



North Africa Middle East Hub & Regulatory Meetings

The annual North Africa and Middle East Industry Hub Meeting and Regional Regulatory Harmonization Workshop convened in Cairo, Egypt at the Sheraton Cairo and Pyramisa Hotels (pictured below) between 21st and 22nd of November, 2006.

The meetings were attended by over 120 participants representing the national industry associations, including Dr. Rudolf Guyer, President of CropLife Africa Middle East (pictured right), as well as country registrars of pesticides, global industry experts and delegates of regional and international organizations.

Conference proceedings covered several thematic areas, including training workshops on international conventions on chemicals management, industry workshop on development of country action plans and registrars workshop in the context of the harmonisation of pesticide regulations in the region. Details on next two pages.



What's happening?

- Training in Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire
- North Africa Middle East Hub & Regulatory meetings
- ASP in Eritrea, Kenya, South Africa
- MoU with COMESA
- IFDC Kyrgyzstan agri-input association study tour
- Crop Protection Strategy Council Priorities
- West Africa Cooperation
- South Africa: Container Management; ASP; SA-PIP
- New publications & pictures online
- Forthcoming events



Training workshops on International Conventions

During the first day of the CropLife Africa Middle East hub & regulatory meetings for North Africa Middle East, three interactive workshops were conducted in cooperation with CropLife International global project teams focusing on the roles and commitments by government authorities and industry reps in line with International Conventions on Chemicals Management. The three workshops covered the following areas:

FAO Code of Conduct implementation, led by Bernhard Johnen (pictured left) of CropLife International.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), led by William Horton (pictured centre) of BASF.

Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC), led by Ian Wheals (pictured right) of Syngenta.



North Africa Middle East Hub Meeting

Attended by delegates of national associations from 12 countries of the region, the meeting focused on review of industry activities and resolution on country action plans in support of industry initiatives on Safe Use Responsible Use, IPM, obsolete stocks management and issues of IPR, biotechnology and communications.



The meeting also included presentations on priority issues delivered as follows:

Intellectual Property Rights: Data Exclusivity and Protection, presented by Douglas Nelson of CropLife America.

Building Training Capacity in Africa and the Middle East, presented by Peter Mills of CropLife Af-

rica Middle East.

Stewardship and IPM/ Responsible Use, presented by Eva Erisgen (picture on page one), Chair of CLI Global IPM Project Team.

IFDC activities and CropLife/IFDC cooperation, presented by Manon Dohmen (left) of IFDC.

Certification schemes on fruit Crops in Egypt, presented by Anna Maria D'onghia (below) of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy.

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Regulatory Harmonization Workshop

Attended by 17 country registrars of the region together with facilitators from the AOAD and regulatory experts from CropLife member companies, the workshop concluded specific recommendations and actions towards harmonized measures on:

Adoption of harmonized Application Form for Registration of Pesticides.

Approval of a master label project format.

Approval of a harmonized registration certificate format.

Development of pesticide data base for Arab countries by AOAD.

Approval of harmonized quality control criteria.

Agreement in principle on issues of information exchange and mutual recognition of trial results.

Outlining a roadmap on implementation of regulatory measures.

The meetings were organised by CropLife Africa Middle East in cooperation with the AOAD and CropLife Egypt and were held under the patronage of the Minister of Agriculture of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Contact: ali-croplife@nets.com.jo



Container Management: South Africa

A “Container Management Working Group” has been established under the auspices of the Plastics Federation of South Africa. Two meetings took place during the period and two recyclers have been identified who are able to partake in the initiative on a national basis. A short term action plan was developed and the report back is scheduled for late January 07. The Department of Agriculture who serves on the working group is extremely positive on the approach taken by Industry.

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Pictured are members of the working group. Seated (left to right): Douw Steyn, Environmental Manager, Plastics Federation of South Africa; Horst Seute, Raprex Polymers; Mark Gibson, Timber Plastics.

Standing (left to right): Tjaart du Plessis,



EcoWood; Les Hillowitz, CropLife Africa Middle East; Dave Hughes, Executive Director, Plastics Federation of South Africa; Jonathan Mudzunga, Department of Agriculture; Alan Smith, Head, Project Management, Syngenta South Africa.



Somalia Training and more

Jack Aston and Giorgio Vassalli, of the UNA IPM Project in Somalia, together with their teams of trainers have been rather busy in Somalia recently. In the first week of November, they held six training sessions, training more than 200 farmers in various aspects of IPM, crop protection and responsible use of pesticides. They plan to have another 42 sessions over the next few weeks.



They are also working on a grain storage project, to allow farmers to store their harvests and protect against storage pests.

Pesticide stores in some centres are being revamped in an attempt to ensure personnel and environmental safety.

The project will begin soon with some collaboration with the Agricultural Faculty of Amoud University, Abokor Sh. Abdi Mah'ed. It is likely that farmer field schools will be established for educating local farmers and assisting with the training of the 70 students registered in the faculty.

More collaboration is possible with the

Kings College Hospital, London who were present at the University, offering assistance to their Faculty of Medicine. Jack will attempt to set a MOU with the Faculty.

Several growing guideline books have already been published, but new ones for citrus, some vegetable crops are being developed.

Both Jack and Giorgio attended the CropLife Africa Middle East Master Trainers course which was held in Tanzania in August. CropLife Africa Middle East is a partner in the UNA IPM Project, having made financial contributions.

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Eritrea ASP Inventory Planning

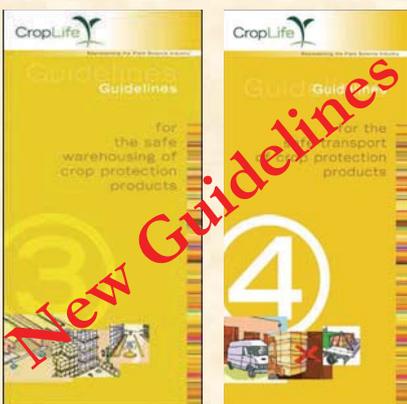
Richard Thompson, Chief Technical Advisor, FAO led an Inventory Planning Training mission to Eritrea for the Africa Stockpiles Programme. The objective of the mission was to establish an inventory work plan for the Eritrean ASP project. Peter Mills of CropLife Africa Middle East assisted Richard in the five day workshop. Potential inventory staff from various sectors within the government and private sector participated in determining their own specific work plan for Eritrea.

Tekleab Mesghina, Ministry of Agriculture (pictured right with Richard Thompson) leads the country project. The work plan sets out the structures and roles of staff and the work plan for the inventory. Over the next few months logistics will be established to set up the project which is due to start the inventory in March, 2007. The inventory is likely to be completed by November, 2007.



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New Guidelines & Pictures on-line



Pictures

Note that the CropLife Guidelines on Warehousing (3) and Transport (4) are now available on the CropLife International website. So too are all the pictures from all the new guidelines. Visit: www.croplife.org. First click "Resource Centre", then "Publications" for the guidelines. First click "Press Room", then "Image Resources" for the images.

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CropLife South Africa and SA-PIP

CropLife South Africa and SA-PIP (South African Pesticides Initiative Programme) teamed up to develop CropLife South Africa's Responsible Pesticide Use manual. This was a refresher training for resource personnel as well as a workshop to further develop and harmonise the content of the manual. Peter Mills of CropLife Africa Middle East and Tom Mabesa of CropLife South Africa contributed. Debbie Tschepen will take the findings and complete the manual, including using all the new CropLife International training guidelines' pictorial materials. The new manual will be ready early 2007. Contact: peter.mills@mweb.co.za



Crop Protection Strategy Council Priorities

Based on the restructuring of CropLife International and the formation of new Strategy Councils, CropLife members are expected now to realign their focus towards four priority areas set by the Crop Protection Strategy Council (CPSC). These are:

- Intellectual Property Rights
- Regulations
- Stewardship & Sustainable Agriculture:
 - Responsible Use/IPM Promotion
 - FAO Code of Conduct Implementation

- Obsolete Stocks
- Container Management
- Communications

All activities (including action plans) and subsequent reporting must reflect the above mentioned four priority areas. Action Plans for 2007 for the three hubs are to be presented and adopted according to these four priorities. Area Coordinators will review and structure budgets to reflect the priority areas.

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CropLife Côte d'Ivoire Training

Under the patronage of the Ministry of Agriculture, CropLife Côte d'Ivoire initiated and conducted a five day Responsible Use training course between 27-Nov-2006 and 01-Dec-2006, in Grand-Bassam, which is 30 km South East of Abidjan. The opening ceremony was chaired by the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Fataye Akamou, Deputy Manager Crop Protection Department. The training was also attended by CropLife Côte d'Ivoire President, Justin Yeboue and CropLife Africa Middle East Area Coordinator for West Central Africa, Bama Octave Yao. Participants (see below left) included 36 applicators from private sector, 13 retailers from private sector, 10 prescribers from administration, private sector. Included in the participants were 15 females

(25%). All participants received a certificate of competence, which is now a requirement for licensing. The following topics were covered: Overview/Basics on Pesticides; Toxicity/Risks; Poisoning; Security/First Aid; Safe Handling of Pesticides; Storage; Transport; Uses; GAP; Protection of Users, Consumers and the Environment; Application of Pesticides; Fraudulent Products/Counterfeits.

The training was conducted by trainers who have previously attended the CropLife Africa Middle East Master Trainers courses in Côte d'Ivoire. They also made use of the CropLife Africa Middle East training materials (see below right) which were provided to all trainers attending Master Trainers courses.

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West Africa Cooperation

Bama Octave Yao, CropLife Africa Middle East Area Coordinator for West Central Africa has been working towards forming new strategic alliances and partnerships. It is likely that CropLife Africa Middle East will soon begin working with the **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**, a Canadian public institution supporting development in Developing Countries. Possible cooperation is in the areas of rural and urban poverty alleviation. Discussions will continue so as to identify specific activities and prepare a framework for cooperation. With the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**, agreement was reached to involve CropLife Senegal in an ongoing project on "Preserving Coastal Ecosystems" in Senegal. Of particular concern is the (mis)use of CPP's for fishing. Contact: bama-croplife@aviso.ci



IFDC Kyrgyzstan Tour includes West Africa CropLife Members

Eight executive members from West African agro-input trade associations participated in a study tour to Kyrgyzstan organized by the IFDC/MIR (Regional Agro-Input Market) project in collaboration with the Association of Agribusinessmen of Kyrgyzstan (AAK). The tour was hosted by **Ed Beaman** of IFDC in Kyrgyzstan and led by **Raphael Vogelsperger** and **Manon Dohmen** of IFDC, and **Aziza Yuldasheva** of AAK (pictured below), with participants from CropLife Côte d'Ivoire, CropLife Senegal, CropLife Nigeria, joined by other agricultural input dealer association executives (pictured right).



The main objectives were to exchange success and challenges, to share ideas and experiences on association development within the agro-input trade sector, and to participate in the third Central Asia agro-input trade fair (Silk Road Agro-Expo).

Between October 24 and November 5, 2006, participants investigated:

- **services** that associations provide to members, such as trade shows, credit access facilitation, training programs, extension, demonstration plots, branding for sale outlets, linkages to suppliers and customers, lobbying, business planning.
- **structure** of an association and membership increase.
- **daily management** of an association.
- **association finance** and income generating activities.



- **association sustainability**.

Each day, participants discussed issues and shared experience. Key elements in running a successful association include leadership; motivation; creativity; choice, training and fast rotation of the leaders.

In 2007, IFDC will follow up the West African associations in the implementation of their recommendations.

The IFDC/MIR project, funded by the Netherlands, has trained more than 500 association members of West African agro-input private sector since 2003, including many CropLife members. The MIR project has been assisting more than ten associations, including CropLife National Associations in West Africa to strengthen their organization so that they become the representative voice for the private sector and play an active role in the professionalisation and sustainable development of the West African agro-input market.

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CropLife Africa Middle East signs MoU with COMESA

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is a regional integration of African states (Burundi, Comoros, DRC, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) which have agreed to promote regional integration through trade development and to develop their natural and human resources for the mutual benefit of all their peoples.



COMESA evolved from the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern & Southern Africa on 08-December-1994 and this date is now celebrated within the region as COMESA Day. A special event took place at the COMESA Secretariat in Lusaka, Zambia on COMESA Day this year when a MoU was signed between the regional organization and CropLife Africa Middle East, by the Secretary General of COMESA, Erastus J.O. Mwencha, MBS and the Vice President of CropLife Africa Middle East, Björn Neumann (pictured). The MoU outlines the framework of the partnership covering the promotion and facilitation of regional harmonization efforts on:

- Pesticide regulatory measures and registration systems.

Biosafety regulations for the registration and commercialization of genetically modified organisms (GMO's)

A meeting is scheduled for early 2007 to develop and roll out the action plans required.

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CropLife AME ExCo Meeting

The third and final CropLife Africa Middle East Executive Committee meeting was held 23-Nov-2006 at the Pyramisa Hotel, Cairo, Egypt, immediately after the region's hub and regulatory meetings. This meeting was chaired by Dr. Rudolf Guyer, President of CropLife Africa Middle East. The meeting addressed and resolved on following matters:

Review and approval of sub regional hub action plans of the year 2007.

Approval of the organisation's budget for the year 2006.

Support of technical consultation to regula-

tory system in Egypt.

Review of progress on obsolete stocks management, training, biotech and IPR projects in the region.

CropLife Africa Middle East holds three Executive Committee meetings annually, usually coinciding with regional hub and regulatory meetings, as many members are also participants in these meetings. This way, the Executive Committee is also able to reduce costs.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNUAL HUB AND REGULATORY WORKSHOPS

March 27-28, 2007

Lomé, Togo

The West & Central Africa Hub will hold its annual workshops on March 27-28, 2007 in Lomé, Togo. The workshop will be organised in cooperation with the International Centre for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development (IFDC), under the aegis of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic Monetary Union (WAEMU), under the patronage of the Minister of Agriculture of Togo.

Debates will focus on the urgent need for implementing a workable sub-regional pesticides regulatory harmonisation system for ECOWAS member states. In this view, regulatory and crop protection authorities from ECOWAS member states will validate and adopt the harmonised regulations framework proposed by ECOWAS and WAEMU. These authorities will benefit from inputs from the industry experts during the workshop.

For more information:

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News Snippets

Biotechnology

A meeting which included Björn Neumann was held with AfricaBio at which the past year's activities were covered and action plans developed for 2007. The focus countries for 2007 will be Uganda, Malawi, Swaziland and South Africa.

Kenya

Plans are in place for the start-up of a "container management" retrieval scheme. Also, with the help of Chris Waller, CropLife Africa Middle East are trying to line up Kenya as a potential Phase II country within the Africa Stockpiles Programme.

South Africa

The "kick-off" meeting for the start up of the ASP in South Africa took place on 9 November. The first of the nine provinces selected for clean up is Limpopo and this has been scheduled for Mar-07. The communications network will commence in early Jan-07.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- CropLife International Conference, "Intellectual Property: A Hindrance or a Boost to Innovation?", Hotel, Wyndham, Washington DC: 01-December-2006.
- IFDC Training of Trainers for CropLife Nigeria: 04-December to 08-December-2006.
- Global IPM and Safe Use Network Meeting, Speyer-Otterstadt, Germany: 05-December-2006.
- Sustainability and Stewardship Committee Meeting, Speyer-Otterstadt, Germany: December 6, 2006.
- Meeting of the FAO Code of Conduct Implementation Project Team, Limburgerhof, Germany: 7 to 8-December 2006.
- CropLife Senegal training of journalists and agricultural input dealers, including evaluation of Master Trainers, Dakar, Senegal: 11 to 15-December-2006.
- CropLife International Chemicals Committee Meeting, Washington, USA: 13 to 14-December 2006.
- CropLife Mali training of agricultural input dealers, including evaluation of Master Trainers, Bamako, Mali: 18 to 22-December-2006.
- Technical Launch of ASP-Mali: 18 to 21-December-2006.



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