

President of CropLife International Addresses ExCo Meeting



ExCo group meets with Howard Minigh (5th from the left)

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Howard Minigh, President of CropLife International attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of CropLife Africa Middle East which was held on the 5th and 6th February. In a special session, the Howard delivered a presentation highlighting the CLI structure and discussed priorities for 2008. He emphasized the need to focus on certain areas which required greater interaction. These are:

- ◆ The active role for Stewardship and the Africa Stockpiles Programme
- ◆ The emphasis on the 'Knowledge Hub' and advocacy plans developed by the Global Communication Committee
- ◆ The promotion of a biotech acceptance programme in Africa Middle East

At the meeting the area coordinators delivered presentations covering achievements and future activities in the three regional hubs, which resulted in positive discussions between the Executive Committee members and Howard Minigh.

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ExCo meets in Brussels

The Executive Committee of CropLife Africa Middle East held its first meeting for 2008 in Brussels on 5th and 6th February. A number of administrative and budgetary issues were discussed and the expense budget for 2008 was approved. Special topics for implementation for the year were also discussed and outlined. They were:

- **Assessment of National Associations**

ExCo confirmed the need for conducting an assessment of the past performance of national associations within the region. It was agreed that Peter van den Hoek will lead the assessment exercise together with area coordinators to determine the ranking of associations and prioritization of activities in line with the outcome of the assessments.

- **Container Management**

The meeting reviewed the issue of developing container management projects based on the experience in South Africa with DromMonster as presented by Les Hillowitz together with current projects in ESA. It was decided that parallel surveys for developing container management projects should be carried out in West Central Africa and North Africa Middle East regional hubs.

- **Roll Out of the Code of Conduct**

A programme for rollout of the International Code of Conduct developed in liaison with the CLI global secretariat was reviewed and approved for implementation in 2008. The major components of the programme included the introduction of e-learning, the development of a CoC toolkit and cooperation with CropLife International. It was agreed that the regional coordinator would lead this liaison programme.

- **CropLife Brand**

The meeting reviewed the successful implementation of the CropLife brand and logo in the region, and decided to develop a proposal on the prospective policy on usage of the CropLife brand and Logo

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News — Southern Africa



L-R Wally Green, Consultant, Chantal Arendse, Dept of Agriculture, Greg Jaffe, Wadzi Mandivenyi, DEAT, Renusha Chandar, Dept of Health



Collection of empty pesticide containers in Vredendal in the Western Cape

Biotechnology – South Africa

A workshop on ensuring an efficient, effective and fair biosafety regulatory system in South Africa took place on 27th and 28th of February. This was arranged by PBS in partnership with AfricaBio with the workshop led by Dr Greg Jaffe.

Although the workshop focused on the regulatory system within South Africa, outside countries which participated included Malawi, Kenya and Cameroon.

A summary of the biosafety regulatory systems including the approaches of the various government departments was given by:

Department of Agriculture; Department of Health; Department of Science & Technology; Department of Trade & Industry.

The Regulatory System in Practice included the experience of developers in the following areas:

The Bt Potato project The Virus Resistant Maize project Pioneer Hi-Bred RSA

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Container Management Rollout in South Africa

The rollout of the container management initiative in South Africa took a positive step with the franchising of the programme in the Western Cape which is a key agricultural production region. With the inclusion of this first franchisee in the area, a total of 100,000 containers were collected during January with an estimated 60,000 drums in February.

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Building Training Capacity within the E&SA Region

With the departure of Peter Mills an opportunity was taken to consider the development of training capacity in the E&SA region rather than depending on the skills and availability of one person. Discussions took place with Joe Siyoko of South Africa and Herman Louw of Namibia. Both parties are keen to become part of the programme. A proposed action plan was developed and put forward to CLAME Management.

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E&SA Regulatory Harmonisation Discussions

During the CLAME ExCo meeting in Brussels the opportunity was taken to hold discussion with Dr Roland Levy on the EAG Regulatory Harmonisation Initiative and to suggest dates for the meeting programme in 2008.

West & Central Africa Update



Group photo of trainees with certificates, trainers and officials with Lucien Kouamé, Director of Crop Protection (1), representing the Ministry of Agriculture, and Issa Coulibaly (2), Managing Director of ALM-AO, representing the MDs of member companies of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire.

STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

COTE D'IVOIRE

A group of 59 participants from the pesticide industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, industrial plantation representatives from the palm oil and rubber industry and other individual companies in Côte d'Ivoire attended an evaluation workshop held between 18th and 22nd of February. Participants committed themselves to combat fraud, counterfeiting and to inform the authorities of any irregularities that may occur. Fifty eight participants passed the evaluation test and were awarded certificates. Well done to all of them.

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DAKAR, SENEGAL

During the 25th and 29th of February a group of nine Master Trainers and two members of the pesticide industry received certificates of participation. The event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture Regulations Department, Extension Agents/Ag Counselors, members of the Pesticide Industry and a member from the Ministry of Health. At the workshop training materials were distributed to all participants. Commitments were made by CropLife Senegal covering dates and activities relating to training follow-ups. Other issues to be covered are the Stewardship reports and upliftment of the association in line with the CropLife Africa Middle East priorities.

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Mr Mane NDene Lo (1), Director of Crop Protection Department/Ministry of Agriculture of Senegal, presenting the CropLife Africa Middle East Training Prize to A. Diouf (2), proudly showing the prize to executives of CropLife Senegal among which Mr Demba Camara, CEO of SPIA (3) and I. Dieye President of CropLife Senegal (4).

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Alliances & Cooperation in Mali

ALLIANCES AND CO-OPERATION AGREED TO ON A VISIT TO MALI

A visit to Mali with the objective to strengthen cooperation between stakeholders in the CPP sector took place in mid February. Pierre Flyer Sainte Marie (Hub Chair), CropLife Mali, Noon Disarray and Check Omar Sassoon attended this event along with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, ASP Mali and IFDC-Mali. Separate meetings were held with the stakeholders in which the following issues were discussed. The meetings were a success and the following agreements were reached:

- Full implementation of pesticides laws and decrees for a sound business environment
- Continuous support from CropLife to national regulations and regional harmonization
- Strong measures to combat counterfeit and fake products
- Support from CropLife for initiatives for the implementation of IPR measures to protect companies and secure innovative products and services
- Professionalize retailers and dealers for the safe handling of CPP's
- Full interaction and contribution to ASP Mali.

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News Snippets

It's the International Year of the Potato!

The United Nations has declared 2008 the International Year of the Potato. The potato is the world's fourth-most-important food crop after maize, wheat and rice. It provides more calories, more quickly, using less land and in a wider range of climates than any other plant. The UN hopes that greater awareness of the merits of potatoes will contribute to the achievement of its Millennium Development goals, by helping to alleviate poverty, improve food security and promote economic development. Unlikely though it seems, the potato promotes economic development by underpinning the industrial revolution in England in the 19th century. It provided a cheap source of calories and was easy to cultivate, so it liberated workers from the land. *The Economist*

Trivia: Up until the late 18th century, the French believed that potatoes caused leprosy.

Election Time

CropLife Madagascar are pleased to announce that Rivo Andramanalina was re-elected as the Chairman of the national association.

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CropLife South Africa congratulate Antonie Delpont who was elected as President of the national association.

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