



Stewardship

Training workshop on introducing IPM into the SSP program - Cote d'Ivoire

The workshop took place on 11 & 12 December, in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, at which 31 active SSP's from cooperatives, advisory services of the Council of Cocoa and Coffee (CCC) and other organizations attended the session.

The IPM component for the SSP training is designed as a two-day support program, which provides the SSP with the basics on IPM for the prevention, monitoring and decision taking for applying pesticides. The regional trainer, Roger Yeboue facilitated the session using a participative approach and stressing on the key topics of "The SSP IPM Guidebook":

- Location of the farm, plant density and spacing, and the correct development of the cocoa trees.
- Responsible fertilization with an adequate supply of nutrients.
- Identification of pests and diseases with the assistance of a specialist, if needed
- Scouting and threshold levels.
- Pest management and pesticide application covering the selection of the correct registered pesticide, transport and storage, mixing and calibration of a mistblower. Application techniques, pest resistance issues, safety to man and the environment, "triple rinsing" and management of empty containers, training and capacity building, record keeping, monitoring and evaluation, and planning of IPM.

Bama Yao



The trainer, R. Yeboue, addressing the SSP's during the IPM training workshop



CropLife Uganda: Training activities in partnership with ZOA

As background, ZOA was founded in 1973 in The Netherlands. The three letters ZOA are the abbreviation of the Dutch translation of South East Asia, the area where the organization started its initial activities. Their main focus is to support people who suffer due to armed conflict or national disasters by helping them rebuild their livelihoods.

The project in Uganda is in the West Nile Region and is funded by the Dutch Embassy. ZOA have a relationship with IFDC and it was through this connection that contact was made with CropLife Uganda. Their focus in the West Nile Region with CropLife Uganda is on “minimum or conservation tillage” using herbicides.

During the period 3 -7 November and 8 -12 December 2014, CropLife Uganda trained 241 “lead farmers” in 5 districts. ZOA have just been granted funds up to December 2016 and are keen to roll out this project further for the next two years.

CropLife Uganda teamed up with ZOA Uganda through a Memorandum of Understanding for the training and joint development of training materials on herbicide application in the districts of Arua, Koboko, Zombo Nebbi and Moyo.

The assignment was undertaken in two phases; 3 - 7 Nov and 8 - 12 Dec 2014.

The purpose of the assignment was to train 2 lead farmers in each of the 39 selected farmer groups on proper herbicide application in combination with conservation tillage with particular emphasis on Glyphosate herbicide use. Expected outputs included that trained participants would have the capacity to undertake the following:

- The ability to explain and advise on the most appropriate herbicide application fitting the local situation in order to improve in the sustainability of conventional and conservation tillage practices.
- To understand best practices in herbicide application with attention to rates, calibration, nozzle types, planning and maintenance of equipment and responsible use.
- The ability to transfer skills learned as lead farmers to the farming population and to coach in proper implementation.
- To provide training reports including topics covered and the views of those trained. Also, recommendations for follow up when necessary.



Left: Classroom training in nozzle identification; Arua District

Below: Classroom training on mixing in Moyo



CropLife Uganda: Training activities in partnership with ZOA cont..

The training was carried out by two accredited trainers from CropLife Uganda, namely; Mr. Z. Kisubi and S.J. Matovu. Mr. Z. Kisubi replaced Ms. D. Ariye when ZOA requested for two sub county trainings per day in each of the 5 selected districts. The training was divided into the following activities.

- Activity (1) Lead farmers introductory training program content.
- Activity (2) Demonstration site locations; one per Sub County.
- Activity (3) Slashing dates for the demo sites.
- Activity (4) Second training; Glyphosate application techniques
- Activity (5) Follow-up of training adaptation
- Activity (6) Preparation for 2015
- Activity (7) Development of the graphic 4-6, page brochure.

Results included:

That all 10 sub counties received the first weed control introductory training 3 - 7 November. A total of 120 participants were achieved instead of the planned 84.

That all 10 sub counties received their second knapsack sprayer handling training and also techniques covering the application of Glyphosate. A total of 121 participants instead of the planned 78 were achieved owing to the enthusiastic response by individual farmers within the groups.

10 plots were slashed and sprayed with Glyphosate after three weeks of the rejuvenation of weeds.

A further 36 plots were to be sprayed by trained lead farmers in the presence of the group members.

The lead farmers (TOT's) were targeted to train at least 1193 farmers. A ratio of 30 farmers per group or 15 farmers per lead farmer.

Comparisons of conventional and conservation tillage practices by the participants themselves at all venues indicated a 30 – 40 percent reduction in production costs in favour of conservation tillage for a number of crops.

Stephen Matovu



Above: Demonstrating spraying techniques of weeds in the Moyo district

Below: A training venue with lead farmers in the Zombo District, Kamgo Sub-County



Assessment Workshop for the Vegetable, Corn and Soybean Sectors



Group photo of participants at the workshop (courtesy: CropLife Cote d'Ivoire)

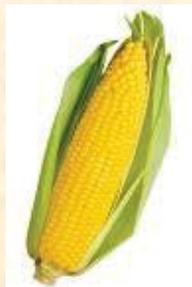
From 1 - 5 December a workshop was organized in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, by the Interprofession for Research and Counselling in Agriculture (FIRCA), as part of the program for exploring the potential and promoting the vegetable, corn and soybean sectors benefiting from the support of the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement, AFD) and the World Bank.

More than 30 representatives from various organizations involved in policies, extension services, and input supplies participated. Roger Yeboue the Executive Secretary represented CropLife Cote d'Ivoire.

As an outcome the following actions were agreed upon:

- An assessment of the production status (specific crops, existing producers organizations and extension services, gender and landownership issues, commercialization chains, food security and nutrition situation in the production areas, needs to be obtained.
- An analysis of the market situation at local and national levels needs to be undertaken.
- A SWOT analysis, defining the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats needs to be undertaken.
- The socio-economic importance of the program was highlighted in the different messages during the opening session. The presentations and the discussions during the plenary sessions highlighted the following recommendations:
- Strengthening of the capacity of the producers and their cooperatives to improve productivity and production.
- Clear identification of the stakeholders and the need to intensify sustainable transactions among these stakeholders.
- Clear identification of the value chains, the supply and commercialization channels.
- Strengthening the processing and promotion of the by-products.
- Stronger involvement needed from the Ministries of Agriculture, Commerce, Industry, Economy and Finances, and Livestock and Fisheries.

Bama Yao



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Annual Revision of CLAME Training Manuals

Some of the CropLife Africa Middle East training materials required updating and a team of CropLife trainers undertook this task 1 - 4 December 2014 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

As with the previous year, the team came together to implement feedback from practices in the field and to add the latest recommendations from CropLife International.

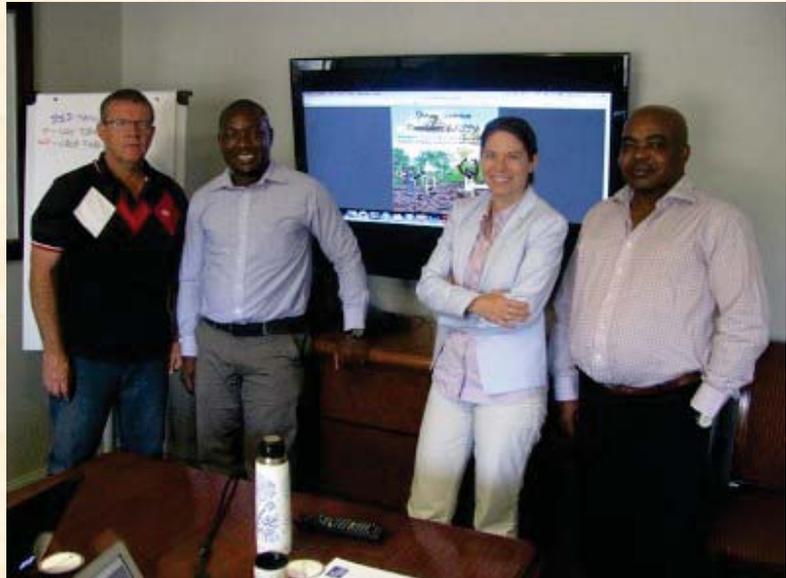
Manon Dohmen, Herman Louw and Perry Ngoma worked on several manuals but focused their efforts primarily on the SSP manual and IPM training course. For the general SSP manual, a special edition on how to train SSPs has now been developed that is a simplified version of the Training-of-Trainers manual.

In addition, a table has been prepared with crop specific information that summarizes IPM measures, such as prevention of pests, recognition of pests when scouting and different IPM measures that can be considered. The table is part of a 2-day IPM course that is being developed specifically for SSPs. The new course will be a simplified version of the existing IPM course that was developed by CropLife International.

The team together with Tom Mabesa looked at the development of a reference guide for SSPs and farmers. The guide will contain very simple key messages supported by simple illustrations. The guide will very likely be printed in a pocketsize format or as flash cards that can be worn around the neck.

All revised and new topics will be shared with the Stewardship Group in Brussels as well as the appropriate trainers.

Manon Dohmen



The "training group",

L – R, Herman Louw, Perry Ngoma, Manon Dohmen and Tom Mabesa



Hub Chair, Kobus Steenekamp (back centre) spent some time with the group



Meeting with Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) regarding obsolete pesticides in South

DEA was represented by Sharon Mogomotsi, Director: Hazardous Waste Management, Shauna Costley and Z. Mtembu. Other participants included Jonathan Mudzunga, Registrar, Act 36/47, Tom Mabesa, AVCASA and Les Hillowitz, CLAME.

The meeting covered two separate topics but which have a lot in common, namely: the remaining obsolete pesticides following the premature closure of the ASP and Industry's "Pesticide Waste Management Plan"

Initially DEA were not interested in addressing the legacy obstocks left behind as a result of the early closure of the ASP. They saw this, as part of Industry's responsibility once the Pesticide Waste Management Plan was operative. Their position changed when the Registrar mentioned that the majority of the obstocks in the country belonged to government and asked how the "public" and "privately" held stocks could be treated separately.

The question was raised as to why Industry's Pesticide Waste Management Plan, which had been submitted prior to the closure of the ASP, had received no response. The reason was thought to be that other waste streams were regarded with greater urgency.

Mention was made that the regulation covering the "pesticide waste-stream" leading to a formalized Pesticide Waste Management Plan would not be enacted within the next 3 years and that an initiative to remove the legacy stocks in advance of the implementation of the Pesticide Waste Management Plan would be the smart way forward.

A great deal of discussion followed ending with DEA promising to assess the position and to decide on whether to call on the FAO, GIZ, or another body for assistance.

They undertook to get back to the team on any decision taken.

Les Hillowitz



L-R Jonathan Mudzunga, Shauna Costley, Sharon Mogomotsi, Z. Mtembu and Tom Mabesa

Empty Pesticide Container Management Meeting - South Africa

An empty pesticide container meeting was recently held in South Africa. Participants at the meeting included:

- Annabé Pretorius South Africa Plastics Recycling Organization (SAPRO)
- Eddy Johnstone Recycler
- Peter Waldburger Recycler
- Jacques Lightfoot Plastics SA
- Nic Greyling AVCASA / CropLife SA
- Gerhard Verdoorn AVCASA / CropLife SA
- Tom Mabesa AVCASA / CropLife SA
- Les Hillowitz CropLife Africa Middle East

Key points that emerged under “purpose of the meeting” were as follows:

- Data on the numbers of containers placed onto the market annually needs to be verified
- Percentage of containers collected needs to be verified. This is thought not to be as high as 50%. Contact with distributors who have “chippers” at their depots needs to be made. The 2014 SAPRO figures will be available end May 2015
- According to Eddy Johnstone the main end product produced with plastics from pesticide containers is “fencing products”
- The topic on what CropLife can do to improve on the above was discussed at length. Getting the message across on “Triple Rinsing” and “Puncturing” the container rated as extremely high.
- The positive role played by GlobalGAP was emphasized time and again.

The proposal of a Container Management Workshop in the 2nd quarter 2015 was well received. It was however recognized that a great deal of preparation needs to be done in advance of this.

The possibility of using Cape Town as the venue for the CLI Container Management Project Team & Country Managers in w/c 16 November 2015 was covered. It was agreed that Cape Town could be a useful venue and that there are some prominent recyclers in the city. A “field day” should not be difficult to organize but preparations will need to be made.

Les Hillowitz



Three of the participants at the meeting, L-R, Peter Waldburger, Eddy Johnstone and Nic Greyling

Launch of the Multi Stakeholder the Continental Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) For Honey Production, Pollination Services and Bee Health 9 – 11 December, 2014

The meeting was about launching a continental Multistakeholder Platform (MSP) for honey production, bee health and pollination services. The meeting took the form of presentations, plenary discussions and group deliberations: The following outcomes were realized:

1. The platform dubbed *Africa Apicultural Platform* was formed with the objectives of :
 - Facilitating the creation of enabling policy framework in the continent
 - Advocating for issues affecting the sector including bee health
 - Promoting partnerships between crop producers and beekeepers
 - Facilitating increased public and private investment in apiculture
 - Facilitating capacity building of actors in the sector
2. Structure of the platform is comprised of an Executive committee; 3 working groups (on bee health, pollination services and biodiversity conservation and production, marketing and technology) plus a secretariat. Membership is drawn from member countries
 - Two presentations in the session on setting guidelines and action plans for honey production, bee health and pollination services linked bee decline and bee health to pesticides citing farmers inability to distinguish between insects targeted by pesticides and bees. They called for stricter regulation of pesticides. Other presentations linking honey production issues with pesticide utilisation included *Dynamics of pesticide utilisation for honey production and bee health within the agricultural landscape in Africa* by the interAfrican Phytosanitary Council based in Cameroon and *Critical environmental challenges for honey production and bee health in Africa*

In her submission Stella pointed out that:

- There is need for close collaboration between the crop protection industry and the newly formed MSP especially with the working group on bee health.
- The use of pesticides is often blamed for the loss of bees but that needs to be balanced against other realities including diseases; misuse of pesticides by farmers Africa only makes up 2% of the world's pesticide usage but have the greatest misuse); increasing numbers of counterfeit and illegal products owing to the porous borders and unscrupulous traders.
- There is an extremely high commitment on the part of the crop protection industry in compliance with the International Code of Conduct, other international provisions and national regulations. CropLife for its part has been running responsible use training of trainers; container management; obsolete stocks and Spray Service Provider programs among other activities within its stewardship efforts.

The need to work collaboratively with the crop protection industry was emphasized and included in the final proceedings.

Stella Simiyu - Wafukho

Stella Wafukho (far left) (CLAME) and other participants at the MSP launch



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Regulatory

Meeting in South Africa on EU Public Consultation on Defining Criteria for Identifying Endocrine

On 15 December, a meeting hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF) was held to disseminate information on the EU public consultation on Endocrine Disruptors. Participants included academia, Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries, Department of Trade and Industry; The Agricultural Business Chamber and CropLife South Africa.

Outputs of the meeting included;

- A shared understanding of the EU Criteria for defining EDs
- Commencement of the process for participation in the EU public consultation process on EDs by authorities, and private sector organizations.

Presentations were made on the “Background to EDs” and the current regulation of EDs in the context of Principles of Regulation, the EU proposed criteria for identification of EDs, and the impact on trade should this go ahead. The meeting also went through various sections of the questionnaire and details were provided on how to complete this by both the private and public sectors. After deliberation and in view of the short time remaining before the deadline of 16 January, the following recommendations were reached;

- That there is a need for a consolidated submission with inputs from the Department of Agriculture assisted with inputs from academia, Department of Environment, Department of Health and Department of Trade and Industry. For this to happen before the deadline of 16th January 2015, the following actions were outlined;
 - A write up providing more details covering the 4 EU policy options and the 3 options for regulatory decision making included in the questionnaire. The need that inputs should be science based was emphasized. All inputs will be shared with Jonathan Mudzunga of the Department of Agriculture and copied to CropLife South Africa and CLAME:
 - Participants at the meeting will provide the list of names to which this document should be sent.
 - The deadline to receive inputs was set for 9 January 2015.
 - A follow-up meeting to develop a unified position as well as the preparation of South Africa’s position was set for 12 January 2015. The meeting will take place at the AgBiz offices in Pretoria.
- That the private sector institutions, more specifically grower groups, will be encouraged at the meeting to complete individual questionnaires and make submissions directly to the EU. Grain South Africa and Hortgro have already prepared their respective inputs. CropLife South Africa is also expected to prepare a submission.

Stella Simiyu Wafukho

Standing L-R, Jonathan Mudzunga, Tshelang Malakwane, Tom Mabesa, Dr. John Purchase, Seated L-R, Prof. M. Gulumian, Dr. Natalie Aneck-Hahn, Dr. Rialet Pieters, Stella Simiyu Wafukho



Representing the Plant Science Industry

CropLife Africa Middle East and COLEACP/PIP extend cooperation until 31 June 2015

On 5th December 2014, CropLife Africa Middle East (AME) and COLEACP signed an extension to their Memorandum of Understanding, originally drawn up in 2011. This demonstrates their commitment to continue cooperation in line with the extension of PIP 2 up to 30th June 2015.

Under this MoU, CropLife AME and COLEACP agree to coordinate their respective activities in the following areas:

- Promotion of stewardship and the responsible use of plant protection products
- Capacity building of regulatory authorities
- Support for regional harmonization of regulatory systems
- Solutions to the difficulties affecting pest management on minor crops (fruit & vegetables) in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Over the past 3 years, under this MoU, CropLife member companies have collaborated with COLEACP in the implementation of residue trials work towards the registration of new, modern pesticides on fruit and vegetables in Sub-Saharan Africa. COLEACP and CropLife AME have also conducted joint training and capacity building workshops; the most recent was in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, where improved risk assessment approaches and tools were presented and discussed with experts from the CSP (Comité Sahélien de Pesticides).

Both parties agreed to continue their cooperation for the benefit of safe and sustainable agricultural production in Sub-Saharan Africa during 2015.

Rudolf Guyer



Left to Right: George Thewys, COLEACP PIP, Rudolf Guyer, Director General CropLife AME and Guy Stinglhamber, Delegate General of COLEACP, exchange the signed contract extension in the offices of COLAIECP in Brussels

Anti-Counterfeiting

Anti-counterfeiting Training for Officers of Customs Services and the Ministry of Agriculture:



On 27 November, in Takoradi, Western Ghana, 35 representatives from Customs Services, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Agro Input dealers association attended the training. Other noted parties at the training were: Lawrence Opore from CropLife Ghana, Joe Edmund, Chemicals Control and Management Committee of the Ghana Environment Protection Agency, (EPA-CCMC), Lovelace Alato, Plant Protection Regulatory Services Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA/PPRSD), Theodore Ohene-Akuffo, Chairman of the Western Region of Ghana Agro-Inputs Dealers Association (GAIDA) and Bob Adjakloe of CropLife Ghana CleanFarms Project.



Above: Participants at the workshop were sensitized on the issue of counterfeiting by the Program Officer (Left) before they were presented with certificates by the representative from CropLife Ghana (Below)

The workshop was organized to build capacity and provide tools to the enforcement agencies to identify and handle counterfeit and fake pesticides in the counties.

Topics covered in the presentations focused on:

- The identifying of counterfeit and illegal pesticides, and the risks associated with these compared with the genuine ones.
- The registration, labelling and the importation of pesticides into Ghana
- The Pesticides and the Fertilizers Acts and the role of Customs in combating counterfeit and illegal pesticides.



Overall, the workshop was very successful with requests coming from participants for such programs to be made more often as most of their colleagues are in distant places and did not get the opportunity to participate.

Participants also reiterated that in the planning for such trainings, efforts should be made to get the police, and other officials particularly the Standards Board to be included.

Bama Yao



Monitoring of the Capacity Building Programs on the Illegal trade of Pesticides

On 4 December, in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, 42 participants attended a follow-up capacity building training workshop of which the earlier interventions took place in December 2013 and February 2014. The workshop targeted the administration agents and officers aiming at providing knowledge and tools to combat the illegal trade of pesticides under the ICCO-SPS Project. The Director of Crop Protection Directorate chaired the workshop. The objectives were presented focusing on the reports from the regional directors. These reports highlighted the following:

- **Activities & Results:** included the organizing of meetings and seminars with local authorities, dealers, farmers, and enforcement agencies, for sensitization and awareness creation. These activities included the production of posters, airing of messages on rural radio stations, and enforced control on the markets. These activities led to the closing down of many illegal shops and a reduced presence of illegal pesticides on the market. Five offenders were prosecuted.
- **Difficulties & Constraints:** relate to the lack of cooperation from many administration officers, the police, customs, the lack of human and technical resources to conduct a level of enforcement on the markets, and of poor communication among government authorities.
- **Recommendations:** included the setting-up of a framework for cooperation and communication among government authorities in the regions, the supply of PPE and other necessary equipment for the control activities, the construction of warehouses to store seized pesticides, the creation of new border control stations and the organization of meetings to discuss progress and the status of developments.

Participants at the meeting included Regional Directors & Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Directorate of Crop Protection, representatives from the Funds of the Interprofession for Research and Counselling in Agriculture (FIRCA), the Director of the Local Development and External Services in charge of supervising the regional directors, the national ICCO-SPS project Cote d'Ivoire and CropLife Cote d'Ivoire.

Bama Yao



The Director of Crop Protection Directorate, 2nd left, addressing the participants (Photo Courtesy: CropLife CI)



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Plant Biotechnology

China Approves Imports of Biotech Crops



China has officially approved the imports of genetically modified (GM) crops: a corn variety developed by Syngenta AG, a soybean developed by DuPont Pioneer, as well as a soybean variety from Bayer CropScience AG. The approval for Syngenta's Viptera corn covers corn grain and processing by-products, such as dried distillers' grains, for human and animal consumption.

The United States and Chinese governments have recently established the vice-ministerial Strategic Agricultural Innovation Dialogue after the 2014 US-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT). The commitment is intended to synchronize policies – including those dealing with agricultural biotechnology – to encourage innovation in agriculture and ensure that regulatory frameworks are timely, predictable and protect US-China agricultural trade.

ISAAA: Crop Biotech Update

Kenya Bets on High Value Sorghum to Boost Yields

Kenya plans to introduce an improved variety of sorghum in 2016. According to David Karanja Principal Investigator for Sorghum at Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), the proposed variety will be drought resistant and will yield 20 percent more than the current 1,800 kilograms per acre. Mr Karanja said that trials are being carried out under the Agricultural Productivity Research project and will be concluded by February 2015.

Voicing support to the project, Ms. Sicily Kariuki, Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries said the research in Kenya has shown that sorghum has the potential to end severe food insecurity in arid and semi-arid areas due to its tolerance to drought and ability to thrive under a wide range of soils.

The government allocates \$1.6 million annually for the promotion of traditional high value crops such as sorghum.

The project is being financed by the EU and the Kenya government at a total cost of 8 million Euros.

Harrison Agundo for Farmbizafrica



**Upcoming
Events****Upcoming
Events****Upcoming
Events****Follow-up Public Consultation on Defining Criteria for Identifying**

Endocrine Disruptors, Pretoria, South Africa	Jan 12
HHP Management Project Team meeting, Brussels	Jan 29
Endocrine Disruptor Committee meeting, Brussels	Feb 5
Meeting of the Crop Protection Strategy Council, Washington	Feb 10
Communications Steering Committee Meeting, Washington	Feb 11 - 12
Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee Meeting, Washington	Feb 12
Container Management Project Team Meeting, Brussels	March 18
IPM / RU Project Team Meeting, Brussels	April 08
Stewardship Steering Committee, Brussels	April 09



Photo: Worldwatch

GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

Representing the Plant Science Industry



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