



Stewardship

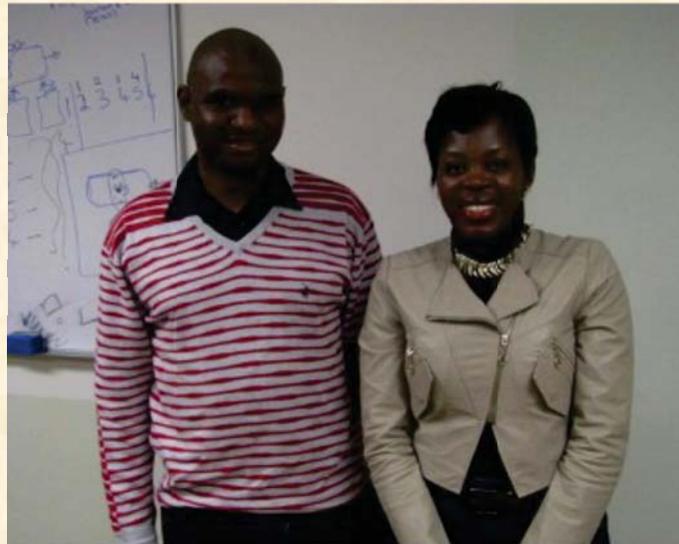
Obsolete Stocks - South Africa

On Tuesday 9 July a meeting took place with the Department of Environmental Affairs in Pretoria to try to find a way forward for the safeguarding and disposal of the ±200 tons identified as Phase (2) during the Africa Stockpiles Programme. The World Bank closed the project before these stocks could be removed.

Participating at the meeting was the Director, Ms. Christina Masimula and her assistant Rendani Ndou. The Chief Director, Mr. Tshepo Moremi who had earlier confirmed his availability, had regrettably been called away to another meeting.

With the numerous changes that have taken place within the Department, a catch-up was needed by the new team on how they intend, if at all, to take this further.

Les Hillowitz



Rendani Ndou and Christina Masimula

Meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture - Kenya



L-R, Jackson Mbatha, Richard Sikuku, Joe Ngetich, Ann Onyango, Keith Jones

A meeting took place with the Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya, to address the issue of disposing of the obsolete pesticides collected under the CleanFarms project and currently housed at the Kabete store.

Partaking in the discussions were:

Ann Onyango, Acting Agricultural Secretary - MoA

Joseph Ngetich, Deputy Director of Agriculture - MoA

Richard Sikuku - CropLife Kenya

Jackson Mbatha - CropLife Kenya

Keith Jones - CropLife

Les Hillowitz - CropLife

Several possibilities were developed, all of which need to be explored further. It is hoped that a solution will be found within the next month or so.

Les Hillowitz

World Cocoa Foundation-ACI SSP: Coordinators Meeting



Participants to the workshop included the four National Coordinators as well as the WCF-ACI Coordinator and the ME coordinator

Representatives from CropLife AME, the four National Coordinators from the target countries; Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria, the Project Manager (Bama Yao) and Technical Coordinator (Manon Dohmen), and the WCF-ACI, Project Coordinator (Nene Kodjo) and the Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) Coordinator, (Edwin Afari), got together 15 – 17 July in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the ongoing activities of the project and provide guidance for the M & E follow-up.

The National Coordinators presented on their ongoing country activities. These were discussed as well as the difficulties identified, with a focus on the following recommendations:

- Training of SSPs: the national associations and participating member companies should start immediately on this crucial step. The SSPs recorded in Ghana and Nigeria were trained by partner organizations. The participating member companies should be encouraged to sign a contract with the national association as discussed previously, for a follow-up and release of the training subsidy. The selection of SSP's must take into account the age (only adults) and a reasonable level of literacy for adequate record keeping. The National Coordinators must be committed to build a database on the SSPs and put in place a motivational policy.
- Accreditation: SSP trainers will be asked to collect the needed information for the setting up of the accreditation procedure of the SSPs. Accreditation should consider the implication of local authorities wherever possible, as well as key stakeholders and partner organizations including farmer organizations.
- Strengthening cooperation and alliances, country specific actions and the contribution of the National Coordinators to the regional reports were covered.
- Guidance on M & E: The WCF-ACI Coordinator provided the objective of the M & E activities under USAID funded projects and gave insight on the requirements for the WCF-ACI project. This guidance led to the need to develop a questionnaire to collect the needed information from the farmers as well as from the SSPs.

Bama Yao



Representing the Plant Science Industry

ICCO SPS African Cocoa: Launch of the National Project

On 25 July, in Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire, 70 representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, four other ministries (Commerce, Finances, Industry, Health), FIRCA, Cocoa-Coffee Counsel, research and extension (CNRA, ANADER), EU, US Embassy, Japanese Embassy, the German cooperation (GIZ), WCF, professional organizations (CropLife CI, farmers, applicators, bean exporters etc), met to officially kick-off the project and sensitize key stakeholders on the issue of sanitation and residues as key to maintaining market access.

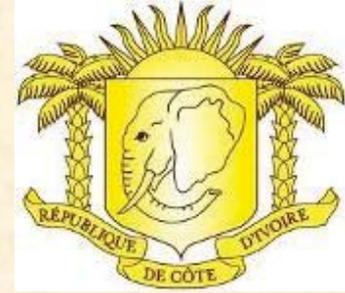
Addresses during the opening ceremony were presented by the Regional Coordinator representing ICCO, FIRCA, the implementing body of the project, the Cocoa-Coffee Counsel and the Director of Agriculture and Food Security representing the Minister of Agriculture.

The Plenary session focused on:

- An overview of the project highlighting the objectives, targets and beneficiaries, also the outputs. The activities are specified by the partners and funders namely, the Cocoa-Coffee Counsel, WTO/STDF, UNIDO, CropLife AME and EDES.
- Managing pests and diseases in cocoa production (ANADER) covered key insects (capsids, borers), fungal diseases, (Phytophthora spp) and weed control. Also sanitation and the training of farmers for correct pesticide selection and usage as well as overall farm management.
- Chemical residues in cocoa beans (LANADA laboratory) and related health risks and market issues. Such residues include (but are not limited to) pesticides. The presence of mycotoxins, nanoparticles and other contaminants were also covered .

Recommendations were made on the importance for using only registered pesticides and good application equipment. The need for training and capacity building for pesticide applicators and the expected role of partners in the ongoing SSP intervention of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire was stressed in the discussions.

Bama Yao



Regulatory

Training Workshop covering the revision of the Pesticide Regulations & Protection of Regulatory Data and Confidential Business Information: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

On 10 July, 22 participants representing the Pesticides Committee (Registrars of the inter-ministerial committee) of the 12 ministries involved in pesticide registration, the Directorate of Plant Protection and the consultants in charge of drafting the new pesticides decree, got together to propose a new decree to the Ministry of Agriculture for discussion and adoption by the government.

The meeting was also used to sensitize and provide guidance to the registrars and regulators on the issue of PRD/CBI and also on overall intellectual property as a key to sound regulations to support and attract innovations.

As a follow-up to the PoR rollout workshop in 2012, the Pesticides Committee received support from the World Bank which is funding the West African Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) being implemented by the Inter-professional Funds for Research and Counseling in Agriculture (Fonds Interprofessionnel de la Recherche et du Conseil Agricoles, FIRCA). The activities to be conducted under WAAPP include the improvement (revision) of the pesticide regulatory framework and alignment of such frameworks within the ECOWAS regional pesticides regulations initiative.

The new decree takes into account strong measures against the increasing level of counterfeiting and the illegal trade in pesticides, a real concern for national and regional authorities in W. Africa. An inter-ministerial committee comprising 12 key ministerial departments has been proposed to define and monitor the activities of a "Pesticides Police Force" an empowered squad in charge of inspecting, seizing and prosecuting illegal activities in pesticides.

Guidance was also provided to include PRD/CBI following the session facilitated by the WCA Regional Coordinator at the beginning of the workshop. The Director of the Crop Protection Directorate and Chairman of the Pesticides Committee also based such recommendations on the discussions during the annual WCA Hub workshop, which he attended. Participants expressed great interest in the knowledge provided during the session and the need for such a training to be conducted together with industry participants to offer a platform for fruitful exchanges.

Bama Yao



The Pesticide Committee representing the 12 ministries discussing the new decree to provide a sound regulatory framework with a special focus on the combating of the illegal trade in pesticides.



Representing the Plant Science Industry

The Regional Regulatory Committee (RRC) meets with the Agricultural Pesticides Committee (APC) in Cairo on June 13, 2013



Following the cancellation of the first meeting date due to the uncertain political situation in March, the second meeting took place in Cairo on June 13, 2013. This second date turned out to be equally critical – something which was very accurately predicted and anticipated by CropLife Egypt under the very supportive and competent guidance of its Chairman Sarwat Sakr. The new meeting took place just two days before the massive street protests in Cairo started and which resulted in a government change the following week.

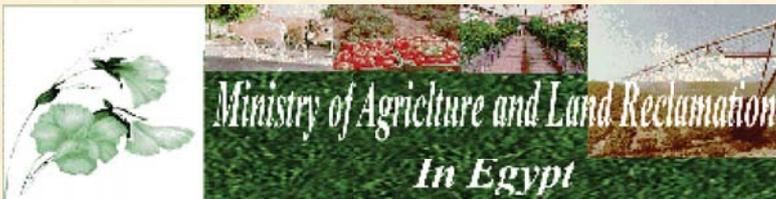
Initially the Minister of Agriculture was extremely interested to meet with the CropLife delegation but due to a peaceful, but very vociferous protest on the ground floor of the building by a delegation of unpaid temporary workers of the Ministry (we were told that they had not received any pay for the past 7 months) the Minister finally decided not to join our meeting. The meeting itself took place as scheduled and despite these slightly difficult circumstances almost all members of the APC were present.

The Chairman of the APC, Prof Dr. Abdel Megeed and its secretary Prof. Dr. Mohamed A. A. Saleh first gave an introduction on the Egyptian regulatory system for pesticides. Following this introduction, Bernhard Johnen first presented the global CropLife initiative “Principles of Regulations”. He then also shared the concept and use of the standard questionnaire to conduct a benchmark evaluation of the national pesticide system in comparison to internationally applied standards and principles. For lack of time this so called “gap analysis” could not be undertaken but the APC confirmed its strong interest to conduct this exercise together with industry representatives at the earliest possible date in the coming months.

In addition to the more general topic of the “Principles of Regulation” the meeting discussed the specific Egyptian regulatory issues on label color bands related to the product hazard classification and also the value of special marks on packaging to distinguish authentic and legal products from illegal and fake copies.

Despite the difficult circumstances the meeting was conducted in a very constructive and fruitful spirit. Both sides agreed that this meeting should be followed up shortly, and if possible regular meetings between CropLife and the APC should take place annually. Much appreciation goes to CropLife Egypt and its Chairman, Sarwat Sakr who successfully managed all the extra challenges caused by the political situation and who was able to secure well planned safe travel arrangement for all meeting participants.

Rudolf Guyer



Anti-Counterfeiting

CropLife Kenya: Anti-Counterfeiting Training

On 18 & 19 July, two back-to-back anti-counterfeiting interventions took place in Kenya. The first group comprised of Government Extension Officers and KEPHIS whilst the second, representatives from the Pesticide Industry. Members of the PCPB were present in both groups. There were approximately 25 participants in each of the groups.

The course content covered the following:

1. What is a pesticide?
2. How to read a pesticide label
3. What are counterfeit & illegal pesticides and how to identify these
4. The illegal trade in pesticides
5. The consequences of counterfeit and illegal pesticides
6. Import documentation of pesticides
7. Kenya specific issues:
 - Why do we have counterfeit products? Where are the weaknesses in the system?
 - What can we do about this?

The conclusions and recommendations highlighted a number of key points of which the following deserve special mention:

- The devastating effects of counterfeit products to our industry were clearly demonstrated, including the difficulties to distinguish between fake and genuine products.
- The challenge to tackle this issue should start with the list of weaknesses identified in the current supply chain. In this regard CropLife Kenya should encourage stakeholders to reinvigorate the Steering Committee and Task Team to lead this.
- The PCPB must be encouraged to publish “alerts” on the presence of counterfeit products found in the market. The PCPB should regularly update the list of registered products and share these with interested stakeholders including the Customs Department.

Perry Ngoma



Left: Participants from Group 1



Right: Participants from Group 2

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Association Management

Association Management Training Workshop: CropLife Côte d'Ivoire

Participants diligently participated in the SWOT process to provide a roadmap for a possible new structure for the association for better performance



On 18 July, 13 participants representing member companies and the executive committee of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire underwent training in Association Management. The purpose of this was :

- to guide the national association on the strategic direction and organizational policies of CropLife Africa Middle East and CropLife International.

Bama Yao provided a refresher presentation on the organization, strategic priorities and policies including the new Charter. Manon Dohmen then took the participants into an interactive exercise to develop a SWOT analysis of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire:

- Strengths: dynamic organization, representing major pesticide suppliers, good relationships with the authorities, training programs, and sound membership support.
- Weaknesses: commitment of project committees, follow-up of training activities, weak internal and external communications
- Opportunities: various projects in the agricultural sector such as SSPs, ICCO-SPS etc
- Threats: increasing demand in pesticide usage and weak enforcement of regulations, weak coordination of training activities.
- Structure of the association: guidance was also provided to consider a secretarial pool, entirely dedicated to management, handling all the activities and reporting to the Executive Committee.
- Strengthening of alliances and partnerships: the discussions focused on the identification of potential stakeholders and their activities, areas for possible cooperation, preparing and submitting a proposal and other negotiation processes including funding.

Bama Yao

Manon Dohmen
facilitating the training



Kenya: New EU Demand on Export of French Beans Hurts Local Firms

Kenyan fresh produce dealers have to ship 10 percent samples for tests before getting a nod to access the EU market

Exporters of French beans and other vegetables will be subjected to tighter scrutiny before they are allowed to access the European market.

Kenya's horticultural market in the European Union has come under threat after some local French beans were found to have high levels of dimethoate (above the accepted Maximum Residual Levels).

The country is now among those that are required to provide 10 percent samples for tests before they are allowed to export fresh produce to the EU market.

About 5,000 farmers have been affected by the new requirement and have been banned, cutting the volumes of horticulture exports to the EU market by 30 percent.

Consequently, the cost of business for accessing a market for a shipment has increased to not less than £740 (about Sh80, 000), and is seeing exporters suffer more losses.

Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) Managing Director, James Onsando said exporters would have to meet certain minimum requirements to eliminate briefcase exporters who have been blamed for the current predicament.

KEPHIS, however, said the new measures by the EU were punitive, as only two notifications in 2011 regarding higher levels of dimethoate and one in 2012 involving disinfectant residue in snow peas were reported.

"We have accepted that this has happened (raising the sample levels to 10 percent). We have formed a four-legged strategy where every leg is a government institution. KEPHIS is doing pest monitoring, the Pesticide Control Board is monitoring usage of pesticides, and the Horticultural Development Authority is in charge of traceability of products"

He added, "if farmers fail on any of these, they will be denied phyto-sanitary certificates. The reason we are doing this is to ensure we are quickly removed from the list and revert to one percent, sampling which will be good for all of us". He said EU officials would be coming to Kenya in November for a regular audit, but are also expected to review the measures the government is undertaking to solve the matter.

"There are a few farmers who, instead of using the right chemicals, go to the neighbourhood agrovet shop and buy chemicals for coffee and spray this on horticulture – those are the worst. There are also some few briefcase exporters who buy French beans and other horticulture products by the roadside and do not know the source. These are integrity issues that need to be dealt with", Mr. Onsando said.

Fresh Produce and Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK) Chief Executive, Stephen Mbithi said about 10 export firms were affected by the new demand, adding that it was negatively affecting the sector.

He said the companies had paid about Sh200 million for tests and those detected to have higher MRL's paid 100 percent for the checks – which was punitive.

Mr. Onsando, however, said the requirement had not hit Kenya only, adding that countries like India are required to provide 50 percent samples for some of their products before entering the EU market.

"If we do not take care, Kenya could be required to provide 20 percent samples, meaning only 80 percent would go straight to the shelves as the other 20 percent is subjected to tests for two-to-three days, reducing its freshness," he noted.

Mwaniki Wahome, Daily Nation.



Left: Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) Managing Director, James Onsando



Right: Fresh Produce and Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK) Chief Executive, Stephen Mbithi

Tanzania: Farm Input Suppliers Lock Horns With The Cotton Development Trust Over Unpaid Debt

Several major agricultural inputs importers and distributors have lodged complaints with the Cotton Development Trust Fund (CDTF) over their unpaid 2011 / 2012 debts amounting to 5 billion Tanzanian Shillings.

The Guardian has established that towards the end of 2011, several major input suppliers delivered pesticides to end users through the CDTF and the products were distributed accordingly through a system which was agreed upon by all parties.

Unfortunately, the distributors say, they have not been paid as per the agreed terms and conditions.

The terms state that among other things input suppliers should be paid within 90 days after delivery of supply.

In an exclusive interview with The Guardian, the Chairman of CropLife Tanzania, (an association mandated to oversee the safe use of agro-chemicals) Harish Dhutia said that the pesticide business is in jeopardy because the CDTF, which is authorized to regulate availability and timely application of inputs, failed to honour its obligation.

"We have an arrangement whereby through a public procurement regulatory authority tender system, agro input dealers deliver pesticides to cotton growers on the understanding that the latter will pay back the loan. In this deal the CDTF is the guarantor" said Dhutia.

He added: "It is important to know that dealers borrow money from commercial banks to facilitate the importation of agro products. Delay in paying interest means unnecessary penalties".

He noted that in September 2012, the CDTF assured pesticide suppliers that all outstanding debts would be paid before the end of November last year but the pledge was not honoured.

According to him, agro inputs suppliers conduct their business with diligence and contribute much to the development of the agriculture industry in the country, but due to the cash flow crises by credit defaulters, they are unable to import and stock sufficient agricultural inputs.

Dhutia however said that the CDTF, Tanzania Cotton Board and Tanzania Cotton Growers Association, arranged to have a meeting with input suppliers to work out the modality of supplying insecticides for the coming season.

Under this arrangement agro-dealers agreed to continue supplying inputs on extended credit terms and deal values at approximately 8 billion Tanzanian Shillings.

Reached for comment, the CDTF fund manager, Essau Mwalukasa said they delayed to pay input suppliers because the government had delayed to issue the agreed subsidy to them.

Aloyce Mpandana, The Guardian.

Plant Biotechnology

Nigeria to cultivate GM Crops in Commercial Quantity Soon

Nigerians will begin to cultivate genetically modified (GM) crops in commercial quantity very soon, the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) has said.

NABDA's Director General Prof Bamidele Solomon, said contrary to expectation, many Nigerians have embraced agricultural biotechnology and a lot of farmers are ready for GM farming in the country.

Solomon, who spoke in Abuja at the 10th anniversary seminar of the Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), said biotech is no longer viewed by Nigerian farmers through the lens of suspicion and uncertainty but has been wholeheartedly accepted by many of them.

Prof Solomon said the new agric technology would create a food secure Nigeria if many more farmers embraced it. But it is gladdening that the Nigerian people are becoming more open to the technology and its numerous benefits and applications, the NABDA DG said, adding that its impact will be immeasurable.

More success will be recorded by the country in the area of food security if the passed biosafety bill is signed by President Goodluck Jonathan, he noted.

He said with law in place, a lot of international agencies would bring in development projects that would impact positively on Nigerians.

"Having a law will ensure the safe use of modern biotechnology while protecting human health, the environment and national biodiversity".

Zakariyya Adaramola

UPCOMINGevents**UPCOMING**events**UPCOMING**events

Launch of the WCF-ACI SSP project in Côte d'Ivoire	Aug 14
GM Crops & Food Safety Symposium, Pretoria, South Africa	Aug 16
E & SA Hub and Regulatory Workshop, Umhlanga, South Africa	Aug 20-21
SSP training in the Central Region of Cameroon	Aug 20-23
Association Training workshop for CropLife Ghana, Accra	Sept 4
INTERPOL Anti-Counterfeiting Workshop, Botswana	Sep 9-11
SSP training in the South-West Region of Cameroon	Sep 9-13
RRC Meeting in Monheim at the Bayer offices	Sep 16-17
CropLife Sudan Association Management Training Workshop, Khartoum	Sep 24-25



GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

Representing the Plant Science Industry



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