



CropLife Africa Middle
East Newsletter

Number 73
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Message from Dr. Rudolf Guyer— Director General CropLife AME

During 2011 our association underwent some important changes with the objective to improve its longer-term operational and financial sustainability. In June, the Annual General Assembly approved changes to the Articles of the Association and By Laws to establish a new governance structure and a new scheme for membership fees. As regards the governance of the association, the new structure establishes a permanent role for a CEO / Director General primarily responsible for the daily management of the association. At the same time, the previous direct operational involvement of the Board of Directors (called the Executive Committee in the past) was changed to the classic strategic role of a Board of Directors. With these changes, CropLife Africa Middle East is now organized in line with most similar associations. However, these changes were only possible with a considerable increase of the previously rather modest membership fees. The General Assembly therefore also approved a respective change to the By-Laws resulting in a significant increase of the self-funding share of our association, which continues to receive meaningful budget support from the global CropLife network.

With several new company representatives joining the Board of Directors in 2010, the first Board Meeting in 2011 took place in February, in Paris, to agree on the strategic priorities to be addressed. These priorities are made public on our website www.croplifeafrica.org.

Regulatory Matters, Stewardship and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) including the fight against Counterfeit Products remain on the top of the list. With a view to achieve greater impact on selected priority markets, all country associations and markets have been subjected to a detailed priority ranking. For each hub these priority countries have now been established and will guide the allocation of available management time and the possible allocation of funding.

In order to improve transparency of expense spending for the individual strategic priorities and in line with the agreed priority markets, the existing accounting structure has been totally reformed. Under the new accounting scheme introduced in August 2011, a secretariat budget covers primarily the daily management of the association and a separate project budget contains the funds for project work. The new reporting system will also allow the capture of country specific expenses from 2012 onwards.

With the above reforms in place, our association finds itself well prepared to deliver the expected performance in our region. We will strive to offer our members the best possible support in the territory. With this goal in mind, our association will continue to increase its cooperation with external stakeholders with the aim of achieving a much bigger impact on the ground than just working alone. Existing cooperation arrangements have therefore been renewed and strengthened and new ones added. We are particularly pleased that in addition to the various existing agreements within the stewardship project CropLife Africa Middle East more and more is also seen as an important partner to shape and improve regulatory systems and frameworks. An excellent result has been achieved with the SADC region in East and Southern Africa where the Council of Ministers has approved a respective sub-regional regulatory guideline which was prepared with significant CropLife expertise and input. Also in West and Central Africa the CropLife involvement is increasingly valued by the responsible political structures.

In closing we would like to thank all our internal and external stakeholders for their support over the past year and we look forward to a continued cooperation with them in the future. We wish all our readers of this newsletter a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!



rudolf@croplifeafrica.org

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Message de Fin d'Année

Au cours de l'année 2011 notre association a connu des changements significatifs dans le but d'améliorer les performances opérationnelles à long terme et d'assurer la durabilité financière. Ainsi en juin l'AG annuelle a approuvé la révision des statuts et règlements intérieurs en vue de mettre en place une nouvelle structure de gouvernance et un nouveau schéma pour les cotisations des membres.

Pour ce qui concerne la gouvernance de l'association la nouvelle organisation établit un poste permanent de PDG/DG, responsable de la gestion quotidienne de l'association. Au même moment l'implication opérationnelle précédente du Conseil d'Administration (Comité Exécutif) est passée à un rôle stratégique classique de Conseil d'Administration.

Avec ces changements CropLife AME est à présent organisée comme les autres associations-sœurs. Cependant ces changements n'ont été possibles qu'avec une augmentation considérable des frais relativement modestes des membres dans le passé. L'AG a par ailleurs approuvé les modifications des règlements intérieurs pour une augmentation de la part des ressources internes de l'association qui continue de recevoir un financement significatif de CropLife International.

Plusieurs représentants des sociétés membres siégeant au Conseil d'Administration depuis 2010, la première de 2011 s'est tenue en Février à Paris, pour s'accorder sur les priorités stratégiques, lesquelles peuvent être consultées sur le site web www.croplifeafrica.org.

Les Réglementations, le Stewardship et les Droits de Propriété Intellectuelle avec la Lutte contre les Contrefaçons sont au premier rang. En vue d'un plus grand impact sur des marchés prioritaires toutes les associations nationales et les marchés ont été soumis à un classement de priorité. Pour chaque hub ce classement des pays prioritaires a été établi et va guider l'allocation du temps de gestion et du financement.

Dans le but d'améliorer la transparence des dépenses pour chacune des priorités stratégiques en rapport avec les marchés prioritaires la structure comptable actuelle a été totalement révisée. Le nouveau schéma comptable en cours depuis Août 2011 a introduit un budget secrétariat pour couvrir la gestion quotidienne de l'association et un budget projet couvrant les priorités stratégiques. Le nouveau cadre comptable captive par ailleurs les dépenses spécifiques aux pays pour l'année 2012 et au-delà.

Avec ces réformes en place notre association se trouve bien préparée pour exprimer les performances attendues dans notre région. Nous allons nous efforcer d'offrir à nos membres le meilleur appui possible sur le terrain. Dans cet esprit notre association va continuer d'accroître la coopération avec les autres acteurs externes pour avoir un plus grand impact sur le terrain. Les accords de coopération existants ont été renouvelés et de nouveaux accords ont été signés. Nous sommes particulièrement heureux de constater qu'en plus des accords de coopération dans le cadre du stewardship CropLife AME est de plus en plus considérée comme un important partenaire pour formuler et améliorer les cadres réglementaires. C'est bien le cas avec la SADC en Afrique de l'Est et Australie où le Conseil des Ministres a approuvé une directive réglementaire sous-régionale préparée avec une contribution et une expertise significatives de CropLife AME. Il en est de même en Afrique de l'Ouest et Centrale où l'implication de CropLife AME est valorisée par les structures politiques responsables.

Je voudrais terminer en remerciant tous les acteurs internes et externes pour leur appui au cours de l'année écoulée et espérer une coopération soutenue avec eux dans le futur. Nous souhaitons à tous nos lecteurs de Joyeuses Fêtes de Fin d'Année et une Nouvelle Année Prospère.

Rudolf Guyer



rudolf@croplifeafrica.org

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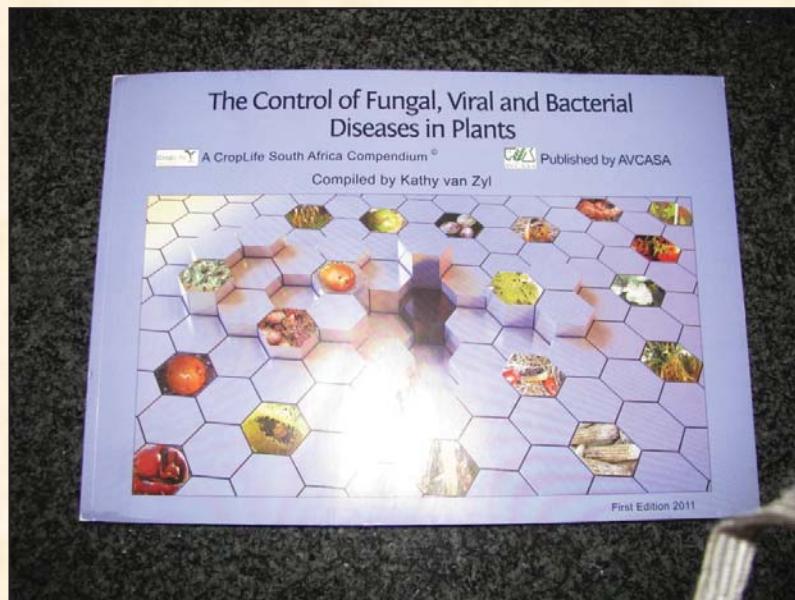
East & Southern Africa

CropLife South Africa Launches New Compendium on the Control of Plant Diseases

The Association of Veterinary and Crop Associations of South Africa (AVCASA) launched the first in a series of compendiums in the plant protection industry on 2nd November in Pretoria. The CropLife South Africa (CLSA) Compendium on the control of Fungal, Viral and Bacterial Diseases in Plants was compiled by Kathy van Zyl and is the start of an initiative to make information on plant protection products available in affordable format to end users including farmers, exporters, certification agencies, government, students and horticulturists. CLSA, a member organization of AVCASA, represents the plant science industry in South Africa and has access to information on virtually all plant protection products that are registered in the country.

The compendiums are part of CLSA's drive to collect, collate and publish information on registered plant protection products of natural and synthetic origin. Tom Mabesa, CEO of CLSA, said that the industry should take the lead in information gathering and hosting as part of their commitment to food safety and security in South Africa as well as protecting the environment and human health. AVCASA will publish additional CLSA compendiums on plant pests, problem plants, associated plant protection products, and home and garden plant protection products over the next year. CLSA also hosts basic lists of registered plant protection products on the websites www.avcasa.co.za and www.croplife.co.za under the banner Agricultural Remedies Database. It is also a partner with CapeSpan in the ABSI database that is currently under construction as one of the most comprehensive electronic databases on plant protection and crop management ever to be designed. ABSI will be launched during the first half of 2012. The publication is available at approximately \$10 per copy and includes a CD.

AVCASA furthermore used the opportunity to announce the establishment of its own training academy. This is an extension of information sharing on plant protection and animal health products as an academy offering training on the responsible use of these products. Introductory, advanced and specialized courses will be offered in the fields of plant protection, animal health and business development in the agrochemical arena. The AVCASA Training Academy will not only service the training needs of its three member companies CropLife South Africa, South African Animal Health Association and South African Agricultural Chemical Distribution Association, but also all other candidates that endeavor to become acquainted with the animal health and plant sciences industries.



les@croplifeafrica.org

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CropLife Tanzania: Responsible Use Training in cashew in the Coastal Region

In Tanzania, cashew is grown predominantly by small-scale farmers in approximately 280,000 households around the regions of Mtwara, Lindi, Tanga and Morogoro. The total area under the crop is approximately 400,000 ha; with an annual average yield output of 120,000 tons of raw nuts. Cashew nuts are the 3rd biggest export crop in the country, after coffee and cotton.

Main production constraints in cashew are fungal diseases and insect pests, necessitating the high use of fungicides and insecticides.

Farmers spend a lot of their scarce resources (money) to buy the necessary pesticides, but only few achieve the intended goal of yield increases.

CropLife Tanzania, in collaboration with some of its member companies has since last year, started a systematic training programme in Safe and Effective Use, as well as in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in cashew.

During a two-day event, Oct 27 & 28, 2011, in the Mkuranga district, Coastal region, CropLife Tanzania in collaboration with Bytrade Tanzania carried out training in safe and effective use of crop protection products to over 60 participants comprising of extension officers, leading farmer groups, and a few large farmers from the area. The training was requested by extension officers from the Kisarawe, Kibaha and Bagamoyo districts after being impressed by results of a similar training undertaken by CropLife Tanzania in the Mkuranga district last season. The training started during the afternoon of 27th, covering topics such as; general crop husbandry, pest scouting, safe handling, the use of PPE and application techniques. The second day was devoted to field visits to farmers who had received the training last season.

During the farm tours, growers visited, testified that the training had helped them reduce costs of pesticides used by about 20% compared to previous seasons, and managed to increase yields by 20-30%.

The District Executive Director for the Mkuranga district who was the Guest of Honour during the two days, paid tribute to CropLife Tanzania for the training received of which the benefits were quite obvious.

The extension Officers will conduct similar training to farmers in their respective districts and send CropLife Tanzania feedback on the usefulness of the course.



Chairman of CropLife Tanzania, Harish Dhutia, at the cashew training

les@croplifeafrica.org

CropLife Tanzanie: Formation à l'Utilisation Responsable pour la Production d'anacarde dans la Région Côtière

La production d'anacarde en Tanzanie est assurée par le petit paysannat d'environ 280 000 familles autour des régions de Mtwara, Lindi, Tanga and Morogoro, avec une superficie d'environ 400 000 ha pour un rendement moyen de 120 000 tonnes de noix. L'anacarde est la troisième culture d'exportation après le café et le coton.

Les principales contraintes de la production sont les maladies fongiques et les attaques d'insectes, nécessitant l'utilisation d'importantes quantités de fongicides et d'insecticides; les producteurs dépensent ainsi leurs maigres revenus pour l'achat de ces pesticides sans toutefois parvenir à réduire les pertes causées par ces ravageurs et maladies.

CropLife Tanzanie en collaboration avec ses sociétés membres a initié depuis l'année dernière des formations systématiques en Utilisation Sécurisante et Efficace des pesticides et en lutte intégrée (IPM) en production d'anacarde. Ainsi une formation de deux jours (27-28 Octobre) a été réalisée par CropLife Tanzanie dans le district de Mkuranga, région côtière pour 60 participants comprenant des responsables de vulgarisation, des groupes de producteurs leaders et quelques producteurs. La formation a porté sur les techniques culturales, l'inspection, la manipulation sécurisante, l'utilisation des EPI, et les techniques d'application. Une visite d'exploitations chez des producteurs qui avaient reçu la formation la saison précédente, lesquels ont indiqué avoir réduit les coûts de pesticides et réalisé des augmentations de rendement de 20-30%.

Le Directeur Exécutif du District de Mkuranga, invité d'honneur de la formation a rendu hommage à CropLife Tanzanie pour cette formation dont les bénéfices paraissent évidents. Les agents de vulgarisation vont conduire des cours similaires dans leurs districts respectifs et transmettre à CropLife Tanzanie les commentaires sur l'utilité de la formation.

Meeting with USDA and USAID

The Biotech Working Group met with representatives of USDA and USAID at the US Embassy in Pretoria to discuss possible funding to cover the visit of Prof. Ammann to East and South Africa next year.

Present at the meeting were:

Corey Pickelsimer	Senior Agricultural Attaché (USADA)
Dirk Esterhuizen	Senior Agricultural Specialist (USDA)
Nicholas Rubio	Agricultural Attaché (USDA)
Joseph Dever	Agriculture Officer (USAID)

Key points that emerged from the meeting were:

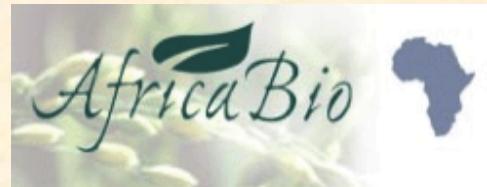
- * That USADA are very supportive of plant biotechnology
- * That they see the value of the Ammann visit but would like to separate East from South Africa as this crosses two embassies and makes the proposal a little more difficult than necessary.
- * They would like to see a more detailed visit program with a clearer focus on the small-scale farmer benefitting from the technology. They appreciate that this would mean the revamping of the budget but did not seem perturbed if this was increased in line with the expanded visit program.
- * They would like to have the revised proposal within the next two weeks to meet their timing requirements.



les@croplifeafrica.org

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AfricaBio AGM



Donrich Jordaan, chairing the meeting with Acting CEO, Wally Green

AfricaBio held their AGM on Friday 18 November. This was the first AGM held following the restructuring of the organization. The members were impressed with the achievements made under the guidance of the acting CEO, Wally Green that saw a vast improvement in the financials for the period. The Board plans to have a new CEO in place early in the new-year.

AfricaBio has successfully transitioned into a relatively low cost biotechnology association. The direct operational costs have been dramatically reduced following the sale of the current offices and the relocation to the Innovation Hub. The reduction in the staffing compliment with more dependence on using outside expertise on a project needs basis will further benefit cash flow challenges. Throughout these changes AfricaBio was still able to deliver valuable contributions to support acceptance and the promotion of modern biotechnology.

Some of the projects that were successfully concluded were AfricaBio's contribution and inputs into the mandatory labeling regulations of GM produce in terms of the Consumer Protection Act. The working groups efforts was able to reduce the draconian regulations into something more manageable although further representation is still needed.

AfricaBio's participation in the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) policy conference and made a significant contribution to the positive policy outcome of adoption of GMO technology in the 12 Sub Saharan member countries. Similarly AfricaBio's contribution and funding was instrumental in the FUM's (Farmers Union of Malawi – conference on GMO's) positive position on the adoption of GM technology. For the first time ever the Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference was held on the African Continent (ABIC 2011). The conference was hosted by AfricaBio/ Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) and was attended by over 250 delegates over a three-day period. An initiative by CropLife/ABNE to run a workshop on Insect Resistance Management was extremely successful. AfricaBio was the host organisation for this event and was also responsible for securing excellent speakers to present at the event. AfricaBio's most recent success was a presentation at a Food Safety Conference held at the Wanderers Club in Illovo on the safety of GMO crops and the feed and food derived from these crops.

AfricaBio remains the leading organisation in Africa for running workshops, establishing demonstrations, communicating with regulators, the public, industry and media on the subject of modern biotechnology.

CropLife Africa Middle East, ExCo

The Board and Management of CropLife Africa Middle East met on 8 November in Paris.

Amongst the many issues covered, focus was placed on the "Latest View 2011", "Budget and Business Plans 2012", "Regulatory" and "Stewardship" issues. The opportunity was also taken to obtain an "Update on the Africa Stockpiles Project" and to discuss the way forward.

The Board and participants at the Paris Meeting



les@croplifeafrica.org

CropLife Uganda

CropLife Uganda: Formation en Utilisation Responsable

Une formation en Utilisation Responsable a été donnée sur les exploitations de roses et de tournesol. Dans le cas des roses cette formation fait suite à un article paru dans les journaux relatant l'utilisation de pesticides contrefaits pour la production. Le Ministre de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et de la Pêche a demandé à CropLife Uganda de conduire une journée de formation pour les gérants de ces exploitations dans le cadre de la préparation de l'audit prévu sur ces exploitations.



Ssozi Francis Buyondo, Senior Inspector (MAAIF), training on Responsible Use at a rose flower farm, using CropLife posters.

Responsible Use Training

During November, Responsible Use training was conducted on both rose flower farms and sunflower farms.

In the case of the flower farms, this followed an earlier newspaper article in which the use of counterfeit products was identified in this market sector. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) requested support from CropLife Uganda to conduct a one-day training exercise for the managers of these flower farms on 4 November 2011. This was in preparation of audits that were to follow on these farms.



les@croplifeafrica.org

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CropLife Uganda

Responsible Use training for sunflower farmers was conducted on 7 November 2011 at Kiryandongo Sunflower Farms, following a complaint to MAAIF about the reduction in the population of bees due to the use of crop protection products hence the adverse impact on the honey production industry in the vicinity.

Kiryandongo Sunflower farmers being trained on Responsible Use / IPM



Anti-Counterfeiting: SMS Scratch Report Pilot Project



Gita Andrew presenting the lists for the agro-dealers to the task force groups for the SMS Scratch Report Project at CropLife Uganda Office.

A planning meeting to see the way forward for the project was held on 3 November 2011. Matters discussed included;

- * The sales volumes and distribution network for the 2 importers of Round up, Mamba and Dursban.
- * The identification of operational zones.
- * The selection of 100 agro-dealers for the pilot.
- * The signing of the contract.
- * The financial budget and management of the project.

On 27 November 2011 an article was published in the Daily monitor newspaper.

"Regional parliament wakes up to fight counterfeit. The Uganda Minister, Eriya Kategaya, has challenged the East African Parliament to form a regional anti-counterfeit taskforce as there are approximately 5,000 products in the region that are being counterfeited.

He stressed the points that in the case of Uganda, about 40% of all agri-inputs on the market were fake. This includes seed, Fertilizer and agrochemicals."

Partnerships

A meeting took place with officials of the USAID-LEAD (Phase 2 Project) on 23 November 2011 to discuss collaboration for the remaining 21 months of the programme. CropLife Uganda and UNADA attended jointly.

The Chairman and Office Executive of CropLife Uganda met John Bighenti, Agriculture Officer, Economic Growth Team, USAID/Uganda on 10 November 2011 to discuss the upcoming Program for Agricultural Input Development and the likely role of CropLife Uganda in the project.

On 24 November the Chairman of CropLife Uganda, met with Clive Drew Senior Agriculture Advisor, ABI Trust to present a proposal on anti-counterfeiting for 2012.

North Africa Middle East

SAGA and SSMO form alliance on training in Sudan

The Sudanese Standards and Metrology Organization (SSMO) of Sudan and the Sudan Agrochemicals Association (SAGA) agreed to join efforts on a number of issues pertaining to pesticide standards, quality management and stewardship activities.

The Regional Coordinator attended a joint meeting held by the two organizations on 27 November at the headquarters of the SSMO in Khartoum.

Present for SSMO were the Director General, Abdella H. Issa together with Mr. Abdel Moneim Elias and Ms Nour Elsayed of the SSMO Standards and Specification Directorate.

Chairman of SAGA, Sirelkhatim Omer participated at the meeting accompanied by Secretary-General, Faisal Mohamed Ali and Board member, Mohamed Abdalla Ali.

The salient points addressed during the meeting were the following:

- Strengthening the relationships between SSMO and SAGA with a focus on issues related to pesticide standards and commodity inspection requirements.
- Joint initiative for establishing a Poison Information Centre in Sudan with a view to benefiting from the Kenyan experience in this area.
- The need to improve the SSMO laboratory competence through appropriate training on available equipment. CropLife assistance and expertise in this area maybe called upon.
- Both SSMO and SAGA agreed to initiate an alliance on training activities on responsible use of crop protection products at farmer level, together with identification of the training needs in the area of pesticide residues.
- The SSMO officials expressed their appreciation of the CropLife Annual Hub conference held in Beirut last October at which they participated, pointing out that the annual conference served as a unique forum for deliberation on issues of mutual interest to both industry and regulatory authorities.



Director General SSMO Sudan



Meeting at SSMO (Sudan)

SAGA et SSMO créent une Alliance pour la Formation



Courtesy SSMO

L'Organisation Soudanaise des Standards et de Métrologie (Sudanese Standards and Metrology Organization, SSMO) et l'Association Soudanaise de l'Agrochimie (Sudanese Agrochemicals Association, SAGA) ont signé un accord de coopération en vue de joindre leurs efforts dans divers domaines tels que les standards de pesticides, la gestion de la qualité et les activités de stewardship. Le Coordinateur Régional Ali M. Ali a eu une séance de travail le 27 Novembre avec les deux organisations au siège de SSMO. Ont pris part à cette rencontre le Directeur Général Abdella H. Issa, Abdel Moneim Elias et Nour Elsayed de la Direction des Standards et Spécifications de SSMO, le Président de SAGA, Sirelkhatim Omer et le Secrétaire Général, Faisal Mohamed Ali et

Mohamed Abdalla Ali, du Comité Directeur de SAGA. Les points saillants de cette rencontre:

- Renforcement de la collaboration entre SSMO et SAGA avec attention particulière sur les questions relatives aux standards des pesticides et exigences d'inspection des produits.
- Initiative conjointe pour la mise en place d'un centre Anti-Poison en bénéficiant de l'exemple du Kenya.
- Le besoin de renforcement des compétences du laboratoire de SSMO pour lequel CropLife pourrait être sollicité assistance et l'expertise.
- SSMO et SAGA se sont mis d'accord pour initier un programme de formation sur l'utilisation responsable des pesticides au niveau des producteurs avec un accent sur l'identification de besoin de formation dans le domaine des résidus de pesticides.

Les responsables de SSMO ont exprimé leur satisfaction pour l'atelier annuel de CropLife de Beyrouth auquel ils ont participé insistant sur le fait que la conférence annuelle constituait une opportunité unique pour discuter de questions d'intérêt mutuel pour l'industrie et les autorités de réglementations

UAE : UN Agency Calls for Regional Food Body

The region needs a single body to co-ordinate and improve the safety and quality of food, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said John Lupien, a former director of the FAO's food and nutrition division in Rome. A Middle East network for food science and technology would help to improve food safety and quality. "There is no regional body in the Middle East and North Africa [Mena] right now and, as every country has different rules and laws, that really is a huge impediment to trade and food safety," said Mr Lupien. He was speaking at the Salon International de l'Agroalimentaire (International Food Industry Exhibition), being held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre alongside the Emirates International Date Palm Festival. Mr Lupien said the idea to set up a regional grouping for the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFOST) was raised by the FAO at a conference on regional agro-industries for the Mena region in Beirut last week. "It is an essential component of developing successful agro-industries in the Mena region," Mr Lupien said. "There is a lack of uniformity in food laws and regulations between these regional countries - they should have the same rules." At the moment, he said, it is easier for the UAE to trade food with Vietnam than with a neighbouring country such as Lebanon. A Mena grouping of the IUFOST would allow increased cooperation between Middle East countries, allowing them to exchange valuable information on food safety and their own experiences. "This could improve information sharing, food-trade training and therefore food safety and quality in the region," Mr Lupien said. "It could be implemented immediately but we hope it is at least planned for the near future, and we won't give up on it." With the UAE importing about 85 per cent of its food, he believes it would be beneficial for it to take part in such an association. Such a move would be welcomed by the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority, said Mohammed Al Reyasa, its communications director. Although the UAE has already set up an association, it would support the idea of a regional body. "We are open to it," Mr Al Reyasa said. "More communication could help improve the safety of food and we are open to that."

"We have six to seven inspections of retail shops a day, and five to six inspections of catering companies and restaurants daily," said Tariq Al Tenaji, the authority's lead inspector. "Sharing information with countries from the same region will have a much bigger impact than if they were from another region, like the US for example," Mr Al Tenaji said. "It's worthwhile to get people to talk to each other because they will be able to start controlling problems they face in a better manner."

ali@croplifeafrica.org

Date Palm workshop in Dubai

The Sustainable Date Palm Production Systems Project supported by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a joint undertaking between ICARDA and the GCC countries. It aims to promote sustainable development of the date palm industry through improving cultivar productivity, managing natural resources, utilizing different inputs in the cropping process, and studying the genetic diversity of date palm. The transfer of technologies and experiences between the partners is an integral part of the project.

To highlight the significance of this crop, identify the challenges facing its production, and discuss the research results and findings of the project, the Ministry of Environment and Water in Dubai held a workshop on the Date Palm Projects Experiments Data Analysis on October 2, 2011.

In his inaugural address, H.E. Sultan Alwan, Assistant Undersecretary for External Audit at the Ministry of Environment and Water in Dubai, reviewed the research activities of the project, and discussed the application of the latest statistical programs and the use of modern technologies, as well as the scientific experiments designed under the supervision of Dr Murari Singh and Mr. Khaled El Sham'a of ICARDA. Dr Mohammad Al Abid, Date Palm Project Regional Coordinator, also participated in the coordination of the workshop.

In the closing ceremony, H.E Dr. Mariam Hasan Al Shenasi, Undersecretary of Ministry of Environment & Water, United Arab Emirates, expressed her appreciation of ICARDA's role in promoting the research capacities of the national researchers involved in the project.



Participants in the workshop, second row, in the middle, H.E. Dr Mariam Al Shenasi, Dr Muhammad Al Abid, Khalid Al Shamaa and Dr Murari Singh. On the left side of H.E. are the coordinators: Eng. Mansour Ibrahim and Eng. Rashed Burshaid

West & Central Africa

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire - Training of Agro Dealers

On 21-25 November, in Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire 72 agro-dealers from various regions of the country were trained in the handling of pesticides, and their responsibility to supply quality pesticides to farmers.

The objective of the exercise was to build capacity in the following areas:

- Pesticide regulations in Côte d'Ivoire and the fight against illegal trade.
- Basics on pesticides including formulation and toxicity.
- Proper labeling and pictograms.
- Transportation and storage of pesticides.
- IPM-RU and sustainable agriculture.
- Application of pesticides including the correct application equipment and triple rinsing of containers.
- Application of stored products such as grains
- Pesticides in public health
- Safe handling and first aid
- Combating counterfeit and the illegal trade of pesticides.

A post-course evaluation was conducted and certificates were presented to those who passed. The success rate was 97% of the participants.

Partnerships: GIZ-CropLife Côte d'Ivoire

On November 02, in Daloa, Côte d'Ivoire, 148 representatives comprising of farmers and farmers based organizations, staff of GIZ and other stakeholders participating in the project met for the launch of the business services centers (BSC) project. This is in line with the MoU GIZ-CropLife Côte d'Ivoire aimed at providing tools to the participating retailers to improve their business skills and incomes, and supplying quality pesticides (inputs) to farmers.

The presentations highlighted the importance of the project with:

- An organized supply outlet close to the end-users such as Phyto Business
- The support from industry through CropLife Côte d'Ivoire
- A guidance by GIZ under the Cocoa Livelihoods Program, an international coalition funding led by the Gates Foundation.



bama@croplifeafrica.org

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Rollout of the “Principles of Regulation” (PoR)

The roll-out of the Principles of Regulation in the WCA Region took place on 29 November at the LAICO El Farouk Hotel in Bamako, Mali.

The meeting took place under the chairmanship of Dr. Adama TOE, President of the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (comité sahélien des pesticides, CSP) who paid tribute to CropLife for having arranged this event.

There were 30 participants comprising of :

- Experts representing member countries as well as consultants of the CSP.
- X. Schmid and R. Ghaleh-Marzban from CropLife RRC as well as Bama Yao, Regional Coordinator for the WCA area.
- CropLife Mali.
- ASP Mali, WHO and FAO.

The objective of the workshop was aimed at rolling out the Principles of Regulations (PoR) to CSP members and to pursue this down the line with the following specific objectives:

- Familiarize the CSP on PoR through a series of presentations.
- Conduct a gap analysis on CSP regulations against the PoR.
- Determine weaknesses in the CSP regulations and develop subsequent actions for the improvement of the framework.



Above: Group photo of the participants to the workshop.



bama@croplifeafrica.org

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Formation sur les « Principes de Réglementations » (PdR)»

La diffusion de PdR de CropLife International a débuté en Afrique de l'Ouest et Centrale (AOC) avec une session à l'attention du Comité Sahélien des Pesticides (CSP) le 29 novembre à Bamako, Mali. Dr Adama Toé, Président du CSP, a rendu hommage à CropLife AME pour l'opportunité d'échanger sur des sujets d'intérêt commun dans le cadre de l'amélioration des processus réglementaires et d'homologation des pesticides au CILSS. Les 30 participants comprenaient les experts et les consultants du CILSS, X. Schmid et Rouzbeh Ghaleh-Marzban du comité régional de réglementations (regional regulatory committee, RRC) et B. Yao Coordinateur Régional AOC de CropLife AME, des représentants de CropLife Mali, l'OMS, l'ASP Mali et un expert FAO auprès du CSP. L'objectif de cette formation était de:

- familiariser le CSP avec les PdR à travers une série de présentations,
- conduire une analyse des réglementations CSP pour rapport aux PdR,
- Déterminer les « écarts » et définir des axes d'action possibles en vue d'amélioration le cadre réglementaire CSP.

X. Schmid (L) and Ghaleh-Marzban (R) facilitated the workshop



Anti-Contrefaçons: Renforcement des Capacités sur les Crimes de la Propriété Intellectuelle

Un atelier de formation a été organisé par Interpol et le ministère Burkinabé de l'Administration Territoriale du 14 au 16 Novembre à Ouagadougou. Les 77 participants comprenaient des officiers de Police et des Douanes du Burkina Faso, du Bénin, de la Côte d'Ivoire, du Maroc et du Nigeria. L'atelier constituait ainsi une plateforme pour:

- Guider les participants sur la formation aux Enquêtes sur les Crimes de la propriété intellectuelle (PI) en vue de combattre les menaces que représente ce crime transnational organisé.
- Comprendre le contexte et le cadre légal, les outils et l'expérience du Burkina F. dans la lutte contre la contrefaçon.
- Eclairer les participants sur le programme de renforcement des capacités pour combattre les contrefaçons aux USA
- Sensibiliser sur les risques financiers économiques et sociaux dans les secteurs du textile, du tabac, des produits de beauté et pharmaceutiques, TV câblée, la santé publique....
- CropLife AME d'insister sur la position et le rôle stratégique de l'agriculture en Afrique de l'Ouest, l'importance des pesticides dans la production alimentaire et agricole durables et le risque et les menaces des pesticides contrefaits sur la santé humaine et l'environnement.

Anti-counterfeiting: Interpol IP Crime Capacity Building

An anti-counterfeiting workshop took place on November, 14-16, 2011, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Participants comprised of 77 police and customs officers from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Morocco and Nigeria.

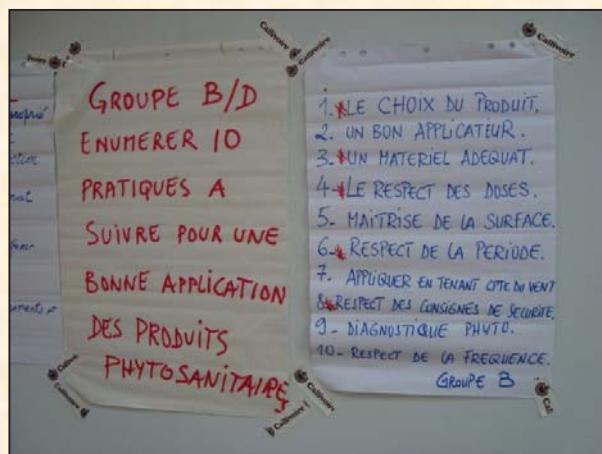
The objective was to provide knowledge and tools to handle cases of IP crime and sensitize participants on the needs for regional and international cooperation to combat counterfeit goods, thus minimizing the risks associated with this crime in various sectors of the economy.

The presentations offered a platform for:

- Guidance on the International IP Crime Investigators College offering training to investigators to enable them combat threats from transnational organized IP crime.
- Understanding the context, the legal framework and tools and the experience of Burkina Faso in the fight against counterfeiting.
- Capacity building programme to combat counterfeits in the US.
- Highlighting the financial, economic and social risks in various sectors such as, tobacco, textiles, body care products, pharmaceuticals, cable TV, public health etc.
- CropLife AME to stress on the strategic standing and role of agriculture in W. Africa and the importance of pesticides for sustainable food production. To highlight the risks and threats posed by counterfeit and illegal pesticides on human health and the environment.



The training was facilitated through working groups (above) and presentations (below)



Sensitization Meeting on Counterfeit & Illegal Pesticides

On Oct 28, in Yaoundé, Cameroon representatives of the pesticide registration committee, FAO, Common Pesticide Committee of Central Africa (Comité des Pesticides d'Afrique Centrale, CPAC), CropLife Cameroon, the media... attending the opening ceremony, were briefed on the issue of counterfeit and illegal pesticides in the country by the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (VPM-MINADER).

The purpose of the meeting was to sensitize and explain some provisions to combat the increasing illegal trade of pesticides in the country and the National Action Plan to fight fraud, smuggling and counterfeiting of pesticides. The responsibility and commitment of the pesticide inspectors was stressed, and the expectations from farmers and the overall supply chain in cleaning up the market were highlighted. The recent seizure of illegal pesticides was reported and the VPM-MINADER indicated that many similar operations will be conducted in the future.



The Vice PM-MINADER (right) and H. Fosso, President of CropLife Cameroon (Left) explaining the need for collaborative efforts to combat illegal pesticides



Above: Illegal Pesticides

Rencontre de Sensibilisation sur les Pesticides Contrefaçons et Illicites

La 14eme session ordinaire du Comité National d'Homologation des Pesticides et de Certification des Appareils de Traitement a servi de cadre pour sensibiliser les représentants dudit comité, de la FAO, du comité phytosanitaire d'Afrique Centrale (CPAC), CropLife Cameroun, et quelques journalistes sur la question des contrefaçons sur le commerce illicite par le Vice Premier Ministre, Ministre de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural (VPM-MINADER).

Le VPM-MINADER a expliqué aux participants des dispositions pour combattre la prolifération grandissante du fléau, entre autres les instruments réglementaires et techniques de contrôle de qualité, le plan national de lutte contre les fraudes, la contrebande et la contrefaçon des pesticides. Le VPM-MINADER a rappelé aux inspecteurs et contrôleurs phytosanitaires les responsabilités et engagements et aussi les attentes et les espoirs qu'ils représentent dans ce combat d'assainissement du secteur.

Safeguarding Activities in Nigeria



Participants of the training program



Preparing plans on how to enter a store with obsolete pesticides



Safeguarding leaking DDPV, which turned out to be a very tedious job

Safeguarding activities took place in Nigeria from 21 to 30 November 2011 as part of the CleanFarms project. A total of 5.7 tonnes of obsolete pesticides was safeguarded in state of Niger, over 6 locations.

The safeguarding activities were preceded by a training program facilitated by Veolia, a private company from the United Kingdom, which specialises in hazardous waste. Participants included staff from CropLife Nigeria member companies, the Ministry of Health, NAFDAC (regulatory agency), the Agricultural Development Project (part of the Ministry of Agriculture) and NOWAIDA (a dealers association). In addition, three staff members of CropLife Ghana assisted the Nigerian team during the safeguarding activities.

Initially the inventory that was undertaken last year showed 2.5 tonnes of obsolete pesticides spread over 64 locations. The safeguarding team quickly discovered that the real situation might be different than what was identified during the inventory. In one store, the team found 32 tonnes of DDPV 100% packed in small bottles of 100 ml. As the team did not have the equipment to safeguard such a quantity, it was decided to only safeguard those bottles that were obviously leaking.

The safeguarding exercise was funded entirely by CropLife International. As most products identified during the inventory exercise are manufactured in China or India, CropLife international will not fund safeguarding activities. CropLife Nigeria, in close collaboration with partner organizations, will try to find funding to safeguard and dispose of the remaining obstocks in the country.



NAFDAC



Manon Dohmen

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CropLife Quality Brands for Better Cocoa in Ghana

From now on cocoa farmers in Ghana have the possibility to check the genuineness of certain pesticides through a Holospot® and a unique code that are printed on the bottle. CropLife Africa Middle East has introduced the CropLife Quality Brands this year in Ghana as a pilot project. The Quality Brands is a voluntary, industry driven project with the specific objective to combat counterfeit and illegal products in poorly regulated market environments in Africa and the Middle East. The project is only available to products that comply fully with the local regulatory and stewardship standards as well as registration in Europe.

In Ghana, the project was introduced in December 2011 with a large media campaign. During Farmer Days, the CropLife Quality Brands had its own stand in which farmers and dealers could try to text the code to check the genuineness of the products. More than 200 people succeeded in texting the correct code and were awarded with free mobile credits. Leaflets and brochures were distributed to visitors to the stand, amongst whom were the Minister of Food & Agriculture, Mr. Kwasi Ahwoi; Central Regional Minister, Mrs. Ama Benyiwa-Doe; and the Chief Executive of COCOBOD, Mr. Tony Fofie.

In December, meetings were organized with several stakeholders, including technical partners (GIZ, AGRA, IFDC, IITA), cocoa buying companies (ADM, Armajaro, WCF), farmer organizations (Cocoa Abrabopa) and government agencies (Cocobod) to introduce the project. In addition, in December and January twice a day, a radio jingle will be played on national radio in several of the local languages.

It is estimated that 15 to 30 percent of the pesticides sold in Ghana are illegal or counterfeit. Counterfeits can damage or even destroy crops, pose a risk to human health, and damage the environment. In addition, produce can be rejected for export if counterfeit pesticides have been used. Under the European Council Directive 91-414 the registration of pesticides for the European market was reviewed. This resulted in a reduction, by half of the registered substances that are allowed on export crops to Europe. Export crops from Africa to the European market, such as cocoa, coffee, vegetables and fruits, need to comply with these new regulations. The Quality Brands scheme ensures that the export product is allowed on the European market.

The CropLife Quality Brands works as follows. When a farmer wants to purchase a pesticide, he/she must look for the silver Holospot® on the label of the bottle. Each Holospot® shows the CropLife logo and a code in colours that change if looked from a different angle in the sunlight. With a magnifier the same code can be spotted in a different place. Each bottle has a unique code. To verify the code, farmers can text the code to a telephone number that is linked to a database of the manufacturer of the product. Within a few seconds, a message will be received indicating whether the product is genuinely from the manufacturer or not.

An important advantage of the Quality Brands for the industry is that it engages all participating companies to fully respect one another's Intellectual Property Rights – even in countries and markets where such rights may be difficult to enforce legally. The project is an industry wide initiative and available to any company that is willing to comply with the set quality standards. The scheme is therefore also open to companies who are not necessarily a member of a CropLife association. The project has been approved and is supported by the Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee and all other relevant functions of the global CropLife network.

Other advantages are, that Ghana can give a strong signal to the export markets and customers that a major effort is being made to have only legal and authentic pesticides used for cocoa production in the country. Cocoa originating from Ghana will receive an additional quality boost. In addition, farmers will have the assurance to buy only genuine products with guaranteed quality and performance.

The Quality Brands in Ghana has started with an insecticide that is widely used in the cocoa sector. Hopefully in the near future, more products for different crops will be joining the scheme.



The Holospot



Mr. Kwasi Ahwoi, Minister for Food & Agriculture, and Mrs. Ama Benyiwa-Doe, Central Regional Minister, listening to the explanation of the CropLife Quality Brands by Frederick Boampong, Program Manager of CropLife Ghana.



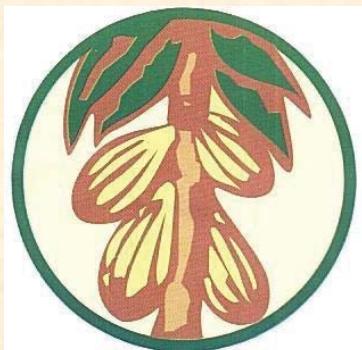
Frederick Boampong from CropLife Ghana explains the CropLife Quality Brands live on Ghana National Television.



Farmer is texting the code to check the genuineness of the pesticide

Manon Dohmen

Marques de Qualité de CropLife pour du Meilleur Cacao au Ghana



Désormais les producteurs de cacao au Ghana ont la possibilité de vérifier l'authenticité de certains pesticides par Holospot un code unique l'emballage. CropLife AME a introduit la Marque de Qualité cette année au Ghana comme projet pilote en vue de combattre la prolifération de pesticides de contrefaçons et illégaux sur le marché où les réglementations sont mal appliquées en Afrique et au Moyen Orient. Le projet est ouvert aux produits en conformité totale avec les standards locaux de réglementations et de stewardship et ceux d'Europe, USA, Canada ou Japon. Le projet a été lancé officiellement au cours de la « Journée du Paysan » ce mois de Décembre durant laquelle plusieurs agriculteurs et revendeurs ont pu vérifier l'authenticité des produits. Plus de 200 vérifications ont été faites et ont pu bénéficier de crédits gratuits pour mobiles. Parmi les visiteurs du stand on a noté la présence de M. Kwasi Ahwoi, Ministre de l'Agriculture et d l'Alimentation, et de M. Tony Fofié, PDG de Cocobod.

Manon Dohmen



Meeting with ACDI-VOCA and CropLife Egypt	Dec 25-27
Meeting with SAGA (Sudan)	Dec 28-30
CLI Stewardship Committee Meeting-Washington	Jan 10
CLI Global IPM Project Team Meeting-Washington	Jan 11
Uganda Anti Counterfeiting project with support of IFDC and Grameen Foundation	Jan 16-21
CleanFarms visit to Kenya and Container Management visit to Ethiopia	Jan30-Feb4
ToT Master Trainer Course - Bari	Jan 2012
Regional master trainer session in Egypt	Jan 16-20
CPSC Meeting in Washington	Feb 15
Anti Counterfeiting Steering committee meeting in Washington	Feb 16
Meeting of the Regional Regulatory Committee in Casablanca RRC 1-2012	Mar 7-8



Contributors:

Ali Mohamed Ali (North Africa Middle East) ali@croplifeafrica.orgBama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa) bama@croplifeafrica.orgLes Hollowitz (East-Southern Africa) les@croplifeafrica.org**GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY**

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