



Stewardship

The Management of Empty Pesticide Containers in Africa and the linkage with GlobalGAP

A meeting was arranged with Elmé Coetzer, Head of Standards & Vice President of GlobalGAP. This took place on Tuesday 10 March and covered both, the involvement of GlobalGAP in South Africa and the rest of Africa, where feasible.

For South Africa, ideas were put forward on how their “inspectors & auditors” can influence the issue of “triple rinsing” and puncturing. This point will be emphasised at the Container Management Workshop in the Cape on 22 May, at which Elmé Coetzer will participate.

For Ethiopia, a number of positive developments have taken place:

- The country was identified in our 2015 Plan for the development of a “container management pilot project” in the horticultural belt around Addis.
- This led to the formation of a Project Committee comprising of:
 - The Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporters Association (EHPEA)
 - The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
 - The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF)
 - Tensae International Business Enterprise (recycler)
 - CropLife Ethiopia
- At about the same time the EHPEA Code of Practice for Sustainable Flower Production was officially recognized as equivalent to the GlobalGAP IFA Standard Version 4.0 for Flowers & Ornamentals.

Diverting a little, GlobalGAP undertakes a “Tour” every two years and which is part of their campaign to engage with leading stakeholders around the world. For 2015, GlobalGAP plan on an “Africa Tour” stop covering two countries, Ethiopia and Ghana. The main concept of a “Tour” stop is that stakeholders, in this case EHPEA, would organize a meeting for all their members, and GlobalGAP will send 1 or 2 key staff members to address them. The main topic in the case of Ethiopia would be predominately on container management.

With regard to the timing of the “Tour” stop to Ethiopia, this has been proposed as the 27th August, the day following the E & SA Hub Meeting in Addis. This will provide the opportunity for others within in region to benefit from the initiative.

Les Hillowitz



Elmé Coetzer-Boersma with Nic Greyling of CropLife South Africa



Representing the Plant Science Industry

IPM Training for the SSP project in Nigeria

Two training interventions took place; on 5 & 6 March in Koola, Osun State and on 9-10 March in Iluomoba, Ekiti State. This covered 15 farmers in Osun state and 12 farmers in Iluomoba, all of who had been previously trained as SSP's under the Continaf and TechnoServe programs.

The 2 workshops were organized under the CropLife International support program for capacity enhancing on basic IPM principles for SSP's through a 2-day course with a focus on:

- Pest control and pest management
- Factors influencing pest management
- The IPM Circle
- Scouting and threshold levels
- Pest Management decision making
- Pesticide application covering: the selection of the correct registered product, transportation and storage; mixing pesticides and calibration of a mistblower or knapsack sprayer; application techniques; pest resistance issues; safety of users and workers; protection of the environment (water, pollinators and non-target species), consumer safety; cleaning and management of empty containers; training and capacity building; records keeping; monitoring and evaluation, and planning of IPM.
- Applying pesticides under certification schemes.

Participants in both training sessions undertook a written pre- and post-test and as well as a practical test. All participants succeeded and were awarded certificates.

Bama Yao



Trainees listening to an explanation on IPM (Below) and observing insect attacks on a cocoa tree (Left)



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Container Management Project Team Meeting: 18 March 2015

The Roadmap is in the process of being updated and will include the pilot programs that are being implemented. A small number of hardcopies will be printed supported by an electronic version with interactive links available on the CropLife website. The checklist developed by CropLife Asia will also be included. The new Roadmap will be communicated to the network through CLI media such as "Leading the vision Newsletter", "Heads-up", and on the cover page of www.croplife.org.

The meeting was updated on the recent discussions with GIZ and the efforts to initiate a pilot program in Tunisia. It was mentioned that CLAME and GIZ are thinking of a 3-year pilot project with GIZ being the main driver. A meeting with all stakeholders will take place on April 15 in Tunisia. Stewardship issues including IPM / RU are likely to be addressed at the April meeting.

Les Hillowitz updated the group on the recent container management activities in the core countries of Africa. Countries covered were South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, Mauritius, Ethiopia and Zambia.

With regard to Asia the group was updated on the current situation in China and the local regulation proposal on sachets driven by the MoA and ICAMA.

The group agreed to create a sub-team led by Detlef Doehnert that will be responsible for drafting a position paper. Time was spent on the market survey in China, Vietnam and Indonesia, which is yet to start and the level of funding needed.

With regard to Europe, the rollout of the "wave" (I) of the pilot projects (Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Turkey and Russia) has been successful. "Wave" (II) pilots (Cyprus, Slovakia, and Lithuania) are ready to start in the spring of 2015. Rinsing videos were completed and distributed in 18 different languages. In Spain the declassification process has started (towards a non-hazardous classification). In the UK the CP Association has agreed to advise that end uses should be subject to risk analysis. In Serbia, joint efforts with ECPA succeeded in demonstrating to the authorities that after triple rinsing, pesticide residues were below the cut off criteria. In Russia the pilot project is moving forward; since January 1st, 2015, a packaging waste legislation is in place and envisaged exemption from eco-tax on packaging that companies have to pay in order to operate, is a driver that helps continue the project. With respect to goals in 2015, ECPA will continue supporting start-ups under a co-funding approach and using consultancy services. A rinsing study will also be conducted in 2015 aimed at providing countries with the most updated data available.

On communications, various pieces have been updated with new figures and design. This includes a leaflet, brochure, infographic, slide deck and the media relationship guide on container management. Once these have finalised, they will be circulated to the members for final approval.

Les Hillowitz



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Regulatory

Regulatory Meeting Held in Mohammedia, Morocco: 11 – 12 March 2015

The recent regulatory meeting held in Mohammedia was attended by over 40 participants representing both industry and Morocco's regulatory agency; the National Agency for Food Safety (ONSSA).

The meeting was officiated by the Chair of CropLife Morocco, Mr. Karim Benbrahim, the Head of ONSSA's Chemical Inputs Division in the Department of Crop Protection represented by the Director General; Mr. Mohamed Akchati and the Director General of CropLife Africa Middle East; Dr. Rudolf Guyer.

In the welcome address delivered on behalf of the Director General of ONSSA, Mr. Akchati thanked CropLife Africa Middle East for having chosen Morocco to host the regulatory meeting for the Arab Maghreb region. He regretted the absence of representatives of invited countries in the region, whose participation was needed in the search for possibilities of harmonizing regional registration systems for agricultural crop protection products. He recalled that it in recent years a meeting was held annually across all Arab countries with the last being held in Morocco in 2005. Such regional meetings should be encouraged in order to improve trade between the regions due of their geographic and climatic similarities, agricultural and cultural relations. He also appreciated that the workshop's objectives as highlighted by the organizers were in line with those of ONSSA.

During the interactive workshop, there was an exchange of ideas and experience between the experts on the topics outlined below:

- An expose of the product licensing system for pesticides in Morocco
- Management procedures covering an application for the registration of a crop protection product
- International Cooperation: Future projects in the field of pesticides
- Refresher on the Implementation of Confidential Business Information and the Protection of Regulatory Data practices
- A gap analysis exercise
- Update on emerging policy issues: Pollinator Health, Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP's) and ED's (Endocrine Disruptors)



Participants during a Gap Analysis Exercise for Morocco: sitting, front left, Mohammed Akchati; Director Crop Protection Department, ONSSA and front right, Boubker El Ouilani, CEO CropLife Morocco

Concerning the registration systems, ONSSA has been implementing a new system since 2010 under the supervision of the Minister of Agriculture and Marine Fisheries to ensure responsible monitoring of plant health and plant protection products made available to farmers. The automated registration system is robust in comparable terms and has improved information management and access on the part of the authority and companies respectively. This is to ensure that approval of agricultural chemical products is done in accordance with the regulations and procedures laid down by the country. Most of the actions aimed at improving and strengthening approval capabilities of the regulatory agencies were carried out in close consultation and collaboration with CropLife Morocco.

The country has also encouraged international cooperation and is currently implementing an institutional twinning project with the European Union on the control of plant protection products, fertilizers and supplements for the next two years. Similarly, another project on the elimination of obsolete pesticides including POPs and the implementation of an integrated pest and pesticide management program, which is expected to run between 2015 and 2018. All these will be implemented in cooperation with the local association.

The gap analysis exercise undertaken jointly by industry and regulatory agency participants further revealed that the regulatory system is robust enough and needed a few improvements to include the recognition of Intellectual Property Rights, capacity enhancement in the review process including risk assessment, management of adverse effects and management of post registration surveillance.

The topic on the emerging policy issues of HHPs, Pollinators and EDs was well received with a great deal of discussion around the challenges often faced in handling global issues but more specifically how key stakeholders, namely Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Health, Trade and Industry should collaborate in determining a country's position and to ensure the implementation of a risk based approach regarding the decision making process for pesticides.

Stella Simiyu-Wafukho



Participants during the Regulatory Meeting

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Anti Counterfeiting

CropLife Egypt, Anti-Counterfeiting Flagship Project: Participation at Member Company's events

Participation at events organized by CropLife Egypt member companies allows the Anti-counterfeiting "Flagship Committee" to promote the activities of the campaign and to deliver presentations and materials to both farmers and dealers.

Such an event was the "Citrus Carnival" at which more than 24 companies participated. This took place at a large citrus estate on the Cairo - Alexandria road (reclaimed land) on 9 March. Citrus crops represent the largest horticulture area in Egypt and are the key export crop of the country. More than 600 people including farmers, dealers, university students, etc. visited the event.

Bayer CropScience was the major sponsor of this event in addition to Maytrade and Samtrade (both "Flagship" project partners) and both had booths at the carnival, which was organized by the Horticultural Export Improvement Association.

Bayer delivered a presentation covering new technologies in citrus management and hosted the Anti-Counterfeiting "Flagship" group who were able to interact with visitors and distribute relevant promotional materials.

The Anti-Counterfeiting "Flagship" stand was visited by more than 200 farmers and dealers allowing for one-on-one discussions to take place on the issue of the illegal pesticide trade and the campaigns activities in fighting counterfeiting through awareness, training and media outreach.

Another similar event was the Ismailia Citrus Growers meeting organized by Bayer CropScience and Samtrade. Around 100 citrus growers and exporters attended this event in Ismailia on 24 March where the Anti-Counterfeiting "Flagship" team campaign was invited to deliver a presentation covering illegal and counterfeit pesticides and to distribute campaign materials to promote dangers of the illegal pesticide trade.

Said Abdella



Above & Below: The Bayer CropScience stand



Said Abdella delivering his presentation on the "Anti-Counterfeiting" campaign



Association Management

CropLife South Africa holds AGM

On 17 March CropLife South Africa held its AGM. Marcel Dreyer of Arysta and Klaus Eckstein of Bayer were elected President and Vice President of the association, respectively for a two-year term.

Tom Mabesa

The newly elected CropLife South Africa Executive Committee



CropLife Kenya holds 2015 Annual General Meeting

CropLife Kenya held its Annual General Meeting on 27 March at the Intercontinental Hotel Nairobi.

The highlight of the AGM was the speech by outgoing Chairman, Kuria Gatonye, who outlined the achievements of the Agchem Industry in Kenya in 2014 and the previous two years. Kuria expressed satisfaction owing to the fact that CropLife Kenya and other institutions had made representation to the government on the importance of the Pesticide Regulator (PCPB) in Kenya. The government was, therefore, persuaded to allow the Pest Control Product Board to stand alone which was against policy as they favoured the merging of state corporations. The government's decision on the Pest Control Products Board has led to the drafting of a new Pest Control Products Bill that will repeal the current Act and of which CropLife Kenya was involved in all stages of its drafting.

Also discussed were the 3 CropLife Kenya "flagship projects" which include Container Management, Spray Service Provider concept and the Anti-Counterfeiting Project. It was noted that although the Container Management and Anti-Counterfeiting projects received some funding from the World Bank, through the Kenya Agricultural Productivity and Agribusiness Project (KAPAP) and CropLife International respectively, sustainability was a challenge to the industry.

This has confirmed the need for CropLife Kenya to expand their linkages to the donor world in 2015.

The following persons were elected to the positions of office for the new term:

- Chairperson – Susan Njoroge (Syngenta EA Ltd)
- Vice Chairman – Patrick Amuyunzu (Arysta LifeScience K Ltd)
- Treasurer – Raphael Kiguta (Murphy Chemicals E.A. Ltd)
- Assistant Treasurer – Joshua Nzioka (Elgon Kenya Ltd)
- Executive Committee Members representing full members
 - Francis Miano – Bayer EA Ltd
 - Eric Kimunguyi – Pytech Chemicals
 - Catherine Kinyanjui – Osho Chemicals Industries Ltd
 - Paul Kamote – Sineria EA Ltd

Richard Sikuku



Newly elected Chairperson – Susan Njoroge

CropLife Mauritius holds AGM

CropLife Mauritius held its Annual General Meeting on Friday 27 March 2015 in Port Louis.

The newly elected Managing Committee for 2015 is as follows:

- President: Mr Clifford Dove (Roger Fayd'herbe & Co Ltd)
- Vice President: Mr Dani Joseph (COROI Maurice Ltd.)
- Secretary: Mr Jean Francois Claite (Blychem Ltd)
- Treasurer: Mr Dineshsing Goburdhun (Mauritius Cooperative Agricultural Federation)
- Assistant Treasurer: Mr Sebastien de Ravel (Island Chemicals Ltd)
- Executive Secretary: Mr Mukesh Rughoo (Non-executive)

Mr Philippe Levieux (Universal Development Corporation) submitted his resignation as a member of CropLife Mauritius as from April 2015.

In his report, the outgoing President, Mr Philippe Levieux noted that amongst the many projects realised in 2014 the launch of the Container Management Project co-funded by the UNDP and CropLife International was key. He added that CropLife Mauritius had embarked on the road towards self-sustainability as funds were obtained through training sessions undertaken on their Safe & Responsible Use program. Mr Levieux thanked members of the managing committee for their support and collaboration during the past year. He also highlighted Mr Rughoo's support and dedication in the execution of the affairs of CropLife Mauritius.

The newly elected President, Mr Clifford Dove congratulated the outgoing President for his excellent work during the past two years. He stated that through the commitment and leadership of Mr Levieux, CropLife Mauritius had made good progress and was now seen as an important stakeholder in the Industry. Mr Dove added that amongst the association's priorities for 2015 were the implementation of the Container Management Project, the continuation of training sessions in safe and responsible use of pesticides and the development of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) concept. The new committee will also strive at recruiting all companies who qualify for full membership so as to ensure maximum representation of the Industry.

Mukesh Rughoo



L -R: Jean Francois Claite, Sebastien de Ravel, Clifford Dove, Philippe Levieux, Dineshsing Goburdhun, Dani Joseph and Mukesh Rughoo.

CropLife Ghana Relocates to New Premises



Since the registration of CropLife Ghana in May 2005, the association that started with only four members has grown formidably. At the time CropLife Ghana shared office space with 3 other farmer based organizations under the umbrella of GAABIC (Ghana Agricultural Associations Business & Information Centre), to benefit from the synergies that this offered.

The growth in membership has enabled the association to become more “self standing” and visible, making it attractive to partnerships and presenting a credible image.

The location of the new offices are close to the Kotoka International Airport, the Accra Shopping Mall, University of Ghana and other important landmarks in Accra. The location is also in a corporate environment where activities of the association are expected to be enhanced greatly. The office has a spacious environment for training and workshops, including a conference facility, which can also be used to host both trainings and workshops.

On 13 March, the first general meeting of CropLife Ghana for 2015 took place in the new offices. It was also the opportunity for the majority of members to familiarize themselves with the new facilities. Members expressed their appreciation for the good work undertaken in acquiring the new accommodation. A new member, Dow AgroSciences, which recently opened an office in Ghana, was represented at the meeting for the first time. The meeting discussed pertinent issues related to the agrochemical industry and discussed various ways in making the association more relevant to its members. The programs planned for the year were discussed, amongst which was the IFDC partnered SSP Program and the Cross-Platform Initiative.

The collaboration with the IFDC-2Scale Project to train 100 SSPs in 5 Regions of Ghana on 5 crops, and the SSP-IPM training currently on-going in the Ashanti, seemed very exciting for member companies. More programs are envisaged later this year including the Cross-Platform initiatives, CEPS Trainings and other advocacy workshops for the benefit of members.

It is hoped that the visibility and image gained from the new premises will positively impact on the standing of CropLife Ghana.

Fred Boampong

Plant Biotechnology

Partners and Stakeholders' Coordination Meeting on Biosafety Capacity Development in Africa - March 10 & 11 - Maputo, Mozambique



Ms. Leda Hugo, Deputy Minister, Science Technology, Higher Education and Technical Education.

Ms. Leda Hugo, Deputy Minister, Science Technology, Higher Education and Technical Education, officially opened the workshop.

The main objective for sessions on Day (1) was to continue the ongoing efforts towards closer collaboration in key countries, and as much as possible coordinate activities towards common goals and around a practical division of manpower.

Considering the positive recent progress in Nigeria, this country was added as the 5th in a growing list of focus countries. The other four are Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, and Malawi. Lead presenters were assigned to for each of the countries.

Following the introductory presentations, breakout groups reviewed the progress and plans for the focus countries.

Country groups were requested to discuss the following key items:

- Review of overarching goal and objectives for biosafety capacity building in the country

- Review of last year's (2014) report and action plans for Ghana, Malawi, Uganda and Kenya, overall progress and major milestones achieved.
- Way forward: Summary overview for the next 12 months.

Day (2) covered the progress towards sub-regional frameworks for biotechnology and biosafety. This included partners on emerging regional frameworks and opportunities for expanded collaboration with REC's. Those covered were:

- ECOWAS / WAEMU
- COMESA / ACTESA
- Brief updates on SADC & EAC

Les Hillowitz



Group Photo

Representing the Plant Science Industry

CropLife International Africa Partners Meeting, Maputo - March 12

The CLI Africa Partners meeting followed the earlier 2-day Partners and Stakeholders' Coordination Meeting on Biosafety Capacity Development in Africa, hosted by NEPAD and PBS.

Partner Presentations covered "2015 Operating Plan execution and 2016 Proposals". The Partners involved were:

- AFSTA
- CLAME, "Cross Platform Initiative"
- AfricaBio – South Africa
- ISAAA
- Africa Harvest – West Africa
- ABSF – Kenya

Plans will be consolidated and circulated to all stakeholders

Les Hillowitz



Several of the participants at the CLI Africa Partners Meeting

S&T Committee Urges Change to EU Rules for GM Crops

The UK House of Commons Science and Technology Committee released a report saying that current EU regulations that prevent GM crop adoption in the UK are not fit for purpose and should be changed to a trait-based system for regulating biotech crops.

According to Andrew Miller, Chair of the Committee, "Opposition to genetically modified crops in many European countries is based on values and politics, not science. The scientific evidence is clear that crops developed using genetic modification pose no more risk to humans, animals or the environment than equivalent crops developed using more 'conventional' techniques."

The report discusses three major flaws in the EU regulation on GM crops.

- Existing regulations are based on the assumption that GM crops pose more risk than crops developed through other techniques. This approach focuses much on how the product is made, and not the product itself.
- The current system highlights the potential risks of GM products and fails to balance these with the possible benefits to the farmers, consumers, and the environment.
- Current regulations prevent EU states to make their own decisions about whether to allow or disallow GM crop adoption. This encourages the anti-GM member states to dispute the science behind the technology, and exaggerate uncertainty.

In conclusion, the Committee said that a precautionary principle stated in EU law is fit only for instances where scientific evidence is insufficient, inconclusive or uncertain.

Crop Biotech Update—ISAAA



Vietnam Approves Double Stack Corn for Commercial Cultivation

Syngenta has announced on March 17, 2015 that Vietnam's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) has approved its Bt11 x GA21 double stack corn seed for commercial cultivation in the country, to be made available for the 2015/2016 season. Corn hybrids containing the Bt11 trait are designed to control the Asian Corn Borer, the most damaging corn pest in the region. GA21 glyphosate tolerance will give farmers greater flexibility in managing weeds, helping them maximize yield potential.

Davor Pisk, Syngenta's Chief Operating Officer, said "The decision by the Vietnamese government will give growers access to a wider choice of agricultural technologies and will be a valuable addition to our integrated offers in Vietnam."

Crop Biotech Update - ISAAA



America's Consumers Willing to Spend More for Biotech Potato Products



Above: Wallace Hoffman



New research conducted by economist Wallace Hoffman from Iowa State University (ISU) found that consumers are willing to spend more for genetically modified (GM) potato products with reduced levels of the chemical acrylamide which is linked to cancer. The US Food and Drug Administration has urged Americans to cut back on foods that contain the substance.

Huffman's research attempts to gauge consumer attitudes toward experimental GM potato products. The results of his research showed that consumers were willing to pay more for GM potato products that reduce the formation of acrylamide than for conventional potatoes. Huffman said that the results provide evidence that consumers are willing to pay more for enhanced food safety, even when it's delivered through biotech methods.

Participants were willing to pay US\$1.78 more for a five-pound bag of potatoes after receiving scientific information on hazards associated with acrylamide exposure and a potato industry perspective on dramatically reducing acrylamide in potato products using biotechnology. The participants were also willing to pay an extra US\$1.33 for a package of frozen french fries after they received materials explaining the scientific implications of human exposure to acrylamide.

Crop Biotech Update - ISAAA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meeting with DRCQIPA Cameroon, Yaoundé	March 25
IPM / RU Project Team Meeting, Brussels	April 8
Stewardship Steering Committee, Brussels	April 9
CLAME Staff Meeting	April 11-13
Visit to Ethiopia to cover SSP projects and Hub meeting preparation	April 13-17
SWEEP-NET Meeting, Tunis, GIZ Project Container Management	April 15-17
Hub and Regulatory Meeting WCA, Abidjan	May 5-6
Training of Dealers, Applicators and Stockists; CropLife CI	May 18-22
Meeting of the Obsolete Stocks Project Team, Brussels	May 20
Container Management Workshop, South Africa	May 22
BEECON South Africa	May 30
ED Research Needs workshop Brussels	June 1
Global Regulatory Steering Committee Meeting, Brussels	June 2-3
CLAME Board and AGM Meeting, Brussels	June 8-9





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