assessments.

It also incorporated field day visits to potato cooling storage units, horticultural nurseries, mango plantations and the Marawe Dam Project.

All participants passed the exam on Training of Trainers/ Pesticide Responsible Use and demonstrated notable competence in the practical and technical aspects of training. They were subsequently awarded certificates of competence.

The Sudan Agrochemicals Association (SAGA), have put together an action plan to benefit from these newly certified master trainers in cascading down training activities with emphasis on the vegetable and irrigated sectors.



Group Participants



Below: Group Session



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West & Central Africa

Cooperation between CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and GIZ

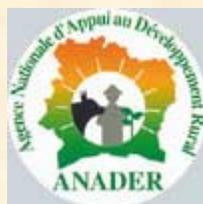
During the period 6 - 16 June, in the districts of Abengourou, Daloa, Divo and San-Pedro 40 trainers from the extension service (Agence Nationale pour le Développement Rural, ANADER) in charge of training of farmers under the Farmers Business Schools (FBS) were trained in "stewardship" and "anti-counterfeiting". The purpose of this training was to sensitize and provide the necessary skills and tools to the participants on IPM/RU and the benefits of quality-registered pesticides on cocoa beans and in doing so improve yields and the incomes of farmers.

Interactive discussions focused on:

- Pesticides and pesticide regulations covering field-testing, packaging and product label.
- Quality registered pesticides covering effective control, IPM/RU, yield increases, overall quality improvement, greater incomes, sustainable agriculture and the protection of the environment.
- Counterfeit & illegal pesticides with the associated risks covering crop losses, financial and economic losses, health, environmental and social issues.
- The training provided useful information but more topics need to be covered on application techniques (dose rates, calibration of sprayers, etc.).



Group discussions (L) and presentation of results (below) to other participants (courtesy: CropLife Côte d'Ivoire)



CropLife Cameroon: Anti Counterfeiting Sensitization Tour

On 20, 21 and 26 June, in the districts of Bafoussam, Yaoundé and Kumba, 186 participants, all representing the local Ministry of Agriculture, customs and judiciary officials, agro-dealers, journalists, farmers, project coordinators, officers of the Cameroon Standard Board (ANOR) attended an anti-counterfeiting tour.

The tour was organized by CropLife Cameroon as an outcome of the 26th General Assembly meeting of 9 March 2012, which called for sensitization actions in the above mentioned areas recognized as the “turntables” of the increasing proliferation of illicit pesticides in the country. All the member companies of CropLife Cameroon were represented in the meeting sessions, which covered:

- Information on the importance of pesticides in sustainable agriculture, food security issues and poverty reduction.
- Explanations on the importance of regulations and the need for the registration of pesticides to protect crops and harvests, ensuring safety to both man and the environment.
- Explanations on illegal pesticides and the associated risks covering crop losses, financial and economic losses, health, environmental and social issues.
- To assist enforcers and prosecutors in their task against illegal traders and dealers.
- To guide the cooperative efforts in combating such malpractices. ANOR, the Cameroon standard bureau, offered to join CropLife Cameroon in the fight against counterfeiting and the improvement of the pesticide regulations.
- Guidance to the media for the coverage of events and reports on the issues of anti-counterfeiting and improved pesticide regulations.



Media (Above) attended the meetings together with farmers and officials (Below) and made a large coverage on the issue to sensitize the population (Photo Courtesy CropLife Cameroon).



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East & Southern Africa

AVCASA / CropLife South Africa 2012 Congress

On 13 June AVCASA (CropLife South Africa) held their 2012 Congress at the Kopanong Hotel and Conference Centre, Benoni, Gauteng. The theme of this year's congress was "Striving Towards Excellence in South African Regulatory Matters Through Industry-Government Collaboration". The opportunity was taken to invite Dr. Bernhard Johnen to address the group on "Principles of Regulation". The organizers also used Dr. Johnen's presence to arrange a workshop on GHS the afternoon prior to the congress and for him to address the Cape Working Group on the Thursday in Paarl.

In his opening address, Marcel Dreyer, President of CropLife South Africa said the following:

"As an agricultural inputs association we are privileged to be in the agricultural sector. This, as the world is currently experiencing huge economic challenges with the population increasing rapidly. The agrochemical industry is booming, food safety and food security has become an important issue. The world agrochemical market grew by 12.1% (Phillips Mc Dougall) and the South African market grew by 14.4% (Johan Conradie) year on year in value. Having said this, we also participate in a market with huge competition, we have 63 CropLife member supply companies, 22 SAAHA companies and 538 ACDASA agents operating in 34 companies.

For all this to work, we need a good effective regulatory system, which is essential to encourage R&D, protect intellectual property, attract multinational investment, ensure effective and efficient products, successfully combat counterfeit products and have healthy competition. These are all the necessary elements to optimize crop protection and animal health. This led to the theme of the conference, "Striving Towards Excellence in South African Regulatory Matters Through Industry-Government Collaboration".

Let us reflect on the recent successes of AVCASA as an association:

- We have multiple active working groups focused on improving the quality of our industry
- We have a CropLife database and a AgrilIntel database
- We have a "waste management plan"
- A set of published guides
- Good media coverage and articles on safe and responsible use
- The outcome of the legal action, resulting in the formation of the ministerial task team with recommendation for improvement
- The management of the AVCASA training course

The challenges for AVCASA include:

- Working with Government to develop an effective, predictable regulatory system with clear guidelines to ensure a high level of regulation.
- Implement the obsolete stocks waste management plan and the funding thereof.
- To successfully incorporate the dealership association, ACDASA into CropLife South Africa.
- More focus to be placed on marketing our organization at the government level, to offer them support and to address the needs of our industry.
- To become an organization that will be taken seriously by the Minister of Agriculture.
- Maintain a spirited, positive, financially healthy organization."



Left: L – R, Jonathan Mudzungu, Registrar, Dr. Bernhard Johnen, Sarah Le Grange, AgrilIntel, Kobus Hartman, AgrilIntel, Tom Mabesa, CEO, CropLife South Africa.

Right: President of CropLife South Africa, Marcel Dreyer



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World Health Organization (WHO) Feasibility Study for a Sub-Regional Poisons Centre in the East Africa Sub-Region

As background, as far as the WHO is aware, only six countries in the WHO Africa region have a poisons centre. These are: Algeria, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The establishment and strengthening of poisons centres was identified as a regional priority at the first African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in June 2006. The possibility of a sub-regional poisons centre, i.e. a centre in one country serving multiple countries, was suggested. At its fifth meeting in January 2010, the SAICM Africa Core Group, which comprises representatives from all sub-regions, noted a continuing lack of progress on this issue and requested that proposals be developed to address this.

The overall objective of the project is to find a means for improving the provision of poison centre services in Africa. While this project will focus on one sub-region it is expected that other sub-regions could utilize the findings.

Specific objectives of the project are to:

- Document the incidence of poisoning in the East Africa sub-region
- Establish the existing provision of poisons centre services in the sub-region
- Present options for ways of improving the availability of poisons centre services in the sub-region

The project will involve a postal survey of the 16 countries in the region that have a SAICM National Focal Point (Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe), with a more in-depth analysis of the 4 countries; Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania.

The in-depth study in the four countries will involve the collection of more wide-ranging information, in particular regarding attitudes and the practical considerations of providing cross-border information service. This study will involve workshop discussion with stakeholders from multiple sectors, questionnaires and, where possible, face-to-face or telephone interviews.

The project is expected to last 12 months. A steering group is guiding the implementation of this project, comprising representatives from WHO AFRO, the SAICM Regional Focal Point representatives from the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA), representatives from the poisons centres in South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe, and a representative from the Network of African Poisons Centres and Applied Toxicologists (NAPCAT)

The output will be the final product as a report on the feasibility of establishing a sub-regional poisons centre and a set of options for improving the provision of poisons centre services in the East Africa sub-region.

In conclusion: the questionnaire was reviewed, with inputs provided, the process for national consultations was refined leading to the list on who should be consulted and whether the present meeting group could assist with consultations.

The revised questionnaire should be completed by 2nd week July with the national consultations taking place sometime in September.

Below L – R, Dr Carine Marks, South Africa, Joanna Tempowski, WHO and Nick Edwards, Consultant.



Group Photo

FANRPAN

A meeting took place with the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network, FANRPAN, on Monday 18 June. The purpose of the meeting was to establish whether FANRPAN had taken on any additional roles within the CAADP agenda as currently they host the secretariat for the CAADP Non-State Actors (NSA) Task Team. Although this turned out, not to be the case, the opportunity was used to discuss other initiatives within their management.

An interesting point emerged on the subject of anti-counterfeiting as FANRPAN are heavily involved in the SADC Seed Harmonization Initiative and mention was made of the large volumes of fake seed now found on the markets within East & Southern Africa. They are keen to learn about any anti-counterfeiting measures that can be introduced for agricultural inputs and would like to arrange a meeting with all parties to discuss this further.



The FANRPAN Team: L – R, Fungayi Simbi, Bellah Mpofu, Ian Mashingaidze and Siphokazi Phillip

CropLife Uganda: Training

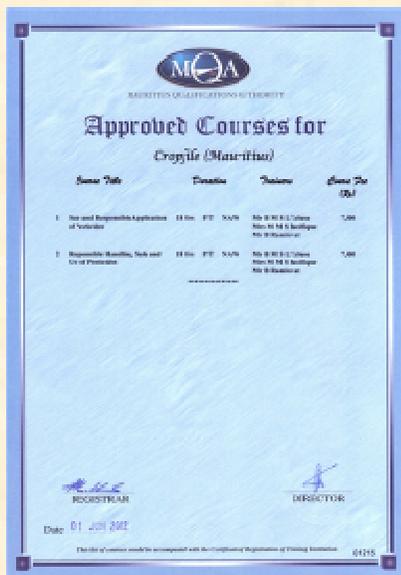
An IPM / RU training took place in Kampala 11 – 14 June. This is in line with the aBi Trust partnership. Thirteen candidates were trained with the focus on the newly appointed 12 Field Coordinators who are responsible for the rollout of the anti-counterfeiting field training.

The highest score achieved for the written exam was 87% whilst the highest score for individual presentations was 78%. Certificates of competence were awarded.



Betty Atto and Stephen Matovu of CropLife Uganda proudly displaying their certificates of competence

CropLife Mauritius



During June CropLife Mauritius was officially certified as a training institute. Along with this, their first two training courses covering Responsible Use received accreditation.

They plan to conduct three training programs between July and December using four "Master Trainers". Once the two courses are running smoothly, they intend to register a third course devoted entirely to IPM.

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Zimbabwe

The Standards Association of Zimbabwe says it is pushing for legislation to compel the compulsory testing of products for quality, in a bid to curtail the influx of counterfeit products.

This follows reports of a flood of fake and sub-standard products, some of which are risky to users or consumers. The products evade scrutiny by local port authorities. While the attempt is largely to control the sub-standard imports the legislation would also cover the quality of exports. Products certain to be subjected to mandatory testing, once the legislation is in place, include vehicles, spares, medicines, electrical gadgets and personal hygiene products.

SAZ executive director Ms Eve Gadzikwa told Herald Business the legislation should be ready by the end of this year. She made the remarks after a ceremony to present pharmaceutical firm Datlabs with an International Standards Organisation 9001:2008 quality management certificate. "We are lobbying for a legal framework to be put in place that is going to facilitate the involvement of SAZ on compulsory testing of imports and exports. A regulator is going to be established who, through an Act of Parliament, will ensure SAZ becomes involved in making sure that we test certain products on a compulsory basis," said Ms Gadzikwa.

"We are lobbying for that law to make sure the consumer is protected and does not get a raw deal from sub-standard products," she said. Presently, SAZ does not have the legal power to subject imports to mandatory quality tests and refers such cases to regulatory authorities whenever the issues of quality crop up. The decade of economic instability that Zimbabwe went through compromised the manufacturing capacity of industry and has made the country a dumping site for counterfeits.

Reports abound that the country has also been targeted for sub-standard medicines and SAZ says the situation did not augur well for the country's quest to achieve US\$100 billion economy.

"The industry is a major contributor to economic growth and GDP through exports, import substitution and employment. It exports to Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Malawi, Angola, DRC, Tanzania, Uganda and West Indies," she said.

Ms Gadzikwa applauded Datlabs for attaining ISO 9001:2008, saying this ensures high quality products and services. She said the certification was critical as it enhances profits, confidence in products, quality consistence, increase in market share, competitiveness and access to external markets. Datlabs managing director MrClever Mugadza said his company was already compliant with the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe regulations on public health. He said: "Datlabs decided to be ISO 9001:2008 certified in its continued endeavour to give enhanced value to customers." The local pharmaceutical industry, said Ms Gadzikwa, was critical for enhancing availability of drugs, reduction of their prices, protection against counterfeits, quality and efficacy, employment and promotion of science and technology.

CropLife Zimbabwe



IPM/RU training in vegetables sector by CropLife Cameroon and Min Agric. (2 day session each week during this period)	July 2 - Aug 8
Meeting with APC in Egypt	July 8
Meeting with SAGA (Sudan)	July 10-11
Association Management Training, CropLife Uganda	July 16 -17
Association Management Training, CropLife Ethiopia	July 19 -20
TOT Responsible Use Training: SSP Project – Zambia	July 22 - 26
2nd SADC SPS Coordinating Committee Meeting – Pretoria	July 24 – 27
Africa Regional Workshop Zambia - WIPO and Plant Protection	July 26 - 27
CropLife Zambia AGM	Aug 22
E & SA Hub & Regulatory Workshop – Addis, Ethiopia	Aug 28 - 29
World Cocoa Conference, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire: Together for a sustainable cocoa economy	Nov19-23



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Representing the Plant Science Industry