

Stewardship

Spray Service Provider Concept Reaches the Balkans

CropLife Africa Middle East were asked to undertake a presentation on the SSP concept during a conference in Kosovo on 7 April 2017. The conference was organized by the USAID Agriculture Growth & Rural Opportunities Program. Mark Wood is both Chief of Party and Program Director of the project “Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products and Environmental Protection” in Kosovo. We have a long history with Mark, starting with the USAID IDEAL Project in Uganda and with USAID PROFIT in Zambia at which he was instrumental in the start-up of the Spray Service Provider concept.

There are several similarities between Africa and Kosovo including smallholder agriculture and the lack of expertise with pesticides. The project is also assisting in getting input players organized to form an association representing the private sector.

Approximately 80 inputs suppliers attended the meeting which was opened by Vezir Jonuzi, Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

Other topics covered in the agenda were:

- Overview of the Kosovo regulatory framework for Plant Protection Products
- Inspection Services of Plant Protection Products
- Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products and the need for a National Action Plan.
- The Spray Service Provider concept – Stewardship and Responsible Use of Pesticides in smallholder agriculture
- Management of chemicals waste
- SAICM project in Albania and “Pesticide Albania” web link

The Project sees the need for both Kosovo and Albania to link up or receive guidance from ECPA.

Les Hillowitz



The full set of the CLI Stewardship posters translated into Albanian



Right Centre : L-R, Mark Wood, Julie Kuraja and Laura Gjakova

Right : Deputy Minister, Vezir Jonuzi opening the conference

Obsolete Pesticides in Senegal

The Pests and Pesticide Management in Sahel and West Africa (PPMSWA) is a regional initiative led by FAO and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The initiative will tackle existing obsolete pesticides but will also address improved management of pesticides in the sub region, and by so doing reduce the re-accumulation of obstocks.

PPMSWA is implemented by FAO under the umbrella of ECOWAS, WAEMU and CILSS, and CropLife International together with CropLife Africa Middle East has agreed in principle to collaborate and contribute along with other donors. The initiative has four key components: the disposal of obsolete pesticides and remediation of contaminated soils, empty container management, strengthening of the regulatory framework and promotion of alternatives to conventional pesticides. Two other components relate to the development of communication strategies and the management of the project.

A mission comprising CropLife International (Hans Dobson and David Laycock), CropLife Africa Middle East (Bama Yao) and FAO (Antoine Somé, Chief Technical Advisor, Pests and Pesticide Management in Sahel and West Africa (PPMSWA) took place 10 – 13 April in Dakar.

The mission was organized to initiate preliminary contacts and provide basic information to key stakeholders including the Directorate of Plant Protection (DPV) of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Directorate of the Environment of the Ministry of Environment, and the country representative of FAO. Meetings were held with members of CropLife Senegal as they are expected to play a key role in the outreach campaign to be undertaken by CropLife International. Meetings focused on the contribution of CropLife International and the expectations for their support and involvement in the process.

The outreach campaign by CropLife International will consist of sensitizing and informing the public on the voluntary declaration of stocks, which will be endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture to help ensure full engagement of all obstock holders. All organisations declared that they will provide the necessary support to the project.

The contribution of CropLife International for the disposal of obsolete pesticides currently only applies to Senegal.

Bama Yao



Hans Dobson and David Laycock, 2nd and 6th (L-R), with executives of CropLife Senegal

CropLife Nigeria Starts with a New Round of IPM Courses for SSPs

CropLife Nigeria has started a new round of courses on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that are specifically designed for Spray Service Providers (SSPs). The course teaches SSPs to undertake proper scouting and make the best decisions on how to control pests and diseases choosing from a variety of control options. In addition, SSPs learn how to advise farmers on the prevention of pests and diseases.

The IPM SSP course was developed in 2015 and rolled out in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria among SSPs in the cocoa sector. A year later, Kenya, Malawi, and Zambia followed suit. Every SSP that undergoes the initial SSP training needs to pass, both, a written and an application test. Only those having successfully passed both tests, will receive a badge that indicates that the person is a CropLife trained SSP.

The badge is valid for 2 years and helps farmers who would like to hire the services of a SSP to identify those who were properly trained. At the end of the 2-day IPM SSP program, every SSP must again undertake a written and practical test to see if they still have the knowledge and skills to service farmers. Those who pass will receive a new badge that is valid for a further 2 years.

In Nigeria, 125 SSPs followed the IPM course in 2015 and a further 297 in 2016. For the current year, the course will be offered to 220 SSPs. So far, SSPs in Ekiti and Ondo State were trained.

In addition, CropLife Nigeria will be the first country in the region that will rollout the advanced IPM SSP course that has been developed for those SSPs who followed the initial IPM SSP course 2 years ago and which is now needed to renew their SSP badge.

Manon Mireille Dohmen



One of the groups in Ondo State



Field Exercise

CropLife Egypt SSP Training through the Shiraka project



Theoretical training session



A technical expert from Syngenta conducting the practical training

CropLife Egypt, in partnership with Blue Moon are engaged with the Dutch funded project under the name of “Local Assistance and Business services for Sustainable Agribusiness” (LABS-Agribusiness). In Egypt the project is known as SHIRAKA as this embraces 2 other partners, NSCE, North and South Consultants Exchange and CAVO Amsterdam.

The overall goal of LABS Agribusiness is to increase the knowledge and skills of appropriate civil servants and entrepreneurs for the development of sustainable agribusiness value chains. With this knowledge and the technical assistance of entrepreneurs, the micro and small business sector should be able to enter sustainable agribusiness value chains. Additionally, they will have to be registered by government to obtain work permits and can formally contribute to the development of sustainable local economies.

CropLife Egypt conducted a 4-day SSP training with the contribution of Syngenta who sent their expert team for the “practical day” training session. In addition, there was a one-day Business Skills training for students of the Nubaria Agricultural Technical School to assist them in becoming Spray Service Providers with the necessary skills to run a small business.

The training took place at the Nubaria Agricultural Technical school - Behira, Egypt and it was attended by 13 trainees from school students from 9 to 13 April 2017.

Said Abdella



Group Photo

Representing the Plant Science Industry

SSPs in Nigeria Started Selling their Services to Farmers under Propcom Project

Almost 100 Spray Service Providers (SSPs) that were trained under the Palladium/Propcom Mai-Karfi program in Nigeria have so far serviced 850 farmers. This is one of the results of the monitoring exercise that CropLife Nigeria carried out in March 2017. 46% of the SSPs are very satisfied with their earnings while 40% believe this to be quite adequate.

In total, 165 SSPs in Jigawa, Kaduna and Kano State were trained from December 2016 to February 2017. The SSPs that have not as yet started working give the main reason for this, as the season has not yet started. They indicated that as soon as the first rains fall, they will offer their services to farmers in their communities.

The SSPs applied pesticides mainly on maize and wheat in Jigawa, on tomatoes in Kano, and onions and tomatoes in Kano State. In addition to application, 46% of the SSPs also sold other types of services, including scouting for pests and diseases, and planting. Over a timespan of 4.5 weeks, SSPs earned an acceptable income.

As a challenge, SSPs indicated the disposal of empty triple-rinsed pesticide containers. CropLife Nigeria is aware of this challenge and is therefore considering possibilities to start a pilot container management program.

CropLife Nigeria signed a contract with the Propcom Mai-Karfi project to set up a network of 165 Spray Service Providers (SSP) in Jigawa, Kaduna, and Kano State who will service at least 4,200 farmers. Propcom Mai-Karfi is a program funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) that aims to increase income for the poor through enhanced employment opportunities in Northern Nigeria. Owing to its focus on (youth) employment and increased income, the project showed an interest in the SSP concept which creates job opportunities for youth and will increase the income of farmers through higher yields with the better application of pesticides.

Manon Mireille Dohmen



Field coordinator Babajide Adigun (left) talking to one of the SSPs in Jigawa state



National coordinator Siji Ofoesuwa (right) checks the ledgers of one of the SSPs in Kaduna State



Ethiopia - Overview of the SSP Training Program in the Oromiya Region

The SNV Horti-LIFE project embracing SSPs in which CropLife is part of the consortium is on track with the rollout of the training schedule. Several sets of trainings were organized in the Central Rift Valley of Oromiya where the misuse of agrochemicals is common practice. The selection of candidate farmers was undertaken following a briefing on the concept to Horti-LIFE field staff by Dedefo Abdo, CropLife Ethiopia Field Coordinator and Kemeru Jihad the project's Regional Coordinator.

The first set of two trainings were carried out on 13 – 16 March in Meki and 14 -17 March in Ziway / Batu for Dugda and Adami Tulu Jido Kombolcha districts, respectively. In these trainings 20 farmers from several stakeholders participated. Only one farmer trainee was not able to complete the program owing to family problems. The trainers involved were from the following CropLife Ethiopia member companies, Chemtex PLC, Tensae International, GAWT International plus Horti-LIFE.

In subsequent trainings, 34 individuals including 2 Horti-LIFE coordinators from Ziway Dugda and Bora districts took part in the program. The trainings were held in Meki and Alemtena/Bote towns on 22 – 25 March and 25 -28 March, respectively. CropLife Ethiopia member companies, Syngenta, GreenLife Trading, Chemtex PLC and Tensae International played a substantial role by assigning trainers. All the trainings were facilitated by Thomas Assefa, Project Advisor Crop Protection, Dedfo Abdo and Kemeru Jihad. Here again, one candidate farmer from the Bora district was not able to complete the training.

As part of the criteria to qualify for certification, all trainees undertake a pre, and post assessment alongside a practical evaluation of their skills in the field.

The graduation ceremonies were performed in the presence of both the district Agriculture Bureau and the Irrigation Development Agency heads. They recognized the importance and value of these trainings and presented certificates and sets of personal protective equipment to the SSPs. Moreover, it was emphasized that these bureaus should continue to offer firm support in promoting the services of the SSPs.

All the SSPs showed commitment in offering their services by signing an agreement letter with the respective District Bureau of Agriculture and SNV

Thomas Assefa, Crop Protection Advisor, SNV Horti-LIFE



Adami Tulu Jido Komolcha group



Boro District group



Representing the Plant Science Industry

SSPs in Nigeria Trained under the GIZ/CARI Project

The first SSPs were trained as part of the extended collaboration in Nigeria with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). To date, 30 farmers from Kano, 30 from Kebbi and 15 from Kogi State were trained as SSPs. The group is part of a total of 135 SSPs in the rice sector that will be trained in 6 states, including Adamawa, Kaduna, Kano, Kebbi, Kogi, and Niger. Last year, a network of 30 SSPs were created in Jigawa State. All SSPs that successfully passed the written and practical tests were provided with a set of personal protective equipment and an identity card during the graduation ceremony.

The SSP concept is implemented as part of the Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) program which is implemented in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania. The program hopes to reach 122,000 small-scale rice farmers with an average daily income of less than 2 USD. With the introduction of the SSP concept, the project would like to improve the application of pesticides which will lead to the better control of pests and diseases, and a reduction in yield losses.

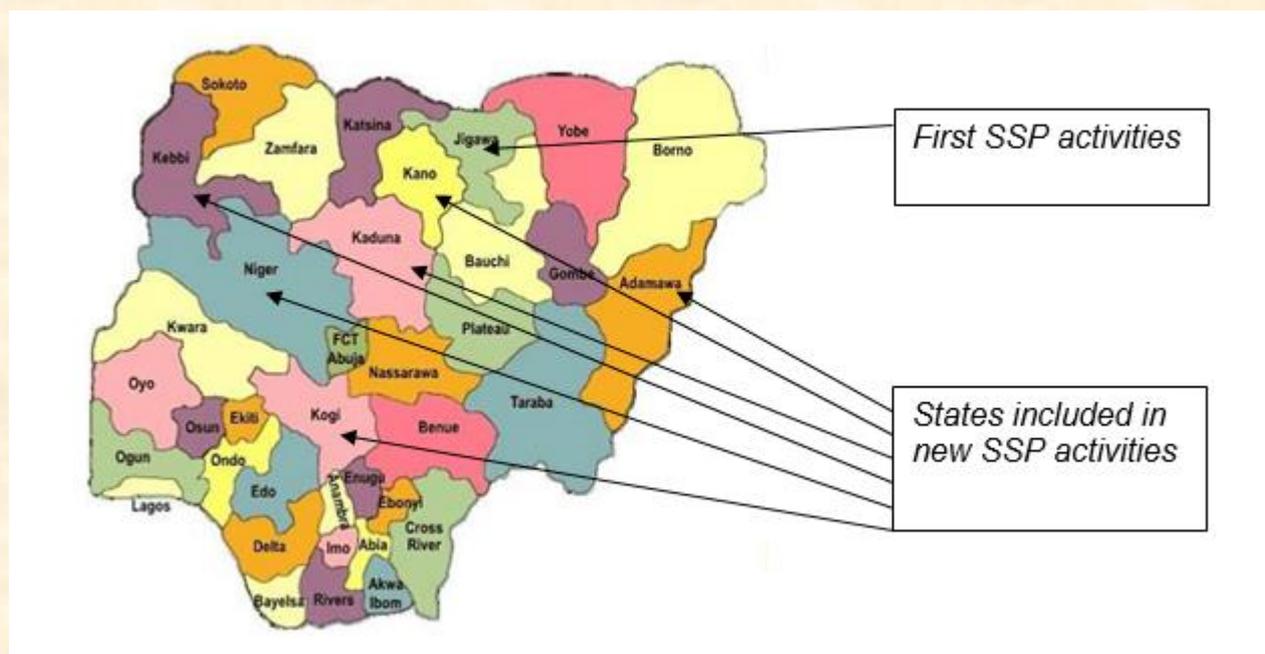
Manon Mireille Dohmen



The group of SSPs trained in Kogi State



Field session in Kano



Responsible Use Training for Smallholder farmers, Aswan, Egypt - April 2017



Said Abdella conducting the Responsible Use training session



Training on Use of PPE



Smallholder farmers attending the training

CropLife Egypt collaborates with Blue Moon in activities covering professional spray teams who in turn serve 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.

Blue Moon and CropLife Egypt started exploring the development of rural villages in Aswan around Lake Nasser (Garf Hussien and Karkar valleys) which are considered as promising lands for new markets of high valued crops.

The first round of the program started on 23 and 24 April 2017, followed by training programs on 25 - 26 April 2017. The concept of contracting out to smallholder farmers was promoted which goes together with the responsible use of pesticides as a major parameter of all certification programs such as Fair Trade and GlobalGAP.

The number of participants from both associations totalled 63 farmers including 4 women.

Said Abdella

Training Materials for the Cotton Sector – Cote d'Ivoire

Under a funding program by the European Union to revitalize cotton production in Cote d'Ivoire and to improve incomes, FIRCA and CNARA were mandated to produce training materials for the cotton sector. CropLife Cote d'Ivoire provided both guidance and funding towards this initiative and which led to the production of posters, catalogues, technical data sheets and other materials which can be used for training purposes.

Thirty stakeholders met at the CNRA headquarters in Abidjan on 21 April at the Council of Coffee-Cocoa to push this initiative forward.

Bama Yao



Officials representing FIRCA, CNRA, the MINADER and the Ministry of Research commenting on the quality of didactic materials

(Photo Courtesy: CropLife CI).



Anti-Counterfeiting

Regional Anti-Counterfeiting Committee - Cote d'Ivoire

As a follow-up to the recent decree, to set-up departmental committees to fight illegal pesticides across the country, approximately 30 representatives attended the meeting in Abengourou on 24 April. Attendees included the Sub-Prefects, Regional Directors of the ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), Environment, Commerce, Industry, Health, Customs Services, the police and representatives of farmers' organizations and pesticides retailer groups as well as rural radio reporters. The workshop was chaired by the Secretary General of the Regional Prefecture. A brief presentation was made on the pesticide regulations in Cote d'Ivoire which led to discussions on the risks associated with illegal pesticides on human health and the environment and the economy at large. A sustainable plan against illegal pesticides was developed to inform and educate the public and gain their support in this campaign. Participants expressed their satisfaction for the initiative and undertook full cooperation and support.

10 administrative regions had problems in setting-up the program during the week of April 24-28, and 20 other regions are being covered during the month of June, leading to the setting-up of a total of 108 departmental committees across the country.

Bama Yao



Right Top: Deputy Director of Plant Protection Directorate of the MINADER

Right: Regional Director CropLife AME during interviews with a rural radio station

Below: Group photo of the participants together with the Secretary General of the Prefecture (Top: front row 4th R-L.),



Association Management

CropLife Tanzania's Newly Appointed Consultant



L-R Francisca Katagira, Bhattacharj Debdas Treasurer, Mwalim Suleiman, Secretary, and Harish Dhutia, Chairman

CropLife Tanzania has engaged the services of Dr. Francisca Katagira, former Director of the Plant Health Services, at the Ministry of Agriculture. Her appointment becomes effective on 1 May 2017. Dr Katagira will perform the role of Permanent Secretary of the National Association.

The signing of the contract engaging the services of Dr Katagira took place at the Southern Sun Hotel in Dar **Harish Dhutia** es Salaam on 19 April.

CropLife Mauritius hold AGM

The Annual General Meeting which took place on 28 March focused on the elements of Stewardship and how CropLife Mauritius has fared in this discipline. Clifford Dove, President of CropLife Mauritius presented his report on activities for the association for the past year stating that the stewardship concept was to "maximize benefits, and minimize risks" associated with the use of crop protection products

Activities for the year 2016-17 were centered towards the realization of the Pilot phase of the Empty Pesticide Container Management Project. This is now progressing well under the new project team, leading to a 6 month extension being granted by the donor, and which now terminates end August 2017. CropLife Mauritius also had the opportunity to present the Project in September 2016 on Kool FM a local radio station for one week in FAREI's daily program.

The Executive Committee for 2017 was elected as follows :

Position	Name	Company
President	Clifford Dove	Roger Fayd'herbe & Co. Ltd
Vice-President	Stephanie Pacifique	Coroi Maurice Ltee
Secretary	Dani Joseph	Island Chemicals Ltd
Treasurer	Sachin Sookna	MCAF Ltd

Clifford Dove



Clifford Dove, President CropLife Mauritius

CLAME Team Discuss the Importance of Communications - Brussels, 3 April



The CLAME team met in Brussels on 3 April to discuss several internal issues but focused mainly on communications.

Communications will be addressed in greater detail at the time of the E&SA Hub Meeting when Will Surman of CLI will participate.

The CLAME team in Brussels

CropLife Ethiopia holds General Assembly



Back row: Getachew Cherinet Abebe Wondimu, Yimenu Jembere, Fitsum Sahle Mariam
Front Row: Laeke Zewde, Fasil Melese

CropLife Ethiopia held their General Assembly on 10 May. Key issues covered during the meeting were the two SSP projects.

The following members were elected to the Board

Yimenu Jembere	Chairman
Abebe Wondimu	Vice Chairman
Laeke Zewde	Secretary
Fitsum Sahle Mariam	Member
Fasil Melese	Member

Getachew Cherinet

CropLife Zimbabwe Accreditation Students Achieve Perfect Pass Rate

The CropLife Zimbabwe accreditation course in 2016 was one of the most successful ever held. All of the participants passed all the exams and one candidate gained 100% in one exam, which must surely be a 'first'!

With 26 participants, the 2016 course was also the largest in its nearly 20-year history. Most of the students came from CropLife member companies. Three others came from non-member organisations or were self-funded, and this is a trend that CropLife Zimbabwe is keen to encourage.

Dr. Godfrey Chikwenhere of the Department of Research and Specialist Services presented certificates to the accreditation graduates at the end of the association's AGM in March this year, at which he was the guest speaker.

The accreditation course is held every year, usually in July with exams in August. It includes six modules, each covered in one day of the course. Lecturers come from organisations such as the University of Zimbabwe and the Kutsaga and Henderson Research Stations. The six topics covered are:

- Day 1 The Agricultural Chemical Industry in Perspective
- Day 2 Basic Weed Science and Principles of Weed Control
- Day 3 Basic Plant Pathology and Principles of Plant Disease Control
- Day 4 Basic Entomology and Principles of Pest Control
- Day 5 Basic Nematology and Principles of Nematode Control
- Day 6 Basic Principles of Crop Chemical Application

It is hoped that the Technical Sub Committee will update the course this year to include more practical content where possible.

Carol Smith, CropLife Zimbabwe



Graduates of the 2016 CropLife Zimbabwe accreditation course pose after receiving their certificates at the end of the AGM in March. With them are Dr. Chikwenhere of the Department of Research and Specialist Services, who presented the certificates, and Caroline Charumbira of the CropLife Technical Services Committee, who oversaw the course.

Plant Biotechnology

ISAAA Presents 2016 Annual Report on GM Crops Adoption in Beijing

The International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) launched its 2016 report titled *Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2016*. Two launch events were held on May 4 and 5, 2017 in Beijing, China.

The media conference held on May 4, 2017 at China Wold Hotel was attended by some 40 journalists from Chinese and international news agencies. ISAAA Chair, Dr. Paul Teng, presented the highlights of the report. He stressed that the adoption of biotech crops increased to 185.1 million hectares in 2016 after the slight decline observed in 2015. ISAAA Senior Program Officer, Dr. Rhodora Aldemita, talked about the development and adoption of biotech crops in Asia.

The following day, a seminar was held on May 5, 2017 at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which was attended by 120 scientists, members of the academe, and students. Drs. Paul Teng and Rhodora Aldemita presented the highlights of the ISAAA report. Mr. Zhang Xianfa from the Ag GMO Division of the Ministry of Agriculture discussed the status of Chinese biotech crops regulation and development. The participants signified their interest in the adoption of more biotech crops in the country to benefit not just the farmers and their families, but also the consumers.

The events were organized in cooperation with China Biotechnology Information Center, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and the Chinese Biotechnology Society.

For more information about the events, send an email to knowledge.center@isaaa.org. The ISAAA report is downloadable at the ISAAA website.

ISAAA



Herbicide Use Increased More for Non-GM Crops than Biotech Crops, Study

University of Wyoming (UW) scientist reports that herbicide use has increased more rapidly over the last 25 years in non-GE crops than in GE crops. The findings are published in *Nature Communications*.

Herbicide use in farming GE crops has been a long-time issue for biotech critics claiming that GE crop adoption increases herbicide usage. However, Andrew Kniss of the Department of Plant Sciences in UW showed that herbicide use intensity increased over the last 25 years in maize, cotton, rice, and wheat. Even if GM crops were perceived to cause an increase in herbicide use, the actual increases in herbicide use were faster in non-GM crops.

The results showed that even as herbicide use increased, chronic toxicity associated with herbicide use decreased in two out of six crops, while acute toxicity decreased in four out of six crops. In the last year of the study, glyphosate accounted for 26% of maize, 43% of soybean and 45% of cotton herbicide applications. However, due to the relatively low chronic toxicity of this particular herbicide, it contributed only 0.1, 0.3 and 3.5% of the chronic toxicity hazard in those crops, respectively.

If weeds are uncontrolled by herbicides, the global food production could decrease by 20-40%.

For more details, read the research article in *Nature Communications*.

ISAAA

US Government Plans to Counter 'Misinformation' on Agri-biotech Products

Misinformation on biotechnology is expected to decrease in the U.S. because of the proposed markup in the budget for biotech education. The U.S. House Committee on Appropriations is considering to increase the budget for agriculture spending bill, Fiscal Year 2017 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. US\$3 million was proposed to be used by the Food and Drugs Administration and the Department of Agriculture for consumer outreach to promote the understanding and acceptance of agricultural biotechnology and its products.

According to the full committee report draft on the agriculture bill, FDA and USDA will take charge of the initiative through publication and distribution of science-based educational information on the environmental, nutritional, food safety, economic, and humanitarian benefits of biotechnology food and feed products.

In line with this, 66 food and agricultural organizations showed their support for biotech education by sending a letter to the Congressional leaders. "The United States is strong and prosperous because American leaders embrace the responsible use of technology and set forth public policies to move the nation forward in this regard. Science education plays an important role in this forward momentum. That is why we support the inclusion of \$3 million for FDA and USDA to help the public better understand science- and fact-based information about agricultural biotechnology," stated in the letter.

Read the full committee report draft from the Committee of Appropriations' website. Read the letter from the food and agri groups in Biotech Now. www.isaaa.org

ISAAA



INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
FOR THE ACQUISITION
OF AGRI-BIOTECH
APPLICATIONS

Upcoming Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Container Management meetings, Zambia	June 19-21
IRAC Workshop, South Africa	June 23
Meetings with Stakeholders and CropLife team covering the SSP projects in Ethiopia	June 26-30
IPM/RU training of agents of the Council Coffee-Cocoa, Cote d'Ivoire	July 14-18
Meeting of the CP Communications SC, Washington DC	July 18
Meeting of the combined CP PB Communications SC, Washington	July 19
Meeting of the Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee, Washington	July 19
Meeting of the Crop Protection Strategy Council, Washington	July 20
East & Southern Africa Hub Meeting, Harare	Aug 29-30
AVCASA Congress	Sep 8-9



Image: Shutterstock



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GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

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