



CropLife Africa Middle East Newsletter

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North Africa Middle East

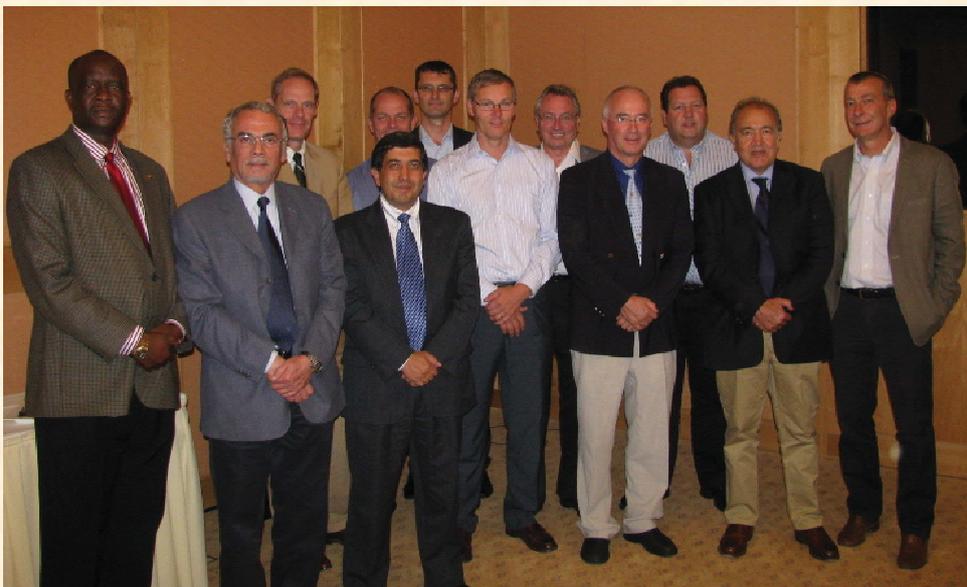
CropLife AME - General Assembly Meeting

Under the Chairmanship of President Eric Bureau and Executive President Rudolf Guyer, the General Assembly (GA) of CropLife Africa Middle East held the 2010 annual meeting at the Hotel Le Chatelain All Suites in Brussels, Belgium on 24 June, 2010.

The GA reviewed and approved the annual activity report together with the financial report for the year 2009 and gave formal discharge to the members of the Executive Committee for the year 2009.

A new Executive Committee (Board of Directors) was elected by the GA for a new term of office from June 2010 to June 2012. The new board was constituted as follows:

Eric Bureau	President
Rudolf Guyer	Executive President
Michel Chartouni	Vice-President and Hub Chair for NAME
John Barnes	Vice-President and Hub Chair for WCA
Kobus Steenekamp	Vice-President and Hub Chair for ESA
Gabor Mehn	Treasurer
Mats Edh	Director
Jaime Zambrano	Director
Jan Suter	Director
Luigi Coffano	Director
Sarwat Sakr	Director
A.K. Otieno	Director



Newly Elected Executive Board of CropLife AME

ali@croplifeafrica.org

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Executive Committee meets in Brussels

The Executive Committee (ExCo) of CropLife Africa Middle East held its 4th meeting this year at the Hotel Le Chatelain All Suites in Brussels, Belgium on 24 June alongside the General Assembly meeting.

The ExCo reviewed the latest update of the 2010 budget together with progress reports on the activities in the 3 Regional Hubs. An update on the container management situation was presented to ExCo with a review of the "regional stewardship key performance indicators report" for the year 2009. Other discussions covered the progress of the 2010 communication plan and liaison with the global secretariat.

ExCo noted the recent Regional Regulatory Committee (RRC) activities and approved the appointment of Philippe Cattan and Alexandra Zahlen as new members of the RRC.

RRC meets in Brussels

The Regional Regulatory Committee (RRC) of CropLife Africa Middle East held its 2nd scheduled meeting on 21 June 2010 at CropLife International HQ (The Blue Tower) in Brussels.

A number of issues were addressed relating to regulatory requirements in Africa Middle East with an emphasis on product bans, registration requirements and data protection provisions.

A major part of the meeting was allocated to the presentation and discussion on the CropLife International Principles of Regulations Project developed by CLI Global Regulatory Affairs. The meeting focused on the project roll-out plans for countries and sub-regions with the support of CropLife International.



RRC Participants

CropLife & COLEACP Meeting

On 22 June 2010, CropLife AME and COLEACP held a joint meeting at the COLEACP headquarters in Brussels.

The COLEACP presentations covered a global overview and evaluation of the Pesticide Initiative Programme (PIP) phase (2), together with a demonstration of activities and results from PIP (1) with emphasis on regulations and training components in ACP countries. CropLife AME delegates presented stewardship programs and capacity building projects with regulatory authorities.

The two parties outlined opportunities for future collaboration on the harmonization of regulations, capacity building activities together with EU and CODEX MRL requirements.



Participants of the joint CropLife / COLEACP meeting

Global Committees & Project Teams

The Executive President of CropLife AME and Regional Coordinators attended the CLI Global Committees and Project Team meetings held in Brussels between 22 - 29 June, 2010.

Stewardship Steering Committee

- * The Stewardship Vision 2010 was reviewed on achievements, objectives and key performance indicators.
- * Stewardship Vision 2020 was developed on the basis of respect to goals, key performance indicators, advocacy and outreach.

IPM/Responsible Use Project Team:

- * Reviewed progress against vision 2010 on key result areas
- * Approved the proposed Business Plan 2011.
- * Approved the strengthening of partnerships with CGIAR and ICARDA with emphasis on IPM training.

Communications Steering Committee:

- * The communications progress report 2010 was reviewed and the 2011 communication plan agreed.
- * An advocacy project for communicating the public benefit of the plant science industry was developed.
- * Regional updates on communication activities and outreach in the different global regions were reviewed.



ali@croplifeafrica.org

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IPM Training Kuwait

CropLife Africa Middle East and the Kuwait Trade Union for Agricultural Materials and Equipment (KTU) organized the 1st IPM training course in Kuwait held at the PAAF Training Centre in the city of Kuwait.

The course was attended by 23 trainees from the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries (PAAF), Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment with 15 male and 8 female trainees.

CropLife AME training consultant, Dr. Said Abdella, conducted the training aimed at certifying IPM master trainers in Kuwait. The 5 day course consisted of technical subject matter training, participative exercises, lesson plans and written tests.

All trainees completed the course and were awarded certificates of competence by CropLife Africa Middle East.

Mr. Abdul Hamid Alwazan, Chairman of KTU complimented the training as providing professional assistance to qualified master trainers who are capable of rolling out IPM training in Kuwait in line with the priorities undertaken by both CropLife Africa Middle East and the KTU.



IPM Master Trainers Certified in Kuwait

West & Central Africa

Stewardship & Sustainable Agriculture



During the period February – June, IPM/RU training took place in the rural regions of Ghana. The training was directed at agricultural dealers. 863 participants (724 males and 139 females) attended the 3 day sessions and were provided with technical and managerial knowledge to handle CPPs. The technical sessions were managed by trainers (trained by CropLife AME) from the Environment Protection Agency (EPA, in charge of pesticide registrations) and the Plant Protection and Regulator Services Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (PPRSD/MoFA).

The basics on CPPs and their contribution to sustainable food production, responsible use, and stock management were the core messages conveyed to the participants.

The programme was conducted in cooperation with the Ghana Agro-Dealer Development Project (GADD), a 3 year project funded by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

Communication & Advocacy

GHANA AGRI-BIZ FAIR - “From Backyard to Industrial Agriculture”

A presentation was given by CropLife Ghana at the Agri-Biz Fair. This focused on the “core messages”, the “CleanFarms Initiative” and the issues of counterfeits and illegal trade of CPPs in the country. There were 250 participants comprising of:

- Farmers, Ag-input dealers and academics
- Agricultural Development Bank, College of Ag. & Consumer Sc. (University of Ghana)
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- 20 Ag companies of which 5 members of CropLife Ghana



F. Boampong, Program Officer CropLife Ghana, giving explanations to the visitors to the stand



bama@croplifeafrica.org

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IFDC and CropLife Nigeria Partner on Cassava+ Project

With more than 40 million metric tons of freshly harvested cassava roots per annum, Nigeria has emerged as the largest cassava-producing country in the world. Although the production volume is high the average yield per hectare is only 11 tons against a potential of over 50 tons.

Demand and supply of cassava roots are erratic due to inefficient and low quality processing systems, weak management across the value chain, high costs of transportation as well as cyclic and unstable pricing systems. These have often led to glut in some years and scarcity of roots in other years, a situation that has made existing agro-processing factories to produce below 30% of their installed capacities.



Two AMPUs at the Ijabe, Osun State factory

The Dutch Agriculture Development and Trading Company (DADTCO) has developed a unique technology in cassava processing – the Autonomous Mobile Processing Unit (AMPU) – which brings cassava processing to the farm gate, eliminates or at least reduces the huge cost on transportation incurred by farmers, and reduces the storage losses that farmers often incur due to the exceptionally poor shelf life (48 hours) of cassava roots after harvesting. Three AMPUs, each with a capacity of 60 metric tons of fresh roots per day, are attached to each factory with a daily capacity of 180 metric tons

IFDC is working to organize and link farmers to the downstream DADTCO value chain and develop the capacity of farmers, agro-input dealers, and other service providers to support commercial production as well as reduce the mining of soil nutrients while making cassava production an environmentally and economically sustainable business. Currently there are two DADTCO factories located in Ijabe, Osun State and Jalingo, Taraba State.

Part of IFDC's support to participating farmers will focus on proper utilization as well as gaining access to improved cassava varieties, fertilizer and appropriate crop protection products. Cassava+ support will target existing cassava smallholder farmers who are able and willing to expand their production to 3 or more hectares. These out-growers will be able to enter into a supply contract with DADTCO to reduce the inherent market and price risks in cassava production.

As these farmers invest into expanded commercial production, it is imperative that their fields are properly maintained. Participating CropLife Members along with IFDC and the agro-input dealer associations will jointly select agro-input dealers in the project zones. These dealers will be required to make an up-front payment of N150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand naira) for the first shipment of crop protection products. The participating CropLife Member(s) will provide the dealer with a commensurate number of CPP sprayers on lease (as well as proper application clothing) that will be used as a fee-for-service to support the farmers in the region. CropLife and IFDC will develop and deliver trainings to farmers, agro-dealers, and extension officers on proper and safe utilization of crop protection products for cassava production.

There is a need to have a functional, highly visible and accessible CPP public private partnership model that changes the lives of farmers. This informs the desire of the project to initiate a partnership and collaboration with CropLife to further develop this model.

Article courtesy of IFDC



CropLife Nigeria President and IFDC Nigeria Country Representative formalising the partnership



bama@croplifeafrica.org

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East & Southern Africa

Plant Biotechnology - Ugandan Scientists Give Biotech Thumbs-up

The Uganda National Academy of Science (UNAS) has made strong recommendation for the country to enact relevant laws “because there are no known risks of infection to humans and animals from laboratory research involving agricultural Genetically Modified Organisms”.

The recommendation follows the setting up of a scientific committee to assess the current scope of biosafety and biosecurity in Uganda and give recommendations for the control of associated risk in using biotechnology. The committee of senior scientists, headed by Prof. Maxwell Otim Onapa, the deputy executive secretary of Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), said “GMOs in food and agriculture have been around long enough for scientists to have some background against which to assess possible infectious risks to humans”.

The report notes that the primary risk from agricultural laboratory research with GMOs is the accidental release of the organism into the environment. The potential risk level of a confined field trial (CFT) can be determined by persistence of the crops and potential harm from an introduced trait to the environment, therefore it is at CFT stage not at laboratory stage that some potential risks from research of GMOs become more relevant. “This risk is controlled at the laboratory level by regulators to make sure that scientists use genes that are known to be safe,” the report says.

In 2008, the Ugandan cabinet approved the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy that establishes a system whereby the country can benefit from safe applications of modern biotechnology while at the same time assess and address any potential risks from those applications.

The following year, the UNCST developed the Biotechnology/Biosafety Bill which, among other things, is meant to implement the 2008 policy and minimize and manage any potential risks to the environment, human and animal health that may be associated with GMOs.

It is against this backdrop that the committee was formed to review and assess the current state of knowledge pertaining to the meaning and scope of Biosafety with a view of informing both policy makers and legislators in Uganda as they attempt to come up with a pertinent national policy and regulatory framework. The recommendations were well received by the Parliamentarians - who are currently in possession of the Biotechnology Bill awaiting tabling.

USAID - CropLife

A meeting took place with Cecilia M. Khupe, Senior Regional Agriculture Program Manager, USAID Southern Africa.

The meeting was to establish whether there were any USAID funded programmes underway where the services of CLAME could be of value, or projects being developed where the CLAME skills base could be utilized.

Issues of interest were that bi-lateral funds are available for capacity building in the SADC region. These funds are to be utilized in capacity building in partnership with the private sector. Two areas immediately identified were Harmonised Regulatory Systems for Pesticides and IPM training.

USAID are extremely keen to get something started and requested a draft “Concept Note”. In line with this a detailed submission was presented. A second meeting took place in July. Countries that we are encouraged to focus on are: Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. Secondary countries are Angola, DRC and Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.



Cecilia M. Khupe, Senior Regional Agriculture Program Manager, USAID Southern Africa.

les@croplifeafrica.org

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Tanzania

A visit to Tanzania was undertaken to meet with the new ExCo of CropLife Tanzania and develop plans for the workshop on 26 + 27 July on “Moving Towards a Sustainable Solution in Managing Obsolete Pesticides and Empty Pesticide Containers – plus – Association Building of CLT”

CropLife Tanzania recently secured their own offices which will be shared with the Tanzania Association Pharmaceuticals Industry (TAPI).



L – R Cleophas Rwechungura, Harish Dhutia and Obedi Ole-Kaondo at the new offices of CropLife Tanzania

Malawi

A TOT training took place in Lilongwe the week of 21 June.

Key points of the training are as follows:

The training consisted of three parts:

- * Theory and practical on the training and facilitation skills for adult learners including individual presentations by participants
- * Responsible Use of Pesticides; “From shop shelf to field”
- * A workshop by the participants facilitated by the Master Trainer.

A total of 14 participants attended the programme, a good mix between the public and private sectors

The results obtained were impressive.

- * Average percentage for test: 78%
- * Average percentage for presentations: 68%
- * Average percentage for assignments: 60%

The trainer, Herman Louw, paid special tribute on the selection of the group, their commitment, dedication and strict time management.



Group photo with Dr. Andrew Daudi, Permanent Secretary seated, centre, front row

les@croplifeafrica.org

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