

CropLife International Supports Commitment to Anti-Counterfeiting

Signing of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) enables a strong international framework against counterfeit pesticide products

CropLife International strongly supported the commitment of national governments to join forces to fight counterfeiting and increase intellectual property protection. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan held an official signing ceremony for the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) on 1 October. ACTA will strengthen standards for the enforcement of intellectual property (IP), helping the global fight against counterfeit products.

Australia, Canada, the European Union and its Member States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States reached this agreement in October 2010. The Agreement is open for signature until 1 May 2013.

“The crop protection industry commends the international commitment to ACTA,” said Howard Minigh, President and CEO of CropLife International. “Strong and united enforcement of intellectual property laws helps to prevent the sale of illegal pesticides to unsuspecting farmers.”

With the growth of manufacturing capabilities it has become easier to produce and internationally trade ingredients for counterfeit pesticides. In addition, these illegal pesticides and chemicals are often disguised by fake packaging, which means they are unapproved, unauthorised and untested.

“Counterfeit crop protection products are not only an IP violation, they present a serious food safety, environment and human health risk,” said Minigh. “Since these unregulated products do not undergo safety or efficacy testing, they can destroy harvests, present a health and safety risk for farmers and create environmental hazards.”

Ultimately, counterfeiting and lack of effective IP protection erodes the incentive for plant science companies to continue to invest considerable time and resources into the development of new technologies. “A strong IP framework ensures that the plant science industry can continue to invest and provide new tools to improve crop productivity and enable sustainable farming practices,” says Minigh.

In reaction to counterfeit products and the inherent risks, the plant science industry has formed an anti-counterfeiting task force to work with international law enforcement, regulatory and trade authorities. The task force is raising awareness with governments and regulatory agencies on the dangers of counterfeit and illegal pesticides, and helping those agencies train staff to deal with the threat.



Ambassador Sapiro Signs the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) in Tokyo, Japan on October 1, 2011 as Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba and Canadian Trade Minister Ed Fast look on



Howard Minigh, President and CEO of CropLife International.

Article Submitted by A Mohd Ali

West & Central Africa

IPM Training—CropLife Cameroon



On August, 11 & 12, in Kollo/Monatélé, Cameroon an IPM training for vegetable producers was organized. There were a total of 31 participants of whom 22 were vegetables producers and 9 extension agents.

The objective of the training was to highlight the challenges for the responsible use of pesticides covering the following:

- * Pesticides registered for vegetable production.
- * Counterfeit and illegal pesticides and associated risks
- * IPM in vegetable production
- * Pesticide application and equipment

The workshop was co-organized by CropLife Cameroon and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), and facilitated by the MINADER team (Mrs. Gisèle Etoundi and colleagues) and a trainer from CropLife Cameroon.



Group photo of participants, trainers and officials at the end of the session (Courtesy: CropLife Cameroon)

bama@croplifeafrica.org

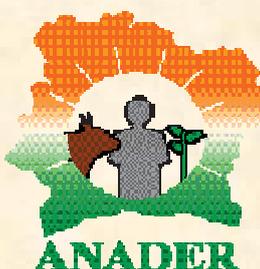
Partnerships : CropLife Côte d'Ivoire - GIZ

On September, 7 & 8 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, representatives of the extension services (ANADER including the Director General) from target areas, cocoa production / policies services (CGFCC, FDPCC), Min Agric., international organisations implicated in cocoa production programs and CropLife Côte d'Ivoire, met in order to continue with the success of the farmer business schools (FBS) concept.

The success of the farmers business schools (FBS) concept in Côte d'Ivoire as well as in Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria, aiming at providing methodology and tools to cocoa small holders to improve their managerial skills and their incomes, has been notable. The follow-up workshop focused on:

- A synoptic overview of the FBS approach and successes;
- Stakeholders and partners experiences and observations;
- Discussions centering on the continuation and sustainable funding mechanisms in cocoa producing areas, and the business centers services (BCS) related to inputs, funding, training etc. to reinforce the efficacy of the FBS.
- Adapting the FBS approach in non-cocoa producing areas.
- Awarding the best target groups.

A side meeting discussed the future launch of the activities of the BCS resulting from the MoU between GIZ and CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and the possibility for GIZ participating at the CropLife International Stewardship Dialogue in Berlin.



bama@croplifeafrica.org

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Study tour to observe obsolete pesticide safeguarding activities in Ghana

Teams from CleanFarms Nigeria and CleanFarms Cameroon paid a visit to their colleagues at CleanFarms Ghana to observe first-hand the safeguarding of obsolete pesticides and the collection of empty containers. The visit took place from 12 to 16 September 2011 and participants were taken to Pokuase, Kumasi and Tamale to see the various activities.

Nigeria was represented by the Executive Secretary of CropLife Nigeria and a representative from the Ministry of Environment. The Cameroon team comprised of three people: from CropLife Cameroon, the Ministry of Agriculture and the NGO Yaounde Initiative Foundation (all of whom are members of the Project Team which is implementing the project). David Laycock and Manon Dohmen, project managers respectively for Ghana and Nigeria joined the group, as well as Hans Dobson, project manager for Cameroon and Programme Manager of CropLife International's Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP) activities.

All participants were highly impressed with the professional attitude of the safeguarding team in Ghana that consists of staff of CropLife Ghana and the waste management company Zoomlion. The safeguarding of endosulfan in fragile, degraded PET bottles on the premises of a cotton company was especially admired. An important lesson learned is that safeguarding of obsolete pesticides should only be undertaken by those who are motivated, not afraid of hard work under difficult circumstances, and have received specialised training.

The CleanFarms project started in Ghana in 2010. A total of 170 tonnes of obsolete pesticides and 56,000 empty containers were identified during the inventory process. However, only 30% of the identified obsolete pesticides were originally manufactured by member companies of CropLife International. The funds available from CropLife International will be used to safeguard the 53 tonnes of high-risk stocks identified. To be able to continue the safeguarding activities throughout the country, CropLife Ghana has levied importers to contribute to this activity. Even non-CropLife Members have agreed to contribute financially to safeguarding activities.

In addition to safeguarding activities, CleanFarms has started a pilot project in one district on empty pesticide container management. Collection bins have been placed at several locations under the supervision of a representative in the community, into which farmers can deposit their empty containers. When the bin is full, Zoomlion will collect the containers. At the moment, discussions are on going with the plastics industry to look into possibilities of recycling the containers into appropriate products, such as fence posts.

The safeguarding activities under the CleanFarms Ghana project will be end in March 2012, but CropLife Ghana is intending to continue developing the container collection and management programme funded by the levies collected from importers.

Article submitted by B Yao & M Dohmen



Storage facility in Pokuase to store safeguarded pesticides



Collection bin for empty containers around Kumasi area



Above & Below: Safeguarding of Endosulfan



bama@croplifeafrica.org

North Africa Middle East

Anti Counterfeiting Endorsement in Egypt



Anti Counterfeiting committee deliberations



On 19 September, the Governmental Enforcement Committee on Anti-Counterfeiting met in Cairo, Egypt.

Chaired by the Director of the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC), the meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Customs Authority, Police, Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Agriculture, Environment Protection Agency, Consumer Protection Agency together with CropLife Egypt.

The meeting deliberated on a number of issues including the Committee's operational framework, together with measures to activate law enforcement versus illegal trade on pesticides.

The organisation and coordination of joint campaigns between different authorities in combat of counterfeiting activities were also discussed.

The chairman of the Committee subsequently filed a memorandum to the Minister of Agriculture in relation to the funding of the committee and prospective operational activities.

Pesticides Applicators Training Project Taskforce Meets in Cairo

On 21 September, the taskforce of the Pesticide Operators Applicators Training and Certification Project in Egypt met at the HQ of the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) in Cairo, Egypt.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Salah Abdelmoemen (Chair of the Taskforce) and was attended by Ali Mohd. Ali for CropLife Africa Middle East and Alexandra Harrison for ACIDI-VOCA. Other members of the taskforce present were Dr. Monir Almaz (Director of CAPL), Dr. M. Essa (Director of the Plant Protection Research Institute, together with the representative of the Service and Follow-up Dept of the MOA and Dr. Said Abdella of CropLife Egypt.

Confirming commitment to the project objectives and targets, the discussions among the partners focused on the following aspects:

Development and validation of the training course curriculum as intellectual property of the project.

Establishment of the required legal frame for training, certification and licensing together with enforcement measures.

Finalization of the project master trainer phase by conducting 2 additional courses in Upper Egypt and Nubaria (Delta) in October and November 2011 respectively.

Preparation of a project brochure and video documentary as part of the project media campaign.

It is worth noting that the project is a tripartite partnership between CropLife Africa Middle East, ACIDI-VOCA and the Ministry of Agriculture of Egypt with operational plans scheduled until the end of 2012.



ali@croplifeafrica.org

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East & Southern Africa

Container Management Project Team Annual Meeting

The Container Management Project Team met on 20 and 21 September in Lyon, France. On 22 September a "field tour" was arranged by Adivalor. The opportunity was taken for the CleanFarms team to participate at this event.

The two-day programme covered the following:

- Overall global container management progress in 2010
- Presentation by the FAO
- Regional Reports
- Overview of Vision, Goals & Measurements for 2011 and plans for 2012
- CleanFarms Project
- Communications Programme
- Best Management Practices
- End Use Applications
- Seed Treatment containers
- Drums & Totes
- Business Models
- Budget 2011
- Review & Summary of Goals, Measurements & Responsibilities

The positive progress made in Africa with the development of container management pilot programmes was noted.

The Adivalor field tour included a visit to OXXA, their key recycler of empty pesticide containers and to the Eurea Groupe, a cooperative collection centre.



The Container Management Project Team

les@croplifeafrica.org

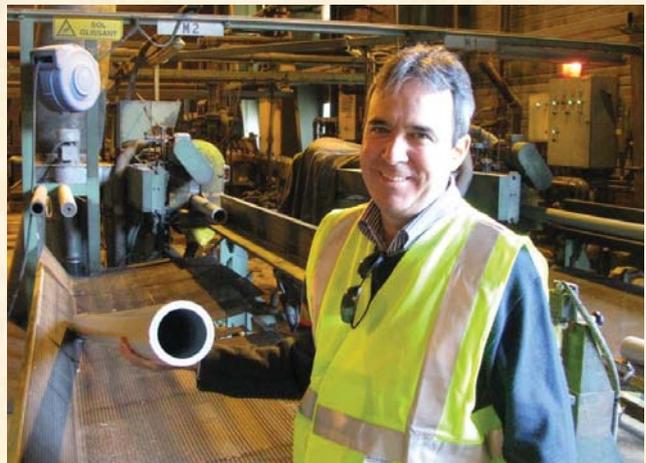
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Baled empty pesticide containers
at the OXXA plant



From granulation



To finished product



Empty containers collected at the Eurea Groupe Cooperative

SADC, Regional Stakeholder Assembly on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures for Food Safety

The SADC Secretariat implemented a regional project aimed at strengthening control of management systems for sanitary and phytosanitary measures in the SADC region. The meeting took place 19 - 21 September in Gaborone, Botswana. Marilza Kieck represented the "plant science industry".

The Secretariat convened the 4th Regional Stakeholders Assembly at which one of the activities covered was the discussion on the implementation of the SADC Regional Guidelines for the "Regulation of Crop Protection Products".

Regional priorities on plant protection programmes were also covered and included:

- * Information dissemination
- * Migrant pests control strategies
- * Awareness campaigns
- * Regional seed security issues
- * The spread of Fruit Fly

Other areas included pesticide management, pest & disease management, weed management, climate change, extension & information and harmonization.

Following country presentations on common areas that require regional intervention, the list includes:

- * Capacity building
- * SPS awareness
- * Batrocera invaders
- * Technical SPS training
- * Rejection of certain commodities by the EU
- * The need for a regional list of pests and diseases
- * Information and control initiatives on "fruit fly" in the region
- * Pesticide management
- * The problem of porous borders
- * The ability to manage pesticide residue levels
- * Informal markets and street selling of pesticides packed illegally in small sachets etc.

Participants at the Regional Stakeholder Assembly



les@croplifeafrica.org

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CropLife Madagascar viewed as a valued partner by the Madagascar Customs Authorities

CropLife Madagascar has been approved as a key partner organisation for the application of the "Procédure Accelérée de Dedouanement" or "speedy customs clearance process". Only a few professional organisations have achieved this status. The letter from the Customs Director General confirming the status of CropLife Madagascar can be seen below.

The benefits of this development is that members of CropLife Madagascar can collect their imported goods immediately after submitting their documents to customs. This reduces the clearance timing from around 7 days to only 1-2 days.

This is a tribute to the recognition of the organisation and the sound role played by the Executive Committee.



THE AGROCHEMICALS ASSOCIATION OF KENYA / CROPLIFE KENYA FIGHTS COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS IN THE MARKET

The world Anti-counterfeit Day was first established in 1988 by the Global Anti-counterfeit group (GACG). GACG is a network of national and regional anti-counterfeiting organizations whose common objective is to exchange and share information, to participate in appropriate joint activities and to cooperate in the resolution of specific Intellectual Property problems and challenges in their respective national or regional areas. Commemorated globally every year in June to create awareness on issues of counterfeiting, this year the World Anti-counterfeit day was celebrated on 8th June 2011. Due to the reading of the national budget, this event was marked on 7th June in Kenya. The Anti-Counterfeit Agency (ACA) is a state corporation established by the Anti-Counterfeit Act 2008 and has been operational since June 2010. The mandate of the Agency is to eliminate counterfeiting in Kenya through enlightening and informing the public on matters relating to counterfeiting and intellectual property rights as well as enforcement of intellectual property rights in Kenya.

The commemoration of the World Anti-Counterfeit Day took place on Tuesday 7th June 2011, with a procession, which started at 9.00am. The procession was flagged off from Teleposta Towers and ended at Uhuru Park with a symbolic burning of counterfeit products. The inaugural event, the first ever of its kind in Kenya was presided over by the Assistant Minister for Industrialization, Hon Nderitu Muriithi. The event was also graced by the head of European Union Delegation to Kenya, His Excellency Ambassador Lodewijk Briet.



The CropLife Kenya Team



Article Submitted by CropLife Kenya

The global event that was celebrated in Kenya drew the participation of AAK members where there was representation from various companies. Members of staff as well as members of both the Anti-counterfeit Steering Committee and taskforce were also present. There was also representation from members of the public and private sectors in various industries. The event commenced with a procession that was flagged off by the Assistant Minister and traversed the city of Nairobi. Placards, posters and banners with Anti-counterfeit messages were in clear display. The climax of the procession was at Uhuru Park where there was a symbolic burning of counterfeit goods. This dramatized the various confiscated counterfeit goods from all sectors that have had a rampant effect to the economy.



The symbolic burning of counterfeit goods



The flagging off by the Assistant Minister of Industrialization, Hon. Nderitu Muriithi

Mr. D. K Kagwe giving a press briefing during the event



The CropLife Kenya member companies deal in pesticides in one way or the other in the supply chain of these products and are therefore affected by the counterfeit products in the market. It is in this regard that in 2010 the Association set up CropLife Kenya Anti-Counterfeit Steering Committee whose mandate is to look into all issues on counterfeit with a view of controlling the products.

In 2011 the Steering Committee set out to address the following issues in order to deal with counterfeit products in the market.

- * Training and awareness creation of farmers on dangers and why they should not purchase counterfeit products.
- * Identifying and exposing counterfeiters along the supply chain.
- * Working with the Government Anti-Counterfeit Agencies on counterfeiting.

Article Submitted by CropLife Kenya

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CropLife South Africa: Launch of compendium "The Control of Fungal, Viral and Bacterial Diseases in Plants	Nov 2
Board Meeting (ExCo 3-2011) in Paris, Radisson Blue	Nov 7/8
Biotech Working Group meeting - South Africa	Nov 10
Meeting with ACIDI-VOCA, Egypt	Nov 13
Meeting with CropLife Egypt-Cairo	Nov 14
Meeting with AOAD in KRT	Nov 16-17
Interpol Reg. IP Capacity building workshop: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	Nov14-18.
Multi stakeholder conference on extension work in Africa to convene in Nairobi	Nov 15-18
AfricaBio AGM	Nov 18
Meeting of the RSC in Brussels	Dec 5-6
Meeting of the Steering Committee on the PRD in Brussels	Dec 7-8
Meeting with FAO on Container Management - South Africa	Dec 5
ToT MAIB - Bari	Jan 2012
Regional master trainer session - Egypt	Jan 16-20



Contributors:
 Ali Mohamed Ali (North Africa Middle East) ali@croplifeafrica.org
 Bama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa) bama@croplifeafrica.org
 Les Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa) les@croplifeafrica.org

GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

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