

North Africa Middle East

Egyptian MOA Strengthens Anti-Counterfeiting Efforts



Eng. Mohamed Reda Ismail, Minister of Agriculture of Egypt

The Ministry of Agriculture of Egypt decided to form anti-counterfeiting law enforcement committees for the monitoring of the pesticide and fertilizer markets. Experts from the Agricultural Pesticides Committee (APC), the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) and other agricultural sector disciplines will direct these committees.

The Minister of Agriculture, Engineer Mohamed Reda Ismail, announced in recent press statements that all imported pesticides and fertilizers are to be subjected to international parameters in relation to the protection of the environment and human health. He confirmed that the government had taken strict measures aimed at the sound management of these products.

The Minister highlighted the importance of observing the appropriate pre-harvest intervals associated with the use of pesticides on different agricultural crops. He added that the MOA is in the process of promoting agricultural extension services in the country. The MOA will also launch intensive farmer training campaigns to streamline various agricultural practices.

Coordination with law enforcement organs is being maintained to combat the phenomenon of counterfeit and illegal trade in pesticides and fertilizers.

The Minister announced that arrangements have been undertaken with the local fertilizer industry to avail additional fertilizer quota of up to 5.2 million tons to bridge the fertilizer gap for winter crops, noting that the total annual fertilizer requirements amount to approximately nine million metric tons

Regional Unrest Soars Anti-Counterfeiting and Illegal Trade in Egypt



The Anti-Counterfeiting Council in Egypt expressed concern about the increasing level of illegal trade and smuggling activities due to the prevailing circumstances in the NAME region.

Law enforcement authorities have recorded a number of important seizures between January and February 2012, which reflected in:

- Two major counterfeiters being interned with seizures representing a major part of the illegal market value undergoing court prosecution.
- 52 tons of active ingredients intended for the formulation of 350 tons of finished product, were seized and returned to Chinese sources due to detection of high impurities.
- The seizure of 300 tons of formulated Malathion due to high impurities and poor quality.
- The seizure of 7.5 tons of pesticides shipped as industrial chemicals with fraudulent documentation.

More than 30 articles covering counterfeit and illegal trade were published in local newspapers.

CropLife Egypt representatives appeared in two TV interviews on the on going efforts to combat illegal trade in pesticides in Egypt.

In light of the prevailing situation in the country, CropLife Egypt is in the process of continuing its national anti-counterfeiting campaign that was started 2 years ago. Major emphasis is foreseen to be attached to the training of customs officers on the identification of fraudulent documentation and counterfeit products.



Left—Top: Said Abdella : Bottom Sarwat Sakr

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East & Southern Africa

CropLife Zambia – Continuation of the SSP Project with Musika

Musika is a NGO managed by a small team drawn largely from the USAID/PROFIT Program, which ended in 2011. It is an independent local organization affiliated to the Zambia National Farmers Union. Musika received \$ 7mil core funding support from the Swedish International Development Co-Operation Agency (SIDA).

Its primary clients are the private sector entities in the agricultural market system – ranging from multinational corporations to micro-entrepreneur service providers.

Musika's thematic areas are:

- Agricultural input markets
- Agricultural service markets (The SSP Project falls within this area)
- Agricultural and rural finance markets
- Agricultural output markets.

On reviewing of the SSP project under PROFIT, it was generally accepted that the project had been highly successful, borne out by the evaluation report undertaken by CARE Zambia.

In total 4816 SSP's were trained with only 1486 still active today. Musika are of the view that this number needs to be reviewed as they feel that with the time-gap in the switch-over from PROFIT to Musika aggravated by the changes within CropLife Zambia, the number of active SSP's had actually declined further.

The operating policy of Musika is that they will only support private sector projects, and not actively drive them as was in the case of PROFIT.

Suggestions on the way forward include that Musika would like to see CropLife Zambia developing plans for resurrecting the training process for the SSP's and also to develop industry plans for a container management system. To present these in a "concept note" which could then lead to the drafting of a MOU.



L -R, Joshua Munkombwe, Perry Ngoma, Rob Munro, Chola Kamaki, Yosi Karni, Reuben Banda

ACTESA / COMESA

On 15 February a meeting was held with ACTESA.

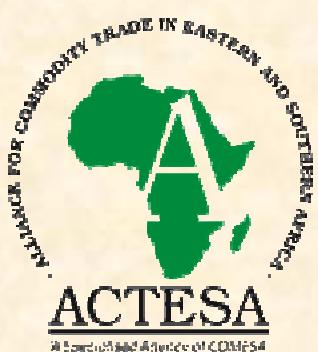
The meeting was attended by Chungu Mwila, CEO, Angel Daka, Production & Food Security Markets Advisor and Simon Dradri, Senior Policy Advisor

The purpose of the meeting was to review the 2007 MOU in view of the departure of Cris Muyunda. This amongst other items covers the "Regulatory Harmonization of Pesticides" in the COMESA region.

Based on the success of the SADC Guidelines and in line with the Tripartite Agreement between COMESA, SADC and the EAC (which the Secretary General of COMESA chairs), the following was agreed to:

ACTESA will set up a Task Team, probably under Dr. Angel Daka to review the SADC Guidelines but don't expect anything untoward to come from this.

They will under the Tripartite Agreement, "Pillar (1) Market Integration", place this topic on the agenda of the Policy Introduction Guidelines when the Council of Ministers meets in May/June later this year.



CropLife Uganda



On 10 February CropLife Uganda held its sixth Annual General Meeting in Kampala.

Eleven companies participated at the event at which Stephen Matovu was re-elected as Chairman.



Photo showing a number of the participants at the AGM. Stephen Matovu can be seen, front row, second from the right

South Africa



South Africa is planning to invest \$ 270 million in an ethanol plant that could start operating in 2014. Sugar Beet SA chief executive, Roak Crew, stated this at a press conference earlier in February. The proposed plant would initially produce 90 million litres a year of ethanol from sugar beet and sorghum.

CropLife Zimbabwe – TOT Training

A TOT Training was successfully held in Zimbabwe.

The training took place at the Mandel Training Centre in Harare.

Key remarks are:

- That the TOT version with the 1-day technical training included, works extremely well
- That the rate of learning by the participants exceeded all expectations
- That the quality of the individual presentations was exceptionally high. Participants followed the SDF training model and used varying training techniques during the delivery phase of the sessions. The highest individual mark was 86% whilst the average for the group was 75%, which is excellent.



Group Participants



Right: Scouting



Left: Going over lessons learnt

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Empty Pesticide Container Management Project – Botswana

As background, Cam Davreux, former Vice President, CropLife Canada and Chairman of the CLI Container Management Project Team, secured a consultancy contract from FAO to look into container management in both Swaziland and Botswana.

The initial visit to Botswana took place the week of 27 February and will be followed by a formal report directly to the FAO. Having accompanied Cam on this mission, set out below are my personal findings and recommendations:

There is a mix of legacy obsolete pesticides and empty containers at the MoA store in Sebele, Gaborone, approximately 60 tons obstocks and 11,000 empty containers of which about 1000 are metal drums. There is a further inventory of approx. 10,000 empty containers north of the country. The Sebele warehouse needs to be secured urgently.

Visits were made to all key stakeholders in government, the private sector, several plastic recyclers, small-scale farmers, etc. 18 meetings in total.

Botswana is a relatively small pesticide market generating approx. 12 – 15 tons plastic from used pesticide containers.

The Department of Plant Protection manages the practice of collecting both obsolete pesticides and empty containers and centralizing these at the Sebele store in Gaborone.

Based on the current practice and the intrinsic value of the plastic, it is my view that a simple container management program can be introduced into the country.

Once FAO endorses Cam's report, this will be circulated further.

Part of the Sebele Warehouse



L-R David Tibe, FAO Assistant Country Representative, Loitseng Sebetwane, Registrar, and Cam Davreux

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Representing the Plant Science Industry

Biotechnology

"Presentation by Prof Klaus Ammann, world renowned independent biotech scientist, Professor Emeritus of the University of Bern, Switzerland, and guest Professor at the Delft University of Technology, Netherlands".

On Thursday 8 March, in Pretoria, South Africa, Prof Ammann gave a presentation on the update of commercialization of plant biotechnology in South Africa and the rest of the world.

For the second consecutive year, biotech crops in South Africa increased by 100 000 hectares in 2011. The hectarage has continued to increase for the 14th consecutive season, to a record 2.3 million ha (2.2 million in 2010).

Maize occupied 1.873 million ha (1.90 million) or 72% of the estimated total of 2.60 million ha of maize commercially planted in South Africa.

Soybean plantings increased by 20% from 390 000 ha in 2010 to an estimated 450 000 ha due to higher demand. The adoption rate of herbicide tolerant soybeans remained at 85%, totaling 382 000 ha.

Total cotton area remained unchanged at 15 000 ha, 100% biotech, of which 95% were stacked traits.

The total maize area increased by 5% mainly due to a successful export drive that almost depleted the carry-over of grain stocks. Of the 1.873 million ha biotech maize, 45.2%, 847 000 ha were the single Bt gene; 14.4%, 270 000 ha, were herbicide tolerant and 40.4%, 756 000 ha, were stacked Bt and herbicide tolerant.

The white maize crop of 1.564 million ha comprised 72% biotech, 1.126 million ha, with the single Bt gene accounting for 518 000 ha (47%); herbicide tolerant crops comprised 113 000 ha (10%) and Bt herbicide tolerance stacks 495 000 ha (44%). The yellow maize planting of 1.038 million ha comprised 72% or 747 000 ha of biotech.

According to a survey by the Maize Trust, approximately 12 million ha of biotech maize, (white and yellow) were planted in South Africa in the 10-year period 2001 to 2010, producing a grain crop of over 40 million tons.

Despite years of anti-GMO activists' scaremongering campaigns of "threatening health risks and environmental disaster" attributed to GM crops, in one way or another, this grain has been consumed annually by 40 million South Africans, 800 million broilers, 1.4 million feedlot cattle, and 3 million pigs slaughtered at formal abattoirs without any substantiated scientific or medically proven incidences of adverse effects to humans, animals or the environment.

Economic Benefits

It is estimated that the economic gains from biotech crops for South Africa for the period 1998 to 2010 were US\$ 809 million and US\$ 133 million for 2010 alone. (Brookes and Barfoot, 2012, forthcoming)

Africa

In 2011 Africa continued to make steady progress in planting, regulatory and research activities in respect of biotech crops.

Apart from South Africa, Egypt and Burkina Faso have substantially increased their biotech crops. In 2011 Burkina Faso increased Bt cotton plantings from 260 000 ha in 2010 to 300 000 ha farmed by nearly 100 000 farmers on less than three ha each. Egypt increased Bt maize plantings from 2 000 ha to 5 000 ha. For both countries the cotton and maize seed was researched and produced in South Africa.

An additional three countries, (Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda) conducted advanced field trials with several biotech crops. Malawi has already approved pending cotton trials. In Tanzania the Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, Prof Jumanne Maghembe, announced that Tanzania was ready to adopt biotechnology.



L-R, Dr. Wynand van der Walt, Director of FoodNCropBIO; Prof Klaus Ammann, Prof Emeritus, University of Bern, Switzerland, guest speaker; Corey Pickelsimer, Senior Agricultural Attaché, UDA, US Embassy, Pretoria, and Dr. Mpumi Obokoh, CEO, AfricaBio.

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Biotechnology cont.

Global Adoption

According to the ISAAA report (International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications) globally, in 2011 a record 16.7 million (15.4 million in 2010) farmers in 29 countries on all six continents planted 160 million ha (148 million ha) of GM crops. A sustained increase of 8% or 1.2 million ha more than in 2010. This represented a 94-fold increase in hectarage from the first 1.7 million ha planted in 1996 to 160 million ha in 2011, making biotech crops the fastest-growing crop technology in the history of modern agriculture.

Over 90% of the 16.7 million farmers, 15 million were small, resource-poor farmers in developing countries. More than 7 million farmers each in China and India collectively planted 14.5 million ha of Bt cotton. Bt cotton increased the income of poor farmers significantly by up to US\$ 250/ha.

Of the 29 countries where more than half the world's populations – 60% or 4 billion people – live, 19 were developing countries and 10 industrial countries.

While 29 countries planted commercialised biotech crops, an additional 31 countries, totaling 60, had granted regulatory approvals for biotech crops to be imported for food and feed use and for release into the environment since 1996.

USA

The USA continued to be the lead producer of biotech crops globally, with 69 million ha (43% of global) and an average adoption rate of 90% across its principal biotech crops. Strong growth in maize and cotton was recorded with the resumption of RR (Roundup Ready) alfalfa (lucerne).

Brazil ranked second only to the USA, with 30.3 million biotech ha. For the third consecutive year, Brazil was the engine of growth globally by increasing the biotech hectarage by 4.9 million ha more than any other country in the world.

EU

Six countries in the EU – Spain, Portugal, Czechia, Poland, Slovakia and Romania – planted 114 490 ha of Bt maize. Up 26% from 2010, with Spain growing 85% of the EU total. An additional two countries, Sweden and Germany, planted a token 17 ha of the new biotech quality starch potato "Amflora" for seed production.

A significant development in the EU was the finding of France's Council of State, the nation's highest court of appeal, that France's 2008 prohibition of Monsanto's MON 810 variety was illegal. The Council ruled that France's minister of agriculture "has not provided the proof that MON 810 presented a major risk to human or animal health or the environment".

Crop Adoption

Biotech soybean continued to be the principal biotech crop in 2011, with 75.4 million ha or 47% of global biotech area. Maize was second with 51 million and cotton third at 24.7 million ha.

Since commercialisation in 1996, herbicide tolerance has consistently been the dominant trait. The stacked double and triple traits were in second place. The stacked genes were the fastest growing trait group between 2010 and 2011, at 31% growth.

Pesticide Savings

Biotech crops continued to contribute towards a better environment by saving 443 million kg pesticide active ingredient from 1996 to 2010, reducing CO₂ emissions by 19 billion kg, equivalent to removing 9 million cars from the roads. (Brookes and Barfoot, 2012, forthcoming)

Future Prospects 2012-2015

The outlook for biotech crops during these four years is optimistic, said Prof Ammann. Up to 10 countries may adopt biotech crops for the first time, three in Asia and seven in sub-Saharan Africa. The second-generation biotech crops will offer farmers additional new incentives for improving quality of products. Quality traits such as enhanced Vitamin A in rice, soybean free of trans-fat and reduced saturated fat, and omega-3 rich soybean, will become more prevalent, providing a much richer mix of consumer-friendly traits.

The first biotech wheat is expected to be ready for commercialisation around 2017. Biotech drought tolerant maize is expected to be released by 2013 in the USA and 2017 in Africa. Golden rice is expected to be released in the Philippines in 2013.

West & Central Africa

Training of Trainers, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

On 20 – 24 February, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 9 representatives from the crop protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, made up as, (1) ANADER (1) the extension services of the Ministry of Agriculture, FDPCC (2) cocoa-coffee production management services, ONDR (2) the rice production program, Palmafrique (3) a palm oil production company. All participants were university degreed.

The objective of the training was to build capacity according to the SDF model. This implies a 3-day theoretical session followed by a 2-day practical session during each participant facilitates a training using the SDF model.

All participants were evaluated using a pre, and post-course test, as well as in practical facilitation skills. All participants successfully completed the tests and were awarded certificates of competence.

Roger Yeboué, a qualified CropLife AME Master Trainer facilitated the session.

A demonstration session was conducted on E-Learning covering the International CoC and a CD handed to each participant. A discussion followed the training to sensitize the participants on the proliferation of counterfeit pesticides and the adverse impact of this scourge and the need for a collaborative effort to combat such malpractices.



Participants exchanging information during group work (L) and presenting their findings to the other groups (R).



B. Yao, WCA Regional Coordinator and M. Dosso, President CropLife Côte d'Ivoire (blue dress) presenting certificates to participants during the closing ceremony.



Left: B. Yao presenting the E-learning tool

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Regulatory Harmonization Framework - ECOWAS-WAEMU



During the week of 23 January, participants from IFDC-MIR Plus (Adama TOE and Assetsa Diallo), CropLife Côte d'Ivoire, Ministry of Agriculture, Crop Protection Department and retailers, met to review the ongoing study on the quality of pesticides on the market of the ECOWAS sub-region as an update to an earlier study undertaken about two years ago.

The delegates initially met with CropLife Côte d'Ivoire in preparation for the latter meetings with the retailer group and the crop protection department of the Ministry of Agriculture in charge of pesticides regulation enforcement and sought guidance in the chairing of the registration committee.

The study covers countries including Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and the findings are likely to be presented at the WCA Hub Workshop in April.

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire, Anti-Counterfeiting Sensitization Plan

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire recently met with the Ministry of Commerce (a member of the Pesticides Committee) to initiate a formal cooperation to combat the illicit trade of CPPs in the country. Following a short training session, a squad of inspectors supported by the police were sent to the south-western cocoa production area where pesticides are widely used.

This intervention led to the seizure of 10 tonnes of illegal pesticides.

A follow-up inspection tour is being carried out in the eastern area close to the border with Ghana where several entry points for illegal pesticides are suspected to be present.

Media reports and a press conference will be conducted shortly.

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AGM, CropLife Cameroon

March 7-8

Meeting of the Regional Regulatory Committee, Casablanca

March 7-8

Public Benefits "roll out" workshop, Nairobi

March 16

Regional master trainer session, Egypt

March 20-25

ABNE-PBS Biotechnology & Biosafety Stakeholder Meeting, Uganda

March 19-20

CropLife Africa Biotech Partners Workshop, Uganda

March 21-22

PoR "roll out & gap analysis" workshops: Accra Ghana &

March 23 & 26

Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire

April 24-26

Hub Meeting West and Central Africa, Abidjan



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