



CropLife Africa Middle East Newsletter

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## Stewardship

### CropLife Kenya Safeguarding “CleanFarms” Project Handover Workshop

The handover workshop took place at the Serena Hotel at which there were approximately 50 stakeholders present. Joseph Ngetich of the MOA facilitated the event.

Key agenda items were:

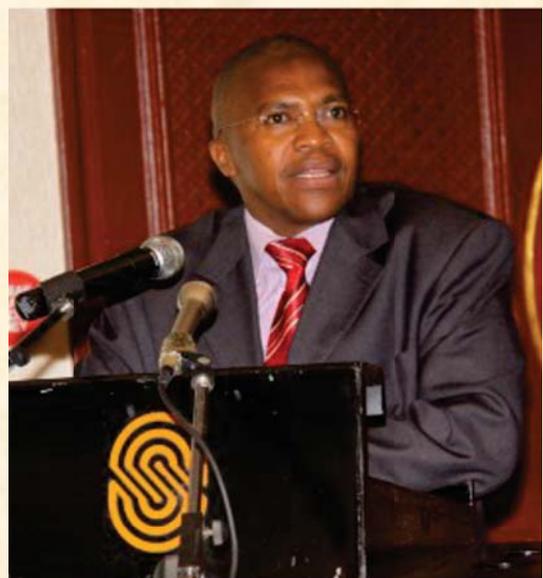
- The CropLife Kenya Safeguarding Project David Laycock
- Pesticide waste management for Kenya Richard Sikuku
- Pesticide lifecycle and regulations Peter Opiyo - PCPB
- Regulations on waste management Samuel Munene – NEMA
- Business plan for container management Vasey Mwaja
- Container management: CLAME & CLI Les Hillowitz

Some interesting and lively discussions took place ending with the endorsement by the participants for CropLife Kenya to move to stage (2) of the container management program as outlined in the Business Plan.

Les Hillowitz



(L) Paul Omanga, Crop Production Officer, FAO, making his presentation



(R) Kuria Gatonye, Chairman of CropLife Kenya, addressing the workshop

Representing the Plant Science Industry

## CropLife Kenya holds discussions with the Kenya Market Trust on the possibility of developing a SSP project

In late January, Evelyn Lusenaka and Richard Sikuku had a very fruitful meeting with Mike Fields of the Kenya Market Trust. Mike took them through what had been done in Zambia and how Kenya could fit into the same model, being that the business landscape is different. Mike mentioned that they had already commenced the project in Kenya with Hardi-Kenya in the rice and cotton growing regions. He mentioned that the project was showing good prospects and farmers were really eager to take up on this. The model used by Hardi-Kenya was to link the farmer to an agent / SSP who was linked to an agro-dealer. The SSP would source the pesticide and also provide the spray services needed.

It was agreed that a similar project could be set up through members of CropLife Kenya using their technical staff in the field.

The following was concluded:

- CropLife Kenya and the Kenya Market Trust would work together on this development.
- The same project would also incorporate Fintrac - an organization under USAID which is in the Horticultural Industry and which is also keen to set up a similar project
- A pilot would be set up to kick-off in April / May. This would be in a region of general agriculture whilst a second would be in a horticulture intensive region
- In preparation of the pilot, CropLife Kenya and the Kenya Market Trust would undertake a write-up and develop proposals on how the project would operate.
- The Kenya Market Trust would assist in developing software, which will be used to determine the authenticity of the SSP
- The Kenya Market Trust would work with CropLife Kenya in developing a database of distributors and to publicize this.

Les Hillowitz



## CropLife Ghana and CropLife Côte d'Ivoire: Association Management training



A demonstration on E-Learning covering the International CoC being demonstrated to the President of CropLife Ghana

On 23 January in Accra, Ghana and on 1 February in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, training was undertaken to guide the two associations in the "key performance areas" as identified in the Strategic Blueprint. Representing CropLife Ghana was William Kotey, President, and Fred Boampong, Programme officer. For CropLife Côte d'Ivoire this was M. Dosso, President, and F. Traoré, Vice President.

A suggestion was put forward that future meetings should be considered in-house and hosted by the member companies. From a timing and convenience point of view, the use of "lunchtimes" could appeal to most executives of CropLife Ghana.

Training on the E-learning CD was conducted and a second is planned for all members of the executive committee of CropLife Ghana on 20 February whilst the training for CropLife Côte d'Ivoire is scheduled for 13 February.

Bama Yao

## CropLife Côte d'Ivoire - FIRCA

Between 16 – 18 January, at Grand Bassam, 40 participants representing the Ministry of Agriculture, the Funds for Interprofessional Research and Counseling in Agriculture (FIRCA), FAO, Research, Producers, Trade organizations, the extension service, ANADER and CropLife Côte d'Ivoire met to discuss the following:

To identify the needs and implement activities to support the sustainable supply of the markets with vegetables. Discussions focused on the following:

- Analysis of the situation, needs and constraints.
- Analysis of participating parties in the vegetables sector
- Preparation for an outputs framework
- Preparation of an activity matrix
- The development of a SWOT analysis
- The preparation for an intervention scheme
- The preparation of "fact sheets"

Bama Yao



Roger Yeboué Executive Secretary CropLife CI (middle-bottom photo) attended the workshop together with representatives of many other organizations including women producers and traders of vegetables (top photo).



Representing the Plant Science Industry

## CropLife Ghana meets with Centre for Agricultural Bioscience (CAB) International

On 24 January, in Accra, Ghana, Dr Victor Clottey, Regional Coordinator of CAB and Eddy, the National Coordinator for Ghana met with Bama Yao, Regional coordinator, CropLife AME and Fred Boampong, Programme Officer, CropLife Ghana.

The focus of the discussions covered the newly opened coordination office in Ghana for the West Africa sub-region, which is seeking potential partners to implement their program on the sub-component "Plantwise" (Plantwise is an initiative, led by CABI, to improve food security and the lives of the rural poor by reducing crop losses) To this end the points covered included the following:

- Collaboration on modules that will fit both IPM training and "Plantwise" curricula;
- The need to include CropLife trainers on the ground and technicians comprising of farmer groups in the "Plantwise" program in West Africa;
- To seek joint projects to train and certify "agro inputs dealers" in the West African sub-region;
- To seek joint projects to extend the Spray Service Provider (SSP) focusing on the correct use of crop protection products.
- For Bama Yao to meet with Dr Yo, CABI Liaison Officer for Côte d'Ivoire to discuss a number of these initiatives.
- To design ways to monitor, evaluate and measure the impact of the pest training programs.

Bama Yao



Bama Yao, briefing Dr Clottey (2<sup>nd</sup> left), and his colleague on the possibility of conducting joint activities in W. Africa.



plantwise

## Regulatory

### Helping Laboratories Make the Grade

The Southern Africa Trade Hub has made a \$100,000 US grant to fund training for testing laboratories in the agro food production and processing sector. Agro food processing is a priority sector for development in Southern Africa, yet a significant roadblock remains before the sector can achieve full growth.

In order for the region to benefit fully from its agricultural resources, products from the sector must exhibit a certain level of quality and quantity, as well as conform to international standards for export. SADC countries currently employ the services of testing laboratories and certification entities, but these services are not internationally recognized. Testing must therefore occur in the importing country upon arrival at a high level of cost and inefficiency.

To help address this situation, the grant from the Trade Hub was made to the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS) to improve knowledge and understanding of the importance of standards and accreditation of agro food production and processing testing laboratories in Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The grant funds a series of sessions on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, which is the key accreditation standard for testing laboratories. The following courses are conducted by qualified and talented trainers with hands-on experience implementing and leading internal audits of ISO/IEC 17025:

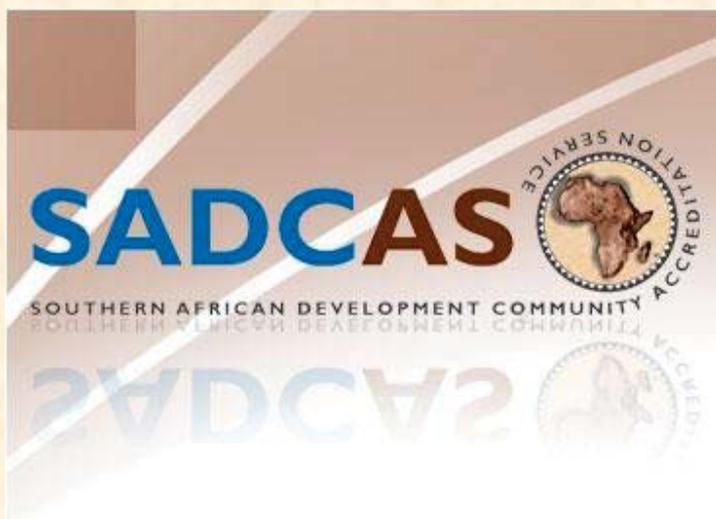
One-day awareness courses on ISO/IEC 17025 were held to educate participants on the benefits and importance of accreditation; the requirements of the accreditation process, and the role management should play. These one-day courses already took place in the fall in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. The sessions benefitted 73 participants from 21 testing laboratories, including government standards laboratories, veterinary and food and drug control, phytosanitary and research institutions, and private industry.

An intensive five-day course will cover requirements, implementation, and internal auditing skills related to ISO/IEC 17025 for laboratory staff to strengthen the ability of testing laboratories to meet accreditation requirements and monitor compliance. These sessions are scheduled for February/March 2011

Once participants complete these courses, it will take at least one year to implement the training and prepare for SADCAS to conduct an accreditation audit. SADCAS is the accreditation body for the SADC Region (in cooperation with SANAS in South Africa); therefore it cannot physically assist these laboratories in meeting the stringent requirements of ISO/17025. The Southern African Trade Hub will be monitoring the laboratories that complete the five-day course to determine if additional technical assistance can be offered to bring them closer to accreditation.

The ability of agricultural food products to conform to rigorous standards will help Southern Africa achieve a fully integrated regional trade zone: improving international competitiveness, intra-regional trade and food security.

USAID Trade Hub – Southern Africa



## Association Management

### World Cocoa Foundation-African Cocoa Initiative (WCF-ACI) – Partnerships



Rudolf Guyer, (2nd right) led the CropLife AME delegation attended by Michael Cullen, WCF



On 25 January in Accra, CropLife AME met with representatives from the WCF, TechnoServe and COPAL. Rudolf Guyer, DG and Bama Yao, Regional Coordinator led the delegation from CropLife. The WCF team was led by Michael Cullen, Senior Program Director.

The purpose of the meeting was to initiate formal contact and create the needed synergies among the implementing parties of the project to meet the expected results. The following topics were covered to familiarize everyone on the implementing and reporting procedures:

- Project Work Plan highlighting the key activities and deliverables
- Overview and Update on activities by partners (CropLife AME for the SSP, the Agro-inputs credit system by TechnoServe, the public-private partnership platform by COPAL).
- Reporting requirements on activities covering both, technical and financial, using a uniform format.

Bama Yao



## CropLife Ethiopia elects new Chairman and Executive Committee



The new ExCo: L-R Getachew Cherinet, Seifu Rikiti, Mekonnen Buta, Andualem Engida, Mesfin Endezinaw (Mengistu Kabede not present)



Above: Participants at the General Assembly



Left: Mekonnen Buta, newly elected Chairman of CropLife Ethiopia

On 22 January CropLife Ethiopia held its General Assembly meeting at which a new Executive Council was elected.

The new Executive Committee comprises of the following individuals:

Mekonnen Buta (Distributor Monsanto)	Chairman
Mengistu Kebede	Vice Chairman
Seifu Rikiti (Syngenta)	Member
Andualem Engida (Bayer)	Member
Mesfin Endezinaw (Distributor Syngenta)	Member

Following the election, discussions were held with the new Executive Committee of which the key points covered were as follows:

- The training plan for 2013 has been prepared and will be circulated shortly.
- The "Pilot Container Management Program" which started with the Horticultural Association in 2011 will be given priority and a new Business Plan will be developed and circulated.
- During 2012 a "pilot" SSP project was undertaken on a 50 ha piece of land in partnership with a prominent agricultural trade union. This will be developed further into a full-scale program during 2013. The new ExCo will assess the needs for training assistance required from CLAME.
- Contact will be made with the Agricultural Transformation Agency as a potential partner for both, IPM/RU training and a possible SSP.
- A priority will be given to improve communications to both members and stakeholders

Les Hillowitz

## CropLife Mauritius bids farewell to Serge L'Ecluse

Serge L'Ecluse who spent more than three decades with the crop protection industry in Mauritius and 7 years with CropLife Mauritius has decided to "call it a day"

After due consideration, Serge submitted his resignation as both Executive Secretary and Training Manager / Program Officer from CropLife Mauritius, with effect as from 1st March 2013. His "swansong" will be the TOT planned for the week of 18 February before handing-over to someone else.

Serge's decision was made known to the CLMU President in December last year but this was only made official at the Executive Committee Meeting in mid-January.

Serge goes on to explain that after retirement from Industry " I agreed to 'accompany' CLMU for a while until they found a firm footing. I have been by their side for the past 7 years and am now satisfied that with the establishment of the CropLife Mauritius Training Centre last year, and with the capacity building in terms of new trainers, for me its Mission accomplished"

Serge, from all of us "Walk Tall" you've earned it.



Representing the Plant Science Industry

## Communications

### What went wrong? Lessons from Malawi's Food Crisis



Malawi has gone from bountiful maize crops to renewed uncertainty: Strong, democratic leadership and sound policies are essential for ensuring food security.

Photo: Africa Media Online/South Photos/Graeme Williams

Once again Malawi finds itself in a tight spot. A food crisis set off by erratic rains, rising food prices and economic hardships is slowly unfolding. For the first time in several years, the country's ability to feed its citizens is at risk. Sadly and unexpectedly, Malawi has lost its hard-earned status as an agricultural success story — it used to produce enough maize for its people to eat and still provide a surplus to neighbours. Many are now wondering what went wrong and whether there could be lessons for other African countries.

More than 1.63 million people, or 11 per cent of the population, are facing severe food shortages, according to the World Food Programme, a UN relief agency. Malawi needed \$30 million to the end of 2012 to cover the shortfall. Agriculture is the backbone of its economy: four in five people rely on it for income. Most farmers plant on small plots by hand with little irrigation, and therefore are vulnerable to recurring droughts, notes the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Malawi is home to Africa's third-largest freshwater lake — Lake Malawi — yet less than 3 per cent of the land is irrigated.

Malawi's current troubles might seem surprising. Yet to those who follow events in the tiny, poor and densely populated landlocked Southern African nation, it is less an abrupt change in fortunes than a series of self-inflicted injuries unfolding in slow motion.

#### Increased farm subsidies

Back in 2004, President Bingu wa Mutharika, who died in office in early 2012, rode into power on a promise to increase farm subsidies as part of his Farm Input Subsidy Programme. Under the plan, the government gave subsidy vouchers to "smallholders to buy a small amount of fertilizer and seed so that they could replenish the soil nutrients, take advantage of improved seed varieties and at least achieve a livable crop from their tiny farms," says *Africa Confidential*, a UK-based newsletter. The vouchers were redeemable for seeds and fertilizer at about one-third of the normal cash cost.

The results were instant. In 2005, a year after expanded subsidies kicked in, Malawi harvested a grain surplus of half a million tonnes. In subsequent years it exported grain to Lesotho and Swaziland, as well as 400,000 tonnes of maize to Zimbabwe. Food experts and advocacy groups took turns at international forums extolling Malawi as an example of Africa's "green revolution." Exploiting his new-found success, President Mutharika called on other African leaders to embrace his policies. Now the tables have turned, and Malawi is facing severe food shortages.

## What went wrong? Lessons from Malawi's Food Crisis cont..

Ironically, even during the years of plenty, Malawi continued to import large quantities of wheat, maize and other cereals, says FAO, and isolated pockets of hunger remained. In pursuing subsidies, Mutharika defied donor critics who alleged that the programme was riddled with corruption, ran counter to the principles of free markets and was unsustainable. Indeed, by 2009 the government was spending 16 per cent of its budget on subsidies

Over time President Mutharika became autocratic, amid charges of corruption and cronyism. In 2009 he spent more than \$20 million on a long-range presidential jet. Worse, he started promoting his brother Peter, then foreign minister, as his successor, further alienating donors, on whom Malawi depends. As the donors abandoned him, the economy tanked and protesters took to the streets, leading to political instability.

### Leadership is key

Now that a previously successful experiment with an "African green revolution" is unraveling, what are the lessons for others? With a population of more than a billion and counting, will Africa ever be able to produce enough food for its people? The answer to that question is a qualified yes. But for it to happen, certain conditions must exist.

First, an essential ingredient for success in agriculture is strong political will at the highest level. In his book [The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa](#), Calestous Juma, a Harvard University professor originally from Kenya, argues that African leaders should make agriculture a key element of all major economic decisions.

Rhoda Tumusiime, the head of agriculture at the African Union Commission, agrees. She notes that while success in agriculture does not have many drivers, leadership is crucial. "There must be a key political champion at head-of-state level to steer and champion a vision on agricultural revolution," she told the Economic Commission for Africa.

Mr. Mutharika not only had the political will, but tried to lead by example. And his anti-poverty policies attracted many advocates. The director of the New York-based Earth Institute at Columbia University, Jeffrey Sachs, who has worked closely with Malawian authorities to fight poverty, is among them. "We should ... remember a positive legacy of the late president Mutharika, because that legacy holds a key for Africa's future development and escape from poverty," Sachs wrote in an op-ed in the *New York Times*.

"Until his final two years, Mutharika had actually engineered an agriculture-led boom in Malawi, one that pointed a way for Africa to overcome its chronic hunger, food insecurity, and periodic extreme famines," said Sachs. He credited the late president for standing "bravely against the arrogance of an ill-informed foreign aid community back in 2005."

### Food security equals national security

Second, while foreign aid is critical in feeding the hungry and reviving agriculture in Africa, food security is too important to be left to the generosity of external partners. Food security requires the same seriousness and resources as national security, if not more. In fact, national security loses its legitimacy if thousands of citizens die not from enemy firepower but from starvation, or risk their lives crossing borders while fleeing from hunger.

And finally, Africa needs a strong food policy backed by resources from African Union members, to be invested in institutions that promote agriculture. One tangible AU response has been the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which requires countries that sign up to it to spend at least 10 per cent of their national budgets on agriculture (see [Africa's food policy](#)). CAADP itself has a very small budget, but it uses the little it has to strengthen agricultural institutions and build teams of skilled personnel who roam the continent sharing best practices with national authorities.

"There is no doubt that African agriculture needs strong local institutions to avoid the kind of bubble that we saw in Malawi, which was largely driven by external energy," Martin Bwalya, the head of CAADP, told *Africa Renewal*, alluding to Malawi's dependence on donors for its short-lived success. CAADP, which is run by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the AU's development agency, recognizes that Africa needs institutions whose effectiveness and shelf-life do not depend on the survival of individuals.

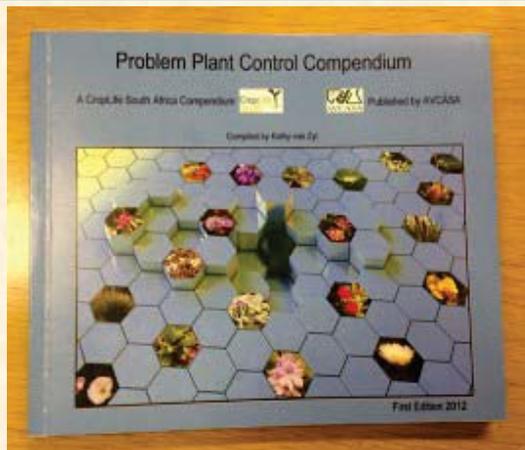
Mr. Mutharika tried to follow the path of subsidies and largely succeeded. Countries that have pursued Malawi's lead have "achieved] breakthroughs in farm yields and food production for the first time in their modern history," said Professor Sachs. Mr. Mutharika's successor, Joyce Banda, Africa's third female president, now has to formulate a new food policy, woo back the donors, stabilize the economy and again get agriculture back on track.

29 November 2012

Autocracy and aid dependency killed an agriculture success story [Masimba Tafirenyika](#)

From Africa Renewal

## CropLife South Africa Launches New Compendium



CropLife South Africa's new guide, "Problem Plant Control Compendium" has just been released.

The guide is accompanied by a CD ROM and costs R100.00 without postage. For anyone interested, please contact Nadia Richards [nadia@avcasa.co.za](mailto:nadia@avcasa.co.za)

## AVCASA (CropLife South Africa) wins Contempt Order against the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The application was brought by AVCASA as a result of the Minister's failure to comply with a previous court order. This first order related to the Registrar taking steps to ensure that outstanding applications for registrations be properly and timeously processed. The application was unopposed and an order was granted by the court.

All costs covering this action are borne by the Minister on a punitive basis.

(Shortened) Tom Mabesa CropLife South Africa



## Plant Biotechnology

### We need technology to increase farmer's quality of life

Dr. Diran Makinde is the Director of the AU/NEPAD-African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE) based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The centre is in the forefront of building functional biosafety regulatory systems that will make it possible for government to adopt simple agricultural biotechnology for improved agricultural production.

At a recent Agriculture for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) programme in Arusha, Tanzania, where we had almost all the stakeholders, government, development partners, scientists, regulators among others in agriculture deliberating, it was difficult pinning Dr. Diran Makinde for an interview.

After getting him to talk, he touched on the role of science in Africa food security and how genetically modified food can be used to increase food production among others. Here is an excerpt.

Dr Diran Makinde



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## Plant Biotechnology

### **On the side event organised by his agency**

AGRA and NEPAD agencies are in partnership and apart from that this a good venue that we have almost all the stakeholders, government, development partners, scientists, regulators among others are here.

So, we organised this side event to bring regulators and scientists together, because African scientists are working on African indigenous crops to develop that aspects that you think are necessary, like nutrient enrich cassava which we call bio cassava plus; nutrient enriched cowpea. There are so many commodities, so regulators at times need to interact to know what their needs are, how do they work together for the common goods.

### **On the role of science in Africa food security**

You know the percentage of small scale farmers are actually very large, it is between 70 and 80 %. We know that these are the groups of farmers that are not exposed to any form of technology; they have been using the same form of practice for many years.

And it is high time we developed the attitude of actually adopting technology to improve the quality of life of our farmers, so this is one of the reasons we need to drive it home to our government especially and other stakeholders that we need to harness science and technology in Africa development.

### **On Genetically Modified food**

We are looking at agricultural biotechnology, which includes, but is not GM alone. So, it is part of it, we are looking at it as a tool that can be used to increase productivity.

### **On Safety of GM**

Let me tell you, if our role in NEPAD is to build capacity and that is what we are in to, so, if we are able to build capacity in the science, technology and innovation areas, of course it will be good for all our people. It is a broad field. Whatever we are talking about now is not about GM or agricultural technology, it is more than that.

### **On pro-vitamin cassava being taken beyond research level in Nigeria**

This is a test and that is why we called it confirmed field trials, we want to see weather what we have been told is actually true and we can get all those things in this new variety they are developing. So, it takes time to test them and make sure there are no harmful effects either on animals or humans or the environment. What we are talking about will take years to accomplish, but we want to be sure we take care of all the possible risks.

### **On the slow adoption of biotech in agric development in Africa**

Well some countries are taking precautionary approach and which is part of what the Kadaina protocol on bio safety dictates. They have the right to the fear of the unknown, so they say they want to thread it softly. The moment we have two or three other countries in Africa adopting the technology, commercializing the commodities then you will a different attitude.

It was during the advent of the cell phone, it was slowly adopted and now almost everyone has one. Message for smallholder farmers and African leaders on agriculture: What I want, and just hope that our farmers will be empowered to actually move from small scale holding so that real commercial farming can evolve in Africa.

AfricaBio

Upcoming Events

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Upcoming Events

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CropLife South Africa: Agri Intel launch	Feb 13
Meeting of the CPSC in Washington	Feb 12
Meeting of the Anti Counterfeiting Steering Committee in DC	Feb 13
CropLife Malawi AGM	Feb 22
TOT Training: CropLife Mauritius & CropLife Madagascar	Feb 18-22
Training of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire on International CoC E -learning & guidance on CropLife AME Association Management	Feb 13
ECOWAS-IFDC MIR Plus Steering Committee meeting in Accra, Ghana	Feb 18-19
Training of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire for International CoC E -learning and guidance on CropLife AME Association Management	Feb 20
Africa Region Plant Biotech Workshop: Ghana	March 4-8
Meeting of Regional Regulatory Committee 1-2013, Basel	Mar 13-14
PSCA Registration Workshop: South Africa	April 10
Hub and Regulatory Meeting West and Central Africa	April 16-17
Association Management Training: CropLife Zambia	May 6-7
Association Management Training: CropLife Kenya	May 9-10



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**GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY**

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