

East & Southern Africa

East & Southern Africa Hub and Regulatory Workshop: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The East & Southern Africa Hub and Regulatory Workshop took place on 28 & 29 August in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme, "Striving for Excellence in Regulatory Matters through Public – Private Collaboration".

Ethiopia, a country of both opportunity and potential. The past five years have shown consecutive growth in the agricultural sector by greater than 11% average per year. Agriculture currently accounts for 47% of the GDP, provides 85% of employment and 90% of foreign currency earnings.

The country developed a 5-year Strategic Plan, which is projected to take agriculture to new heights. This focuses on key crops.

- Wheat for example totaled 100,000 ha last year; this year plantings will reach 130,000 ha and at the end of the 5-year period, 500,000 ha.
- The current area under sugar cane totals 47,000 ha and will increase by 80,000 ha in the 5-year period.
- Special emphasis will be placed on oils production in the form of palm oil and other vegetative oil crops.

The total area of the country is about 111.5 mil ha, of which 74.3 mil ha is suitable for annual and perennial crop production with only 15 mil ha currently under utilization.

The agricultural inputs market, including pesticides, has almost doubled in the past few years and is expected to increase significantly in the following 5 years.

At the workshop, the four presentations covered under the plenary session were:

- An update on the Africa Stockpiles Programme
- Anti-Counterfeiting in the Region
- Weed Resistance Management
- An update on Plant Biotechnology in Africa

Highlights over the two days covering "association issues" included the following:

- "Success Stories" in the E & SA Region.
- Do Partnerships Work" – CropLife Uganda
- Information Resources – CropLife South Africa
- The Challenge of Financial self-sustainability – CropLife Mauritius
- Obsolete Pesticides Safeguarding – CropLife Malawi
- Container Management Phase (3) – CropLife Madagascar
- Container Management – CropLife Kenya
- A 360° Integrated Look at Training in the Region
- Stewardship – Vision 2020
- Communications Update
- CropLife Management Association Guidelines
- The Spray Service Provider concept (including the benefits this could bring to the region as a whole).

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As background to the Regulatory Group workshop, in July 2011 the Regional Guidelines for the Regulation of Plant Protection Products in SADC Member States (SADC Guidelines) were agreed and this is now ready to enter the implementation phase.

In the interim, CropLife International looked at Regulations and the Regulation of Plant Protection Products (including the International Code of Conduct on the Use and Distribution of pesticides) in particular. On the basis of a global review of such regulations, CropLife has identified eight "Principles of Regulation" (PoR) and offered these as pillars to support pesticide regulatory systems. These principles address policy framework; transparency; data quality and protection; international harmonization; use assessment (benefit/risk assessment under local conditions of use); responsibilities of parties; compliance; equal treatment of registrants; and impact assessment of regulations. In addition, CropLife has looked globally at registration practices and has identified nine "Best Practices of Registration", which support the PoR

The workshop compared the SADC Guidelines with the PoR, and concluded that there was considerable merit to look into this in greater detail. This highlighted the PoR and its best practices and the applicability to the practical implementation of the SADC Guidelines.

The workshop was designed to familiarize registrars, other stakeholders and influencers with the elements of the PoR framework and mirror these against the SADC Guidelines. This included drawing analogies, noting contrasts and identifying possible gaps.

Registrars from eleven countries attended the workshop. Highlights in the agenda items included:

- A refresher on the Principles of Regulation (PoR)
- The analysis of the main part of the SADC Guideline against the PoR
- The benchmarking of the SADC Guidelines against the PoR questionnaire
- The possible action for alignment of the SADC Guidelines and PoR
- The introduction to Country Benchmarking Exercise for Kenya and South Africa
- Equivalence Assessment and Confidential Business Information (CBI)
- The importance of protection of regulatory data and practical implementation of safeguarding and safekeeping of CBI.

Although the untimely passing of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia made the event somewhat solemn and prevented the Minister of Agriculture from officiating at the opening, the workshop produced some excellent materials and provided the opportunity for valuable networking.

The East & Southern Africa Region also took the opportunity to bid farewell to Ali Mohamed Ali who has elected to take retirement at year-end.



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Hub Chairman, Kobus Steenekamp paying tribute to Bernhard Johnen for his efforts in supporting regulatory issues in the region.



Above & Below: Bidding farewell to Ali Mohd Ali on behalf of the E&SA



Tom Mabesa accepting the award for "Excellence in Information Resources" from Kobus Steenekamp



Stephen Matovu accepting the award "Excellence in Partnerships" from Kobus Steenekamp

Dineshsing Goburdhun accepting the award "Excellence in Financial Solutions" from Kobus Steenekamp

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Representing the Plant Science Industry

Ethiopia Obsolete Pesticides Project



Laying the groundwork for an obsolete pesticides disposal project is a long process. Training personnel, carrying out the inventory, analyzing the data, developing the environmental and social impact assessments, tendering for contractors – the list is long. However, the World Bank/GEF-funded Africa Stockpiles Programme project in Ethiopia has now begun the big push. A disposal contract has been awarded to an international hazardous waste management company and its personnel are now in-country supervising the safeguarding of obsolete stocks – in other words repackaging the stocks, transporting them to central storage locations and making them ready for shipping to Europe for high temperature incineration. The Project Coordinator, Shimelis Hassen, says that a recent review of funding priorities for the project means that it will now be able to eliminate all of the inventoried stocks in the country by the end of 2012.

Strong capacity already exists within the Project Management Team for this work, gained during the FAO-funded disposal of over 2,000 tons of obsolete stocks up to 2005, and the CLI-funded disposal in 2011 of a further 400 tons of obstocks. With the hazardous waste contractor's repacking materials delayed in Djibouti, the leftover materials and equipment from the CLI-funded work has allowed the safeguarding work to proceed without delay.

The picture shows Getachew Cherinet of CropLife Ethiopia beside trucks that have been loaded with obsolete pesticides ready for transportation to the Major Collection Centre at Gotera. This store was classified as high risk due to its proximity to a school and a river, so the activities will dramatically reduce the risk to people and the environment.

The longer-term issues have not been forgotten. An outreach campaign on the risks of obsolete pesticides is underway via radio and TV broadcasts. Consultants are also being contracted to develop a national pesticide management strategy as well as a sustainable pesticide container management strategy, and a sister project funded by the Government of the Netherlands and the FAO are handling the legislative and regulatory issues. All of these activities will help to ensure that such serious accumulations of obsolete pesticides will never happen again in Ethiopia.

(Submitted by Hans Dobson)



The Uganda Anti-Counterfeiting Scratch-Code Project

On Friday 31st, the opportunity presented itself for both Rudolf Guyer and Les Hillowitz to see firsthand a showing of the “anti-counterfeit video and information-sharing rollout” program in a remote village north of Kampala. Fifty-five farmers attended the showing which is a lower number than the average of 150 who participated at the past 34 screenings.

The scope of the project covers 38 screenings in four zones in Northern Uganda, directed at 75 selected agro-dealers. The project is supported through an outreach program including the use of radio as the primary media source.

On Saturday 1st September, a meeting took place with the Project Team together with distributors at which key components of the project were addressed. In summing up, despite the challenges, the project is viewed with great excitement.

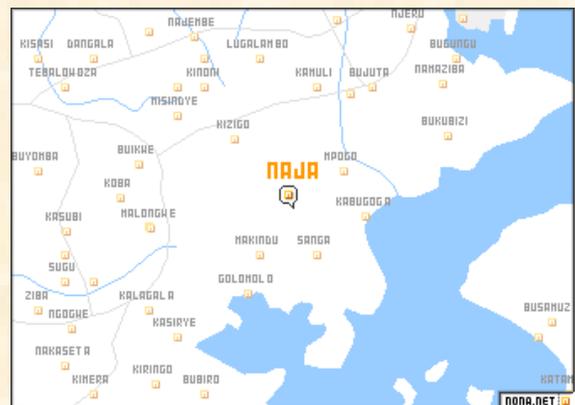


Above: The rollout of the project in the village of Naja

Right: A farmer testing the “scratch-code”



The Project Team



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CropLife Madagascar: Container Management

CropLife Madagascar has found its own way to deal with empty containers. With locally produced machinery, a total of 7,000 containers will be recycled into sign boards and fencing posts before the end of the year. The total cost of this recycling Initiative is just \$ 0.14 per liter.

A total of approximately 7,000, 25-liter containers were identified in six storage facilities managed by the locust authorities in the country. Over 90 percent of the containers are plastic, with the remaining 10 percent, metal. Only containers imported by CropLife Madagascar members are collected. The total cost to collect and dispose of all containers has been estimated at \$21,000 of which CropLife Madagascar members will contribute \$ 12,000, with the rest paid by the locust authority.

In 2007 and 2009, CropLife Madagascar collected a total of 11,000 empty containers. At that time no recycling opportunities existed resulting in that containers were crushed and buried. By now, some recycling companies have become operational and instead of burying, CropLife Madagascar has opted to go for the environmental friendlier route of recycling the containers.

Following collection, all containers are triple rinsed. Because the product is an oil-based formulation, the first rinse is undertaken with some detergent to thoroughly clean them. The rinse water is disposed off in a special constructed basin where the wash-water is open to evaporation. The residue left is then incinerated at a local incinerator.

Metal drums are recycled in a surprisingly simple way: they are flattened manually and the flat metal plates that result are used for signboards. Plastic containers are cut into smaller pieces with a band-saw and then chipped through the use of a locally made shredder. The result is small plastic pellets that are brought to a local recycling company that recycles them into irrigation pipes and other construction materials.

As in many other African countries, there is no existing legislation in place for the management of empty pesticide containers. There is a general waste legislation act saying that the owner of the product owns the waste, but there is no scheme for the collection and disposal of empty containers.

CropLife Madagascar concentrated its container management projects on large end users, including the locust control authority, for several reasons. The first is that farmers are not very willing to give up their containers for free. This is because containers have a value and are used to store water and cooking oil. Another reason is that suppliers of pesticides through tender awards are responsible to have a binding contractual obligation to deal with the empty containers.

The activities of CropLife have not gone unnoticed in Madagascar; the national association was approached by Imperial Tobacco to formulate recommendations on how they can deal with their empty containers.



The recycling operation in Madagascar

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Top U.S. Agriculture Official to Deliver Key Note Address at South African Agricultural Outlook Conference

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) World Agricultural Outlook Board chairperson of the Interagency Commodity Estimates Committee (ICEC) for grains, Jerry Norton, arrived in South Africa this week for a trip that includes a keynote presentation at the 12th South African Agricultural Outlook Conference on September 4 in Pretoria.

Norton oversees the development of wheat and feed grains forecasts for the monthly World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report. At the conference he will speak on "The Global Outlook for the Supply and Demand for Grains" and will provide key information on the global corn and wheat supply and demand situation.

Norton's visit to South Africa comes at a time when both locally and globally, there has been a lot of discussion and speculation about the impact of the U.S. drought on global grain supplies. The current drought in the United States has caused significant cuts in this year's corn production, which has translated into higher grain prices.

The Foreign Agricultural Service office of the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria has also collaborated with Santam Agri, University of Pretoria, and AfricaBio for three separate presentations to government officials, academics, students, farmers, and agribusinesses. Norton will also spend time with GrainSA and institutions involved in South Africa's grain information systems, to provide insight into the official statistical process of the World Agricultural Outlook Board.



Jerry Norton explains that reduced supply, due to the drought, had driven global maize prices to record levels and that this should prove an incentive to southern hemisphere planters



Kenya: Garden Exports to Grow by 10%



FPEAK
Fresh Produce Exporters
Association of Kenya



Kenya's horticultural export earnings were expected to grow by 10 percent this year thanks to above-normal rainfall, but the euro zone's financial woes were expected to dampen demand for flowers, a senior industry official said on 5 September. Stephen Mbithi, the chief executive of the Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya, said yesterday that favourable weather in Kenya was expected to increase horticulture production in the country by 10 percent this year, compared with last year's harvests of 380,000 tons. Horticulture is one of the east African country's leading sources of foreign exchange alongside tea exports and tourism. The cultivation of fruits, vegetables and flowers earned 91.6 billion shillings (about \$ 1.1 billion) in 2011, with flowers accounting for half of the country's horticulture earnings.

Courtesy FPEAK

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West & Central Africa

CropLife Cameroon: IPM / Responsible Use Training

Six training initiatives took place and these were at Ebolowa on 18 & 19 July, at Obala on 24 & 25 July, at Abong-Mbang on 30 & 31 July, at Santa on 2 & 3 August, at Garoua on 7 & 8 August and at NGAoundéré on 23 & 24 August.

In total there were 300 participants made of 205 farmers, 70 trainers and extension agents, and 25 agro-dealers.

The training was organised under the cooperation programme between CropLife Cameroon and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and also the Ebolowa School of Agriculture. This was to provide knowledge and skills to participants on IPM / Responsible Use in vegetable production and also to sensitize farmers on the risks associated with counterfeit and illegal pesticides. The sessions were supervised by Gisele Etoundi from MINADER who is also a training consultant for CropLife Cameroon, and facilitated by trainers from the MINADER and CropLife Cameroon. Interactive discussions focused on:

- Analyzing the major constraints in vegetable production.
- Pests and diseases and the appropriate pesticides to use in vegetable production.
- The labeling and packaging of products.
- The safe handling, storage and transportation of pesticides as well as the use of PPE
- Stewardship and sustainable agriculture.
- IPM / Responsible Use in vegetable production
- Sprayers and best practices in pesticide application.
- The regulations of pesticides in Cameroon.
- Illegal pesticide uses and the associated risks.
- Pesticide resistance and failure to control pests and diseases in vegetable production



Above: Participants during classroom session and at the end of the training workshop : Below



Above: A session on Anti-Counterfeiting and (Below) a group of participants with posters "Saying No to Fake Pesticides"

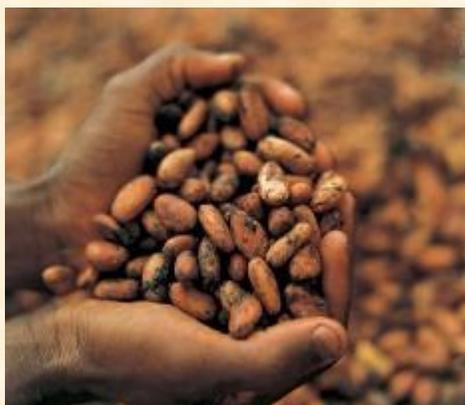


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CropLife Côte d'Ivoire meets with Ministry of Agriculture, Côte d'Ivoire



(L- R) Dr K. Bredoumi, Director General in charge of Agriculture & Food Security and G. Silué Director of Crop Protection, Ministry of Agriculture



Participants at the discussions included, Dr Kouassi S. Bédoumi, Director General Agriculture, in charge of Food Security, and Silué Gnegnery, Director Crop Protection, Ministry of Agriculture.

M. Dosso, F. Traoré, and R. Yeboué, President, Vice-President and Executive Secretary, respectively attended on behalf of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire.

The meeting was organized as an introduction to the newly appointed team in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The opportunity was taken to brief the new team on the difficulties members of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire have faced during previous years. The major issues are those related to illegal pesticides coming onto the market and the lack of action from the authorities as well as the non-compliance of many small size companies supplying pesticides for strategic crops such as cocoa. Such malpractices could put the economy of the country at risk based on the rejection of cocoa beans in foreign markets for poor quality.

The meeting concluded on the following points:

- CropLife Côte d'Ivoire to submit a formal request and with document support on the issue.
- The Director General will organise a look-see tour in the major agricultural areas where pesticides are widely used, and with inspectors from ports of entry.
- The new team will facilitate a meeting between customs services and CropLife Côte d'Ivoire.
- Two workshops to be organised for the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for pesticide policies.
- The Anti-Counterfeiting Committee will be relaunched.

CropLife Ghana: Stewardship Training



During August a sensitization workshop was conducted on the use of illegal pesticides, organized by COCBOD and CropLife Ghana to educate farmers on the risks associated with the uses of illegal pesticides on cocoa farms under the ICCO Africa Cocoa SPS project.



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North Africa Middle East

CropLife Egypt Meets with Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

On the 29 August, CropLife Egypt held a meeting with a delegation from the Foreign Agricultural Services (FAS) representing the US Department of Agriculture together with representatives of the US Embassy in Egypt.

The meeting was attended by the following:

- Sarwat Sakr (Chairman, CropLife Egypt)
- Said Abdella (CLE Board member)
- Essam El-Dabeh (CLE Board member)
- Elizabeth Johnson (International Trade Specialist US Embassy Cairo)
- Anita Katial (Senior Agricultural Attaché US Embassy Cairo)
- Courtney Musser (Economic Affairs US Embassy Cairo)
- Deborah Edwards (Consultant Global Regulatory Strategy in Pesticides)

The meeting focused on the promotion of minor use registrations to enhance exports of agricultural produce to the USA and the European Union.

Prior to the meeting, the FAS delegation had met with the Agricultural Pesticides Committee (APC) of the Ministry of Agriculture of Egypt and the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) to better understand the roles and capabilities of these institutions. FAS also met with exporter unions, UPACH and HEIA in addition to the Alexandria University and other stakeholders.

CropLife Egypt delivered 3 presentations at the meeting dealing with the following issues:

- Egypt's Response to the PoR initiative
- The PoR benchmarking questionnaire
- CropLife's activities in Stewardship, Anti-Counterfeiting and regulatory harmonization

FAS explained that they intend to organize a workshop in Egypt early next year with participation of relevant stakeholders to develop an action plan to introduce alternative crop protection products and provide recommendations to strengthen pesticide registration and regulatory systems in the area of minor crops. Also to set standards and protocols to assess, register and monitor pesticide use in this context.

These activities are foreseen to cover Egypt and Morocco in phase (1) with potential expansion in the region at a future date.

FAS expressed interest in cooperating with CropLife Egypt and invited CLE to undertake the role of organizing the planned workshop in 2013.

CropLife Egypt undertook to consider such an undertaking in cooperation with the Agricultural Pesticide Committee.



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Rising Concern on Counterfeit Pesticides in Egypt

Officials in Egypt have warned that counterfeit pesticides are causing problems in the country, threatening agricultural productivity and the country's ecosystems. Earlier this week, the agriculture committee in the lower house of the Egyptian Parliament warned that, due to insufficient government inspection and lack of effective management, counterfeit and outdated pesticides are still being widely used.

Parliamentarians warned that counterfeiters have been producing agricultural chemicals with the brand names and product labelling of recognised companies in order to deceive farmers, and that in some cases these chemicals have damaged crops and tainted soils.

Experts in the country have said that the twin problems of counterfeiting pesticides and fertilisers and smuggling banned products are endemic in Egypt and warned that, unless the situation is taken in hand, there could be serious implications for public and environmental health.

In response to this, the government has inaugurated an Agricultural Pesticide Committee governed by the Ministry of Agriculture, which has embarked upon an awareness raising campaign to engage with farmers and improve knowledge on which chemicals to use and which to avoid.

However, it appears the situation is not so cut and dry. Greenpeace, which has recently begun work in Egypt, has said that the oligarchic stranglehold of a handful of large agribusinesses on the Egyptian market has given rise to the healthy illegal trade in potentially dangerous chemicals.

Last week, Ahmed Droubi, a biologist working with Greenpeace, declared in the Egypt Independent that poorer farmers could not meet the large companies' asking prices and so had to resort to more dubious alternatives. He said, "[These companies] can manipulate prices as they like and create market need... Therefore, small farmers resort to smuggling illegal pesticides and fake fertilizers as they can buy them at cheaper prices."

In January, Europol, Europe's crime intelligence agency, warned that the trade in counterfeit agricultural chemicals is also growing in Europe, driven by rising input costs and facilitated by experienced organised criminals. Europol said the 'low risk – high profit' margin of the illegal pesticides market has attracted criminal gangs and given rise to a situation wherein an estimated 25 percent of pesticides in circulation are believed to have come from illegal sources in some North-Eastern states.

The agency said the trade exists throughout Europe and suggested that the use of banned or counterfeit chemicals could have serious health and ecological implications. Europol called on the EU to launch an investigation into the traceability of various chemicals in an attempt to stamp out the trade.

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General Assembly meeting SAGA (Sudan)	Sept 19
Meeting with AOAD on their 40th Anniversary	Sept 27
IPM course for vegetable sector, Egypt	Oct 1-4
Regional SSP Training: Kumasi & Accra, Ghana.	Sept 17- 5 Oct
IPM Rollout, Kumasi, Ghana	Sept 24-26
Meeting with USDA: Biotechnology strategy for greater harmonization in Southern Africa	Sept 19
RRC Meeting, Zürich	Sep 24-25
Vector Control Project Team Meeting in Brussels	Sep 26-27
Stakeholder meeting to discuss the format and program for the release of the ISAAA findings	Sep 28
Closure CleanFarms Malawi: Lessons Learned Workshop	Oct 3
Amman side meeting CropLife AME officers	Oct 16
NAME Hub & Regulatory Workshop – Amman, Jordan	Oct 17-18
SSP ToT Training: Zambia	Oct 22-26
Partnership Meeting of the World Cocoa Foundation, Zürich	Oct 24-25
Pre Board Meeting – Discussion covering Strategic Blueprint with sponsors	Nov 5
Board meeting, Lyon	Nov 6
Obsolete Stocks project Team Meeting, Monheim	Nov 7
World Cocoa Conference, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire: Together for a sustainable cocoa economy	Nov 19-23
IPR and CBI training in Rabat with support by Michael Carroll	Nov 22

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GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

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