

Stewardship

Container Management Project Team Meeting with Country Managers 21 - 23 March Sao Paulo, Brazil

The trip started with the team going on a tour of the Campo Limpo plant.

This plant produces pesticide containers at the site from recycled empty pesticide containers. Since the inception of the plant in 2013 they have produced in excess of 34 million containers without a single come-back. A very impressive operation.

On the first of the 2 day meeting the following items were addressed:

- Stewardship strategic goals and container management overview.
- Global recommendations for improving sustainability in pilot programs.
- EU Commission proposal on new criteria for hazardous waste
- FAO activities on container management
- Opportunities and challenges on container management in Latin America
- Learning experiences from: Belgium, Germany, France, Poland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and South Africa. This covered local conditions, collection, final disposal & end uses, legislation, funding mechanisms, main challenges and issues successfully addressed.



Above: Containers being produced in the Campo Limpo plant



Right: Caps being produced in the Campo Limpo plant



Left: Joao Rando - President of inpEV showing the level of Quality Control at the Campo Limpo Plant

On the second day the group split into parallel sessions, Latin American programs and Mature programs.

The Mature program group covered the following:

- Packaging issues and opportunities
- Farmers – increasing recovery rates
- Farmers – rinsing techniques / equipment and improving rinsing rates
- Communications with retailers and messaging
- Recycled plastic into new containers and other opportunities
- Other efficiency improvements – new technologies
- Accepting and handling of other packaging – seed treatment containers and pesticide bags (Mancozeb & copper)
- Obsolete stocks – container management and industry's role.
- Health, Safety & Environment programs to mitigate issues and improve performance

Later in the day the Container Management Project Team had their face-to-face meeting. Key items covered were:

- Strategic objectives for 2017
- Criteria for defining mature programs
- Campo Limpo – risk assessment studies on eco-plastica
- Risk assessment for end uses

Les Hillowitz



Group Photo

CropLife Kenya concludes Phase (1) of SSP Trainings carried out in collaboration with SNV



SSP's during training on IPM



SSP's learn how to identify pests and diseases



In August 2016, CropLife Kenya and SNV entered into a partnership agreement for the training of 480 SSPs across 6 counties in Kenya. The training was to be carried out in 2 phases. Phase (1) covered the training of SSP supervisors and Phase (2) the training of SSP implementers.

In February 2017, Phase (1) ended with the training of 121 SSP supervisors from Makueni, Kajiado, Nyeri, Nyandarua, Nakuru and Bungoma counties. The trainees underwent a 5-day technical training and a 4-day business training. The SSPs are expected to meet the objectives of improving food safety especially for the domestic market, reducing pesticide misuse and creating employment for rural youth.

The technical component by trainers from CropLife Kenya and the Pest Control Products Board covered the introduction to pests and diseases, IPM, application skills, responsible use of pesticides and training & facilitation. The 4-day business training covered business planning, risk mitigation, sources of credit, diversification and the maintaining of business records. This part of the program was delivered by Ultimate limited, engaged by SNV.

The SSP's were issued with certificates which are valid for 2 years and identification badges. The Ministry of Agriculture was involved in the recruitment of the SSPs and will play a major role in the sensitization of farmers on their services.

CropLife Kenya is grateful to SNV for their continued support in implementation up to where it stands at present. The project now moves to the training of SSP implementers and subsequent introduction to farming communities which will take place during May and June.

Benson Ngigi

Left: SSPs during a practical session on spraying skills (calibration of a knapsack sprayer)

Container Management - South Africa

To get a feel on container management in the country a visit was made to Myplas on 9 March as they are responsible for $\pm 20\%$ of all the recycled pesticide containers placed into the market annually.

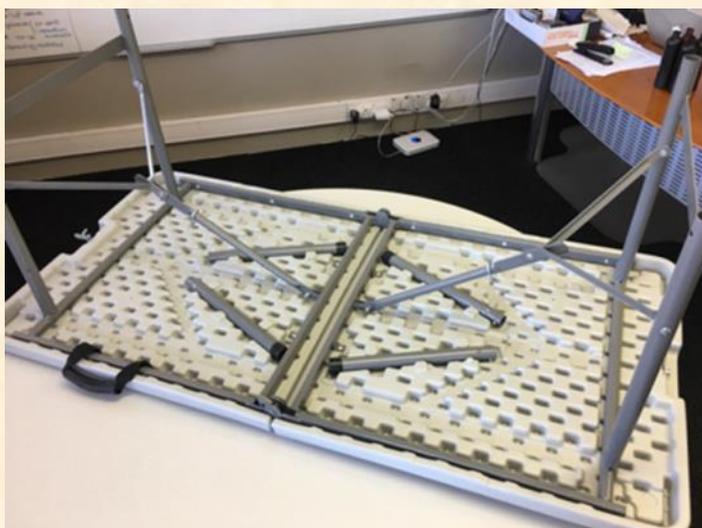
Myplas has 2 factories in the Bellville area. They undertake recycling to provide granules for the manufacture of “refuse bags” under the Tuffy brand and household goods under the Addis label. They also have their own factory in which they produce piping and fencing posts.

For the 2016 / 17 season they increased their collections and recycling of pesticide containers by $\pm 20\%$.

Based on their inputs and market feel, it would seem as if the volume of HDPE obtained from empty pesticide containers, countrywide, increased by ± 125 tons.

Myplas are in the process of moving into “high value” end-products, examples shown below.

Les Hillowitz



Walter Jordaan (Below) showing samples (right and above right) of the newer products produced with their plastics



Responsible Use Training in Namibia

Herman Louw, Chairman of CropLife Namibia and a CLAME Master Trainer developed a one-day course in Responsible Use and Good Agricultural Practices for smallholder farmers on how to tackle the problem of *Tuta absoluta* in the horticultural sector of the country. *Tuta absoluta*, a pest that damages tomato plants, potato, eggplant and green pepper has been detected in Namibia. According to a tomato specialist who visited Windhoek to meet farmers and assess the damage said it became clear that this is not an isolated case, but a full-blown outbreak of *Tuta absoluta* around the Grootfontein area.

Manjo Krige, a horticulturalist at the Namibian Agronomic Board, told The Namibian that if it goes unmanaged, the pest can lead to 100% loss as happened in Nigeria. Eddie Hasheela, an official in the Agricultural Ministry said that the ministry was preparing to make an announcement on the outbreak soon.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in South Africa recently announced that the first *Tuta absoluta*, commonly known as the Tomato Leaf Miner, had been detected in the eastern parts of Mpumalanga province. This pest is disastrous particularly for tomato production and food security in general, the department said.

The department has been closely monitoring the spread of this pest across the world and has proactively initiated emergency actions to register agrochemicals to prepare for a rapid response to any possible outbreak of this pest in South Africa. The biggest challenge with this pest is that it can develop resistance to chemicals within a single season.

Herman Louw



Above: Tomato plants damaged by the pest - *Tuta absoluta*



Herman with the group of trainees

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Responsible Use Training for Smallholder farmers, Esna, Luxor, Egypt - March 2017

CropLife Egypt collaborates with Blue Moon in activities covering professional spray teams who in turn service participants of the **USAID funded Premium Project for Egyptian Smallholder Growers**, which includes producer organizations. Blue Moon has established a well-recognized name in the field of agricultural development and funded projects that can make a difference in Egypt's agricultural sector through the implementation of nationwide development projects, focusing on Good Agricultural Practice and improved quality of product.

The main idea of conducting the Responsible Use training program is to promote the responsible use of pesticides and the use of PPE. Added to this is the importance of first aid and how to manage empty pesticide containers, but more importantly is the selection of candidates to participate in the SSP program which follows later.

The first round of the program started on 25 and 26 January 2017, followed by training programs on 26 - 29 March 2017 at Adayma, Asfoun, Ghariera, Matana, Namasa and Negou in Luxor, these focused on participants of the USAID funded project.

The number of trained GlobalGAP registered growers now stands at 276 farmers

Said Abdella

Said Abdella in group photo with smallholder farmers in Negou – Luxor



Promotion of the SSP concept and its role in empty container management at farmer level - Esna – Luxor



Above: The tool used to puncture empty "triple rinsed" containers

Left: Training on how to wear PPE



Monitoring Exercise for the IFDC-CATALIST Project

A group of 88 Spray Service Providers (SSPs) from Lango and South West region in Uganda reached almost 4,000 farmers over a time-span of 2 years. This is one of the preliminary findings from the monitoring exercise that CropLife Uganda carried out from 13 to 24 March.

The SSPs were trained in August 2014 in Apac, Kole, Lira, and Oyam in the Lango sub-region, and in February 2015 in Kabala and Kisoro in the South West region. The setting up of a network of SSPs was funded by the Catalyze Accelerated Agricultural Intensification for Social and Environmental Stability (CATALIST) Project of the International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC). After initial field visits in July 2015 no contact was maintained with the SSPs leading to the decision by CropLife Uganda to initiate a thorough monitoring exercise.

After two years, the CropLife team found that all 88 SSPs are still actively selling their services. The most popular crops being serviced by the SSPs are beans (80%), vegetables (73%) and tomatoes (66%). In Lango, beans (96%) are by far the most popular, followed by maize (87%) and soybean (87%). In South West, potatoes are serviced by most SSPs (86%), followed by vegetables (79%) and beans (63%).

On average, each SSP serviced 35.1 farmers, which is a good average when compared to SSP projects in other countries. Again, on average each SSP covered an area of 22.4 acres, which indicates that farm size was less than 1 acre in size. The average income earned is on the low side, considering the average number of farmers serviced per SSP. The results of the final report will be used to develop follow-up support to the SSPs.

Manon Mireille Dohmen



Dennis Ocaya Okello,
CropLife Field Coordinator,
Lira, addressing SSPs' in the
Kole district, Northern region.



Betty Atto, Executive Secretary, CropLife
Uganda with an SSP, Yoweri Museveni in
the Kisoro district, South Western-Uganda.



Regulatory

Maghreb Regulatory Meeting, March 22 -23, 2017



Participants at the Maghreb Meeting in Tunis, Tunisia

The meeting brought together officials of the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, regulatory authorities and industry to exchange information and strategies to enhance management of crop protection products in the Maghreb countries of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Under the overarching theme of Principles of Regulation participants exchanged information around three sessions covering, Regulatory Frameworks, Risk Assessment and Risk Mitigation and Implementation of GHS respectively.

The first session covered CropLife approaches to mitigating risks associated with pesticide use including available tool box for managing risk. Examples of current programs and respective tools were provided including:

- * Prevention and management of obsolete stocks
- * IPM/responsible use
- * Container management
- * Capacity building in risk assessment and
- * Management of HHPs.
- * The session also provided case studies on mitigating risks on human health and environmental contamination bearing in mind the local use conditions.

The second session on regulatory frameworks highlighted current provisions and changes in legislations in the 3 countries. Also discussed was the application of Protection of Regulatory Data (PRD) and Confidential Business Information (CBI) in these regulations. In the session, there was also a discussion on the regulatory provisions for registration of biologicals in North America, Europe, Latin America and Asia Pacific. Some examples on the efforts to develop regulations in AME region were provided including South Africa (SADC), Kenya (EAC) etc. Potential impact of European Union's regulatory decisions on the AME region was extensively discussed highlighting the ED proposed criteria, PIC listing and the neonics suspension among others.

Under the principles of regulation theme, the session provided an introduction to risk assessment highlighting the scientific procedures to reduce or prevent the exposure to one or more chemicals through hazard assessment, hazard characterization, and exposure assessment for both human and the environment. The session also included a practical session using CLI tools for risk assessment

Stella Simiyu Wafukho

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Risk Assessment & Trade Impact for Agricultural Commodities Meeting : March 28 -29 - Nairobi

The meeting was well represented by over 65 officials from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Senegal, Ghana, South Africa and Egypt including government officials, pesticide regulators, industry and growers. The meeting was officially opened by the office of the PS Ministry of Agriculture flanked by Crop Life Kenya Chairperson and CEO, as well as the President of the CLAME Board of Directors. Key facilitators for the meeting were Michael Kaethner (Bayer), Cheryl Cleveland (BASF), Yong Zhen Yang (FAO), Ian Reichstein (Director - National Residue Survey- Department of Agriculture, Australia)

The objectives of the workshop were to :

- * Appreciate challenges surrounding MRLs and share proposals on overcoming negative impacts
- * Enhance the understanding of the role of risk assessment used in Codex Alimentarius and its trade impact for agricultural commodities.
- * Assist participants to develop informed positions on current and potential risk assessment approaches in Codex including the development of the proposed IESTI methodology.

The meeting took the form of interactive lectures, and round tables on the following topics.

- * Closing the gaps: MRLs for specialty crops and minor uses facilitated by John Oppong, AU IBAR
- * Codex MRLs: Priority setting and scheduling – Ian Reichstein, Department of Agriculture & Water Resources, Australia
- * Overview of the JMPR estimation of MRLs for pesticide residues – Yong Zhen Yang, FAO
- * Crop protection industry perspective on Codex MRLs – M. Kaethner – Bayer Crop Science
- * Round table1 encompassing presentations and discussions from countries, growers and industry on benefits, Limitations and Future Developments of Codex MRLs facilitated by Paul Ngaruiya, PCPB
- * Round table 2 technical session demonstrating individual parameters and how they should influence the IESTI Equation outcome facilitated by Cheryl Cleveland, BASF

Key Recommendations were as follows:

CODEX & other International Processes:

- * Feedback to respective governments to commit experts from African countries to participate in the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues" (JMPR). This is an expert ad hoc body administered jointly by FAO and WHO with the purpose of harmonizing the requirements and risk assessment on the pesticide residues.
- * Put in place mechanisms to enhance collaboration of African countries in contribution to 'calls for data' in CODEX and data generation for minor crops as well as adoption and harmonization of Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)
- * Collaboratively consider the interplay of all relevant factors in the discussions at the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) on the proposed changes in the International Estimation of Short Term Intake (IESTI) equation. Any changes should not lead to a loss of Codex MRLs
- * Put in place mechanisms for collaboration in enhancing capacity in international trade matters specifically the use of the WTO - SPS mechanism to jointly challenge stringent SPS measures prevailing in some markets

Local Market conditions:

- * Coordination of food safety matters at national, sub regional and continental levels and monitoring of residues for local market produce similar to treatment accorded to export market produce
- * Collaboratively enhance capacities of laboratories for residue testing and monitoring
- * Collaboratively put in place mechanisms to curb the access and use of poor quality (including counterfeits) pesticides and related products which may lead to frequent applications, overdosing and contribute to the residue problem

Stella Simiyu Wafukho

Participants at the Risk Assessment Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Meeting of the Technical Committee on Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus (CSSV) Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

30 participants representing organizations and institutional members of the Technical Committee of the CSSV met on 1 March at the offices of the Council of Coffee-Cocoa. CropLife Cote d'Ivoire is a member of the Technical Committee which covers some of the activities to be undertaken under the public-private partnership platform (PPPP) to support a sustainable cocoa economy.

The CSSV Technical Committee meeting was organized to update participants on the following:

- the components of the national programme on the CSSV comprising generation of technology, technical capacity building for farmers for the elimination of infected plants and a support programme for replanting. .
- progress on the elimination of infected trees indicating 7054 ha in 2016-17 totaling 12601 ha since the start of the programme during the 2014-15 crop year. Replanting amounted to 2673 ha in 2016-17 totalling 3111 ha since the beginning of the programme.
- Intensification of the elimination and replanting of the five year programme aims to target 100000 ha of infected farms. Components of the programme are information sharing, sensitization, capacity building and identification of mapping of all infected farms. This leads to the elimination and replanting process with a monitoring scheme put in place.

Bama Yao



Participants being addressed on the progress of the activities and components of the CSSV disease programme (Courtesy: CropLife Cote d'Ivoire).

Diagram depicting CSSV

Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus

Association Management

CropLife Zimbabwe AGM, 2017

Almost all 25 member companies belonging to CropLife Zimbabwe were represented at the association's AGM on March 17th.

The new Chairperson of CropLife Zimbabwe for 2017-18 is Emmanuel Nhema, Managing Director of Harvest-a-Rama, with Joe Mkandla, Country Head of Syngenta Agro Services, as the Vice Chairperson.

Keenly discussed topics included the continued availability of banned products on the market and the possible introduction of a spray service provider program, (SSP).

A special motion, "That annual membership fees should be increased", generated a lot of discussion. Members could see the need for a permanent employee, but were not keen to increase membership fees and asked the incoming Executive Committee to prepare a job description and budget for their consideration.

At the end of the meeting Dr. Chikwenhere, Deputy Director of the Research Services Division in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development, gave a talk on "The Current Pest Status in Zimbabwe, Challenges and the Way Forward", focusing mainly on *Tuta absoluta* and the "fall armyworm". He then presented certificates to the graduates of the 2016 CropLife accreditation course.

Carol Smith



Dr. Chikwenhere

CropLife Uganda Undertakes PR Exercise with Member Companies

The Executive Committee of CropLife Uganda underwent a management training at the end of January. One of the outcomes was that the Secretariat and new Executive Committee should visit all member companies and undertake the following:

- Introduce the activities and functions that the national association undertakes.
- For member companies to share their expectations of the association.
- Update members on their obligations as a member of CropLife Uganda

Excellent feedback was received which will give direction to the new the Executive Committee and assist in the development of a revised 3-year plan.

Betty Atto



The CropLife team at
MTK Uganda Limited

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Meeting with the Minister of Food and Agriculture on taxation of Ag-inputs, Ghana

CropLife Ghana, Ag-inputs importers in Kumasi met with the Minister of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie-Akoto on 29 March in Kumasi.

The purpose of the meeting was government's new tax of 5% on imported agricultural inputs and the serious impact this could have on the use of ag-inputs in the country and could favor the illegal trade of ag-inputs.

To this end some members of CropLife Ghana and importers of ag-inputs in Kumasi met with the MoFA to request that this taxation be abolished.

A joint petition by CropLife Ghana members and the local importers was handed over to the MoFA explaining the financial impacts of the taxation on the development of inputs uses to support agricultural productivity in the country.

Bama Yao



Minister of Food and Agriculture (MoFA),
Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie-Akoto

Photo: News Ghana



G. Liabra, President, and R. Yeboue, Executive Director of CropLife CI (1st and 2nd L-R) were among the participants to the workshop (Courtesy CropLife CI)

Planning Activities - Ghana

Eleven representatives from member companies of CropLife Ghana got together on 7 March in Accra to discuss activities for April and May under the "annual plan".

The discussions covered:

- The WCA Hub and Regulatory workshops is to take place in Accra on May 03-04. Members were asked to assist Bama Yao, Regional Director of CropLife AME, who will be in Accra in mid-April to finalize preparations for the workshop. Bama will need to meet with some key stakeholders and members were asked to facilitate and participate at these meetings.
- The Anticounterfeiting Training Workshop to be held in Kumasi in May, targeting ag-inputs importers. The regulatory body comprising of the Ghana Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) will sensitize importers on the laws covering pesticides (and fertilizers) and ownership of responsibilities. As an outcome, a communique on punitive measures against counterfeiters will be issued by the regulatory body. CropLife Ghana will ensure that such measures will effectively be carried out
- The expansion of membership of the association to other local importers of pesticides and fertilizers, and the training workshop on fertilizer usage for 100 farmers in the Ashanti Region.

Bama Yao



Participants at the planning meeting (Photo: Courtesy: CropLife Ghana)

Plant Biotechnology

Agricultural Biotechnology Industry (ABI/ISAAA) Meeting, Centurion - Pretoria - 15 March



Members of the ABI working group at the meeting

Following the passing on of Hans Lombard, the meeting was called on how to move this group and our activities forward. Several advance meetings with AfricaBio had taken place, and some proposals put forward. These now require approval before moving forward.

It was agreed that AfricaBio will handle the funds and administration regarding the ISAAA press conference event. AfricaBio will need to allocate a cost point or cost centre to manage the funds

Seed Company members will still meet to organize and decide on the annual press conference event, together with AfricaBio. This group will appoint a PR type person to cover the role that Hans Lombard had undertaken in the past.

It was suggested that we should also expand the use of the PR person, as well as Drs. Van der Walt and Gouse and AfricaBio to write and manage a newsletter/reports of relevant facts and issues that would add additional value to the group as a whole. This material could also be used by AfricaBio to inform stakeholders and parliamentarians.

Les Hillowitz

Princess Anne Says Ruling Out GM Crops Not Practical

In an interview on BBC Radio 4's Farming Today aired on March 23, 2017, Great Britain's Princess Anne has said genetically modified (GM) crops have important benefits for providing food and she would be open to growing them on her own land. She said "we have to accept" the process could help production and livestock health.

Speaking from Buckingham Palace, the Princess Royal said she saw no problem with modifying crops if it improved their ability to grow. "Gene technology has got real benefits to offer," she said, and added that she would be happy to use GM for crops and livestock on her own farming estate. Princess Anne also said, "To say we mustn't go there 'just in case' is probably not a practical argument." Her brother, Prince Charles has long opposed GM crops and warned that the technology could cause an environmental disaster.

In the interview, Princess Anne told Farming Today that "GM is one of those things that divides people." She said, "Surely, if we're going to be better at producing food of the right value, then we have to accept that genetic technology... is going to be part of that." She also discussed biofuels, the use of science in farming and what kind of subsidies could help farmers in the future.

Read more about the Princess Royal's interview at BBC News. To listen to the interview, visit BBC Radio 4's Farming Today.

ISAAA



Photo: BBC

AfricaBio General Assembly: 16 March 2017

The AfricaBio General Assembly took place at the CSIR International Conference Centre, Pretoria.

The purpose of the meeting was to present, and gain acceptance of the 5-year Strategic Plan & Value Proposition for Members. This was handled by Dr. Siya Ntutela, CEO of the organization. The plan basically calls for the broadening of the scope of AfricaBio to include both "Health" and "Industrial". Funding and membership into these two areas were debated at length.

AfricaBio has played a key role in the establishment of the South African Committee for Genetic Experimentation (SAGENE), an interim biosafety regulatory body - developed the Guidelines and Procedures for Work with GMO's which paved the way for the introduction of the GMO Act and its regulations. Since inception they have trained over 8000 smallholder farmers interested in planting GM crops, developed a series of position papers on such issues as GM, biosafety, bioethics, IPR, farmers' rights, biodiversity and sustainable agriculture issues, produced information booklets on Agricultural Biotechnology including Facts for Decision Makers and Biotechnology: Biosafety, Food Safety and Food Aid and provided input into the national policies such as NBS, National Bio-economy Strategy and as well as many draft regulations pertaining to biotechnology issues.

AfricaBio conducted a strategic and organizational review of the organisation to track its relevance and craft the future direction.

Recommendations included that:

- AfricaBio should critically look at its current service offerings in all three categories of services and expand these within newly penetrated biotechnology sectors as well as offer a broader range of differentiated services in the current sector;
- Partnerships need to be built across the two unserved biotechnology sectors to attract new stakeholders and all classes of members, especially large corporation members.
- Revenue earned from these partnerships can potentially increase earnings by 600% to 800%. As an example, 10 corporate members could pay these levels of fees and significantly increase AfricaBio's revenue.
- The existing membership fees need to be carefully considered in line with products and services delivered to the stakeholders

Les Hillowitz



Bongani Maseko, AfricaBio and Dirk Esterhuizen, USDA



Jasper Rees, ARC, Diran Makinde, NEPAD, Bruno Tinland, Monsanto and Godwin Lemgo, Monsanto



Group Photo

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Ethiopian Environment Minister Promotes Biotech to Address Food and Economic Challenges

Ethiopia's State Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, H.E. Mr. Kare Chawicha has urged African governments to consider biotechnology for improving food security and overcoming economic challenges. H.E. Chawicha expressed concern over the region's vulnerability to climate change and lauded the application of advanced technologies in agriculture. He was speaking at a biotechnology and biosafety communication training workshop for media practitioners held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on March 7-9, 2017.

"More than 20 years have passed since introduction of biotech crops varieties, with cultivated area reaching close to 180 million hectares" he said. Despite this unprecedented growth, the minister noted that there are still concerns and uncertainties about GMOs. He faulted the continent's inconsistent biotechnology and biosafety policies for slow progress witnessed across the region and urged policy makers to "access cutting edge scientific evidence and advice to be able to make the best decisions about tough challenges facing the region."

Journalists were urged to take advantage of such media trainings to enhance factual reporting on biotechnology and biosafety since they play a key role in shaping public opinion. Dr. Getachew Belay, COMESA's Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy Advisor, added that issues on biotechnology and biosafety that influence technology adoption are regularly misrepresented due to lack of proper communication with the media and packaging of the right messages. He further stated that COMESA's Biotechnology Implementation Plan (COMBIP) seeks to strengthen public awareness and communication on biotechnology and biosafety between COMESA member states. Dr. Margaret Karembu, ISAAA AfriCenter's Director congratulated Ethiopia for revising its law to pave way for research and emphasized the importance of political will for an enabling biotechnology environment.

The workshop, attended by 30 journalists and editors from Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, and Uganda, was organized by COMESA-ACTESA in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Forest, of Ethiopia, ISAAA AfriCenter, and the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology, Ethiopia Chapter.

ISAAA



Senegal Ready for GMOs, Says President Macky Sall

The President of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Macky Sall has made it clear that he strongly supports the adoption of biotechnology in the country provided necessary biosafety measures are taken. "I must say very clearly that I am for the use of GMOs in addressing our food security needs, so long as the necessary biosafety measures are put in place. Otherwise, we would be against progress, we must decide and step forward," said the President.

President Sall chaired the 2017 Annual Session of the Senegal National Scientific and Technical Academy (ANSTS) last month, aimed to present updates on the status, implications and perspectives of GMOs in Senegal. "Our new strategy for economic and social development is based on science and technology, which is essential for the progress and well-being of our people," he said. The President added that it is in this view that he sought informed opinion of the Academy on GMOs, which he observed, remains an important development issue.

While acknowledging that GMOs can help meet current challenges such as food insecurity, public health issues, environment conservation and climate change, he agreed with the ANSTS call to revise the biosafety regulations. "The precautionary principle must not lead to inertia. There is need to amend the 2011 law regulating biotechnology," he said. The President instructed the Minister for Environment to speed up the revision of Senegal's Biosafety Law.

The Vice-Chair of the Academy, Prof. Yaye Kene Gassama, presented the findings of a study carried out by the institution on the opportunities and risks for adopting biotechnology in Senegal at the session. Based on the study, 68% of the population in the country supported the adoption of GMOs, 21% were against and 11% had no expressed opinion. It is scientifically proven by reputable international institutions that GMOs are safe for food and feed as long as necessary biosafety measures are taken to minimize any potential environmental risks.

The Session also provided an opportunity for the regional office of the New Partnership for Africa's Development agency-African Biosafety Network of Expertise in Dakar to access up-to-date information on the status of biotechnology and scientific research as well as meet members of the scientific community and decision makers of the country.

ISAAA



President of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Macky Sall

Upcoming Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLAME Board Meeting, Brussels	April 3 - 4
Resistance Management Meeting, Brussels	April 4
USAID-Chamber of Commerce of Cote d'Ivoire workshop on Export and Competitiveness of mangoes from Cote d'Ivoire"	April 4
IPM Project Team Meeting, Brussels	April 5
Stewardship Steering Committee Meeting, Brussels	April 6
USAID conference: Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, Prishtina, Kosovo	April 7
CropLife International Obstocks mission to Senegal	April 10-13
CropLife Cameroon AGM,	April 12 - 13
GHS Working Group meeting, Centurion, South Africa	April 18
Workshop on PRD-CBI for the Pesticides Committee Cote d'Ivoire	April 21
IFDC 2SCALE TOT, Kampala	April 24 - 28
WCA Hub and Regulatory Meeting, Accra, Ghana	May 3 - 4
GHS Training Workshop Accra, Ghana	May 5
Africa Biosafety Coordination Intervention (ABCI) annual meeting -Yaoundé, Cameroon	May 3 - 4
TOT Responsible Use, South Africa	May 8 - 12
Meeting of Obsolete stocks Project Team, Brussels	May 10
IRAC Workshop, South Africa	June 23
IPM/RU training of agent's officers of Council Coffee-Cocoa, CDI	July 14 - 18
Meeting of the CP Communications SC, Washington DC	July 18
Meeting of the combined CP PB Communications SC, Washington DC	July 19
Meeting of the Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee, Washington DC	July 19
Meeting of the Crop Protection Strategy Council, Washington DC	July 20
E & SA Hub and Regulatory Workshop, Harare	Aug 29 - 30



Photo: ACCI



CropLife Africa Middle East
Avenue Louise 326, Box 35
1050 Brussels
Belgium

www.croplifeafrica.org

GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

Contributors:

Bama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa) bama@croplifeafrica.org

Les Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa) les@croplifeafrica.org

Stella Simiyu Wafukho (Regulatory) stella@croplifeafrica.org