



## East & Southern Africa

### Hub and Regulatory Workshop, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 25 & 26 August.

"We as the Ministry of Agriculture developed the draft of a new legislation for the management of pesticides. This took a long time in coming and several stakeholders were engaged, including CropLife, leading to what is said is a most ambitious legislation framework governing the management of pesticides. It has been said that this piece of legislation is too ambitious for Africa, but we have every intention of making this work once it becomes law and which will happen before year-end. I want to take this opportunity of thanking CropLife for the inputs and assistance they made in developing this piece of legislation."

"Over the last couple of years we have seen the emergence of counterfeit and unregistered products creeping into this market, not too serious at this stage, but nevertheless notable. The damage to man and the environment caused by counterfeit products cannot be over emphasised. This scourge adversely impacts on exports as well as causing some long-term effects to soil structures. Once our new Act is in place we intend addressing this issue with a heavy hand. The social impact of a farmer losing his crop as a result of fake product use is more than heart-breaking; it is a criminal act and needs to be stamped out. Ladies and gentlemen, the saying goes "Counterfeit Products Make the Poor even Poorer"

"This then brings me to the point of training. I ask, "Who knows pesticides better than the Industry itself", it therefore makes good sense for my Department to call on CropLife Ethiopia for training support. This, not only targeted at Anti-Counterfeiting Training, but also focusing on the Responsible Use of Pesticides. I am aware that over the years some "ad hoc" training by Industry has taken place, but what I would like to see is this better structured and on a more formalized basis."

"I am aware that the management of empty pesticide containers is considered as a priority by CropLife Ethiopia and that there is a project being developed in partnership with other stakeholders but primarily with the Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporters Association. This is really encouraging news and I would like to confirm my Ministry's full commitment to support you in any way on this venture."

These were just a few of the comments made by Ato. Weldehawariyat Asafa, Director of Plant Health Regulatory Directive in his opening address at the CropLife East & Southern Africa Hub and Regulatory Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 25 August.

Prior to Ato Weldehaariyat's address, Mesfin Endezinaw, Deputy Chairman of CropLife Ethiopia welcomed all to Addis. In his address he stressed on the turbulent issues that the Association faced during 2014 and 2015, mainly caused by some overbearing bureaucratic changes within government corridors. He said that these occurrences have actually gone so far, to the extent of threatening the very existence of the association.

He remained confident that ongoing engagement with the authorities will bring to an end the current impasse and will get CropLife Ethiopia legally re-registered shortly.



Ato Wedehawariyat Asafa delivering the Opening Address



( R ) Kobus Steenekamp  
Hub Chair, East &  
Southern Africa



(L) Mesfin Endezinaw  
Deputy Chairman, CropLife  
Ethiopia

In his key note address, Kobus Steenekamp, Hub Chair for East & Southern Africa stressed on the fact that the economy of Ethiopia is based on agriculture, which accounts for around 46% of gross domestic product, 83% of exports, and 80% of total employment. He went on to say that approximately 12 million smallholder households account for about 95 per cent of the agricultural GDP and 85 per cent of employment.

With a total area of about 1.13 million km<sup>2</sup> and about 51.3 million hectares of arable land, Ethiopia has tremendous potential for agricultural development with currently, just over 20% arable land being cultivated. That nearly 55 per cent of all smallholder farmers operate on one hectare or less.

Exports are almost entirely agricultural commodities, with coffee as the largest foreign exchange earner, and the flower industry becoming a new source of revenue. Ethiopia's coffee exports represents about 1.0% of the world's demands but with "Ethiopian Coffee" a very special product to offer. Coffee is critical to the Ethiopian economy. More than 15 million people (25% of the population) derive their livelihood from the coffee sector. Ethiopia is also Africa's second biggest maize producer.

He ended by saying, with the above points as background, it is little wonder that all with the exception of two of the core CropLife member companies are present in the Ethiopian market and that within CropLife Africa Middle East, Ethiopia is regarded as a core country.

From a regulatory perspective, the workshop provided an opportunity to catch-up on the three main subjects covered last year: Endocrine Disruptors (EDs), Pollinator Health and Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs).

Regarding EDs, presentations and discussions focused on the most recent developments in the USA and the EU. Similarly, on Pollinators, the emphasis was placed on developments in Africa. HHPs were addressed in a half-day session jointly with representatives of the national CropLife associations of East and Southern Africa.

This session concentrated on how the subject is going to be covered at the fourth meeting of the International Conference of Chemicals Management (ICCM-4) meeting in Geneva. The agenda paper that was made available for comment in April 2015 was addressed and consideration was given to CropLife's comments and proposals for managing HHPs successfully.

Aside from this, a session was arranged to review progress with harmonization of regional regulatory frameworks and continued cooperation with industry on this issue. Also, bearing in mind that the publication of the revised FAO guideline on Good Labeling Practices is imminent, a session was scheduled to look at this guideline in the context of the implementation of the Global Harmonised System (GHS).

The workshop provided the opportunity to become more familiarized with Confidential Business Information (CBI) and its practical safeguarding, which is an issue of increasing importance. Lastly, a review was made of the "listing" in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention and its relationship with similar listing under EU regulations.

The national associations focused on:

- Stewardship with particular reference to Resistance Management.
- Project Management
- Container Management

More than 60 delegates participated at Hub & Regulatory Workshop, which took place at the Capital Hotel in Addis Ababa.

Les Hillowitz



Group Delegates

L-R Mukesh Rughoo, Betty Atto, Harish Dhutia and Elmé Coetzer-Boersma



L-R Rudolf Guyer, Fikre Markos, Les Hillowitz, Kobus Steenekamp, Mesfin Endezinaw and Weldehawariyat Asafa

L-R Evelyn Lusenaka, Richard Sikuku, Susan Njoroge and Ronald Chilumpha



## Stewardship

### GlobalGAP Conference - Cape Town: 12 August

The conference focused on smallholder producers and how to include this sector effectively in the supply chain and sustainable production practices.

Speakers included:

- Guy Callebaut, GlobalGAP Chairman of the Board, Germany & Vice-Chairman of BelOrta, Belgian leading fruit and vegetables Producers Auction and VBT, the Association of Belgian Horticultural Cooperatives, Belgium.
- Mishinga Seyuba Kombo, Pick n Pay Enterprise and Supplier Development program,
- Les Hillowitz, CropLife Africa Middle East (container management)
- Rodger Smith, Language of the Wilderness Foundation Trust.

**Les Hillowitz**



Guy Callebaut, GlobalGAP Chairman of the Board

### CropLife Sudan (SAGA): Responsible Use Training of Trainers Program - Khartoum

SAGA (CropLife Sudan) in cooperation with CropLife Africa Middle East conducted a 5 –day Responsible Use ToT program in Khartoum, 23 - 27 August.

The Minister of Agriculture opened the event, which was especially appropriate as this was held at a training venue within the Ministry of Agriculture. In his speech, he paid tribute to the efforts of SAGA and CropLife over the past ten years and made the request for additional activities in the future by way of training inputs. This he said has the full commitment and support of his ministry.

There were 49 participants at the workshop from various sectors, including:

- The Ministry of Agriculture (Plant Protection, IPM Dept. and Extension Services)
- The Ministry of Environment
- The Consumer Protection Sector
- Industry
- Pesticide Retailers

The training program was conducted by Said Abdella, which was widely covered by media including television and the newspaper network.

**Said Abdella**



Group Photo

**Representing the Plant Science Industry**

## SSP Impact Assessment Workshop, Ghana

### Working Sessions on the Way Forward for the SSP concept in Cocoa in Ghana

“Farmer groups in Ghana should be encouraged to adopt the Spray Service Providers concept”, according to one of the participants during the working session that was jointly organized by CropLife Africa Middle East and the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF).

The session attracted 30 representatives of the main players of the cocoa value chain in Ghana and took place on Thursday 20 August in Accra, Ghana.

The main objective of the working session was to present the results of the final evaluation of the Spray Services Provider (SSP) project implemented by CropLife Africa Middle East and partly funded by the World Cocoa Foundation African Cocoa Initiative's, and to discuss the way forward.

Participants included representatives of the public sector (Capsid-CODAPEC, COCOBOD, Ministry of Finance, PPRSD/MOFA), members of CropLife Ghana (Adama, Calli Ghana, Chemico, Dizengoff, Wienco, Wynca Sunshine), cocoa trading companies (Mondelez, Olam, PBC/Touton), farmer organizations (Kuapa Kokoo), agro input dealers, the Netherlands and US embassies, and technical partners (Agro Eco, Fairtrade, International Cocoa Initiative).



L-R, Bama Yao with Sona Ebai

William Kotey, President of CropLife Ghana opened the meeting and said he was happy to see so many member companies as they need to play a much more active role in ongoing activities. Sona Ebai, Chief of Party of the Africa Cocoa Initiative of the World Cocoa Foundation, mentioned in his opening speech, the collaboration with CropLife in the SSP project. He also stressed the need for scaling-up and collaboration with other partners to spread the SSP concept in Ghana.

CropLife Africa Middle East, represented by Bama Yao and Manon Mireille Dohmen, presented the SSP concept, the steps needed to set up a SSP project and the results of the impact assessment. The presentation generated a lot of discussion mainly about access to good quality pesticides. Participants agreed on the positive contribution of the SSPs towards the reduction of counterfeit products in the system. They also recognized that SSPs could be the solution for the much non-compliance most farmers' organizations have with certification schemes, such as Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance and UTZ.

In addition, to open discussions, participants were also asked to list their thoughts about how the SSP concept could fit in with the existing spray gangs of the government. Participants wrote that the private sector should be involved in this and the public sector should limit its role to that of “regulator” and not “implementer”. Another person noted that farmers need to pay for spraying services and that these should not be offered for free to ensure sustainability. Another question was how to guarantee the quality of the SSP services. The need for monitoring in the field was mentioned, just as the enforcement of regulations, to avoid counterfeit products from entering the market.

A further benefit of the SSP concept that was highlighted was the possibility to set up a collection scheme for empty containers. Frederic Boampong, Project Manager of CropLife Ghana, presented the progress the national association has made so far. The response from participants was very positive and CropLife Ghana was urged to further develop the scheme in order to offer a solution for the thousands of empty containers that are currently in the system.

The 3-hour working session closed with a lunch during which discussions continued. Hopefully this will create new opportunities for CropLife Ghana to further rollout the SSP concept in the cocoa sector and beyond.

**Manon Dohmen**

## GlobalGAP Conference - Addis Ababa: 27 August

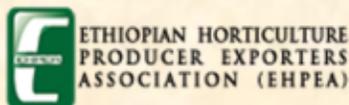


The workshop was aimed at the horticultural exporter sector of which approximately 120 participated at the meeting

Ato Tewodros Zewdie, Executive Director of the Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporters Association (EHPEA) undertook the introduction to the program and Opening Speech.

Ato. Alem W/Gerima, Director General, Ethiopia Horticulture Development Agency (EHDA) followed this with the Keynote Address

Four presentations followed, one from Les Hillowitz on “container management”



## CropLife Ghana Obsolete Stocks Program : 2009-2015



Left: Launching of the project in 2009 Right: Safeguarding exercise in 2010 Below “Left: Storage at the TSF from 2010-2014 and Bottom Left: transporting obstocks in 2015



The CropLife Ghana CleanFarms Project was initiated in 2009 following a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Ghana, represented by the Ministry of Food & Agriculture (MoFA) and CropLife International, represented by CropLife Ghana.

An estimated volume of around 190 tons of obsolete pesticides including associated wastes, mainly empty pesticide containers were collected and safeguarded at the Temporary Storage Facility (TSF) in Pokuase. The materials were collected primarily from warehouses of CropLife Ghana member companies as well as non-member companies, GAIDA retailers, COCOBOD, cocoa inputs warehouses, cotton warehouses, irrigations sites, MoFA warehouses, etc. CropLife Ghana member companies made funds available for the construction of the TSF, demonstrating responsibility in the management of obsolete pesticides and associated wastes.

In addition to this project, an “empty pesticide container management pilot program” was initiated in 2010 in the Ejura-Sekyere Edumase District of the Ashanti Region. Specially constructed collection bins were placed at various vantage points in the districts for the collection of empty pesticide containers. Over 15 tons of empty containers derived from small packs have so far been collected and transported to the TSF in Pokuase.

Under an EPA-UNDP Program, between March and July 2015, over 100 tons of the obsolete stocks were collected and transported from the TSF by Veolia to Europe for effective disposal. FAO released funds through the Ministry of Food & Agriculture (MoFA) and in collaboration with CropLife Ghana and the EPA, to collect and safeguard identified obstocks in the system. These, together with the 80 tons of obsolete pesticides remaining in the Temporary Storage Facility (TSF) in Pokuase will be shipped to Europe for proper disposal.

Fred Boampong



## Regulatory

### East & Southern Africa Regulatory Workshop 25-26 August 2015

This year's regulatory workshop at the E & SA Hub Meeting brought together more than 25 officials representing regulatory authorities and the Ministry of Environment from 11 countries. During the session on harmonization, countries took cognizance of a history close to two decades, during which they have respectively pursued harmonization of regulatory frameworks for crop protection products with varied levels of success. SEARCH for instance kicked off in 1996 and ran for 12 years and was aimed at making pesticide registrations simple, including the reduction of duplication of efforts in generating field efficacy and toxicological data necessary to complete the pesticide registration. Equally, the development of SADC Guidelines for the regulation of Crop Protection Products involved Member States and other partners to assist in strengthening the regulatory framework for registration and quality control of plant protection products at both national and SADC regional level. In the spirit of the guidelines, each national government was and still is responsible for the necessary establishment of policy legislation (laws, regulations, directives etc.) to regulate plant protection products along entire product life cycles.

Within the East African Community, the process of establishing common regulatory frameworks began in earnest in 2006 with ministers from partner states endorsing the implementation of registration requirements (harmonized application forms), guidelines for labeling and efficacy evaluation of pest control products. Partner States were required thereafter to use the guidelines for the purpose of evaluating pest control products. Since then, technical teams from member countries have been meeting to move the harmonization agenda ahead.

More recently, in June 2015, Heads of State and Government signed the Sharma El Sheikh Declaration, launching the COMESA - EAC - SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area as an attempt to overcome the challenges associated with overlapping membership of the 26 States to the three regional economic communities (RECs). This is expected to pave the way for the movement of people, goods and services and therefore the review of regulatory frameworks in different sectors.

Reflecting on these developments country representatives provided respective updates and recommended for continued deliberations and implementation within the sub regional arrangements.

**Stella Simiyu Wafukho**



Bernard Johnen who lead the Regulatory Workshop



Workshop Participants

Representing the Plant Science Industry

## Registration of Biological Pesticides in Zambia

A stakeholders' meeting took place in Lusaka, Zambia to discuss Zambia's regulatory framework for the registration of biopesticides. The meeting brought together representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Health, research institutes, universities, and regulatory authorities. During the meeting, examples of biocontrol approaches on the continent were highlighted in several presentations as certain raisers to the discussion including;

- Biocontrol of Pests using pathogens; Case of Aflasafe in Africa
- Global Prevalence of Aflatoxin Contamination
- Biological Control of pests using predators: Case of LGB in Africa
- Biological Control of Pests using parasitoids: Case of Cassava Mealy Bug in Africa

The last two presentations in the Guidance Document on Registration of Biopesticides in SSA and Registration of Pest Control Products in Zambia were key references in the discussions on readiness of the country in registering biopesticides.

It was noted that the guidance document was developed by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation to provide a general framework for a sound and rational system for registration of microbial biopesticide on a regionally harmonised or country basis with common data requirements and equivalent registration systems.

From the discussions, it was emphasized that Zambia like most of the countries in SSA would need to review the existing regulatory framework to accommodate biopesticides. It was therefore recommended that the Zambia Agricultural Research Institute through the Ministry of Agriculture commence deliberations on the needed revisions and eventual registration of Aflasafe, which is currently being tested in the country.

**Stella Simiyu Wafukho**



Participants during the Stakeholders Consultative Meeting on 5 – 7 August 2015 in Lusaka, Zambia



## Meeting of the Comité Pesticides d'Africa Centrale (CPAC) and CropLife AME

A delegation the CPAC met with Bama Yao, Regional Director of CLAME in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on 18 August. Members of the delegation included:

- Mrs. Catherine Azouyangui, Director General, Head of the Delegation
- Prosper M. Bakak, Scientific Director (SD)
- Abessolo Asseko Felix, Finance Controller (FC)
- Moudoudou Jean Blaise, Registration Officer (RO)
- Mvom Timothée, Accountant (AC)

The meeting was organized following a request from the CPAC to update CropLife AME on their activities. The DG thanked CropLife AME for the continuous support to CPAC, particularly since she has been in office.

The exchange of discussions covered the following:

- **Cooperation** with CropLife AME for which the delegation expressed gratitude for the continuous support and which hopefully will last for many years to come. This covers the capacity building needed on regulatory issues and areas in pesticide management in the sub-region of Central Africa. The CPAC is also working with CARBAP, a research center specializing in the banana value chain.
- **Registration**, with an update from the SD focusing on the first registration session held in December 2014. For this initial intervention, 5 dossiers were submitted of which 4 were rejected and only one accepted with additional information requested. The second session, scheduled for end August could not take place as no dossier were received. The delegation called on CropLife for assistance by asking member companies to submit their dossiers. The delegation was reminded of the association status of CropLife AME and as such to promote the responsible use of pesticides for agricultural production. CropLife cannot become involved in the promotion or the registration of specific products also not the guidance of products in specific markets. These are strictly company related decisions.
- **Post-Registration** focusing on stewardship activities for capacity building and the promotion of IPM/RU. The delegation was reminded of a concern, which was earlier discussed, on the implementation of the activities by the national associations at country level. Cameroon is the only member state where a national association member of the CropLife AME network exists. It would therefore be gratifying to have participants from the CPAC to participate in such activities. The anti-counterfeiting activities was an issue raised, more so the need for this, owing to the inactivity of the regulatory authorities.
- **Revision of the Regulations.** This was recognized as an area for which CropLife AME could play a role. To do this a formal request needs to be lodged with sufficient time allowed for the completion of the process. The status of products registered in Cameroon and circulating within the sub-region needs to be addressed as these should in fact fall within the CPAC regulations.

**Bama Yao**



Ms. Catherine Azouyangui, Director General,  
Head of the Delegation CPAC



Prosper M. Bakak, Scientific Director (SD) - CPAC

## Anti Counterfeiting

### Anti-Counterfeiting Training Workshop for Enforcement Agents: Cote d'Ivoire



The President of CropLife CI addressing the participants



Participants from the Police (Above) and Customs (below)



On 13 August, in Abengourou, Eastern Cote d'Ivoire, 31 trainees from border officers from customs services, the police, regional directors and local officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, underwent a CropLife "one-day training" on anti-counterfeiting. The Director of Local Development and External Services (DDLSE) of the Ministry of Agriculture as well as the President of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire attended the workshop. Facilitators included R. Yeboue, Executive Secretary of CropLife CI, Bah Boni from the Directorate of Crop Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, and Bama Yao, Regional Director WCA CropLife AME.

The training was to help participants identify illegal pesticides and in so doing combat the illegal trade in pesticides, as they are after all the forefront and first contact point of the movement of the shipments of such goods.

The session was co-chaired by the President of CropLife CI, and the DDLSE representing the Director the Crop Protection Directorate (DPVCQ) of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The facilitators provided an interactive approach to guide the participants on:

- The importance of pesticides in agriculture, composition, toxicity, and responsible use.
- The pesticide regulations within Côte d'Ivoire.
- Labelling and labels, and risks associated with the misuse of pesticides.
- Counterfeit and other illegal pesticides.
- Health, environment and socio-economic risks associated with illegal pesticides.
- Combating counterfeit and other illegal pesticides.

The intervention clearly showed the need for improved cooperation among the major stakeholders to tackle the issue. The Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Police and the Customs services committed to conduct regular joint and coordinated actions to combat the illegal trade on the market.

The participants were presented with "certificates of participation" at the end of the session.

**Bama Yao**



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## Anti-Counterfeiting training for Customs and Immigration Services: Ghana

On 28 August 50 officers from Customs Services, Immigration Services and the EPA in the Volta Region participated in the workshop.

Fred Boampong, CropLife Ghana Program Officer and Joe Edmund facilitated the session focusing on the following topics:

- Overview of the legal framework for pesticide management in Ghana
- Pesticides: definitions, registration requirements, labels and toxicity, and responsible use
- Introduction to the EPA GCNet Clearance procedures and Importation
- What you should know about CropLife Ghana
- Identifying a genuine agrochemical, counterfeit agrochemicals & fertilizers
- Perspective of CropLife AME

The workshop was highly successful, judging by the questions during the session.

The officers were amazed at the extent of activities undertaken by CropLife Ghana.

They were appreciative of the efforts made and planned to be more vigilant at border posts in checking for unregistered or fake agrochemicals as they now had the knowledge to do this

**Bama Yao**



F. Boampong and J. Edmund (Above) giving comprehensive training to the customs officers (below)



Group Photo of Participants

## Association Management

### CropLife Egypt holds Annual General Meeting

CropLife Egypt held their General Assembly meeting on 1 September at the association's offices in Cairo. The meeting covered the report back of the association's activities, budget and the election of Board members.

Members received a summary of the activities undertaken during 2014. Sarwat Sakr and Said Abdella jointly covered the report back including the Anti-counterfeiting campaign, the Spray Service Provider implementation and communications covering regulatory issues.

The process of electing a new Board was conducted in the presence of officials:

Sarwat Sakr was re-elected as Chairman

Abdelfattah Saad - Secretary

Said Abdella - Treasurer,

Essam Eldabe - Board Member

Ashraf Naeem - Board Member

Sherif Ayoub - Board Member

Zoheir Elfar - Board member

**Said Abdella**



L-R, Ramadan Saudi - Ashraf Naeim - Said Abdella - Ahmed Hosni - Sarwat Sakr - Abdelmoneim Bakr - Essam Eldabe - Hisham Mebed

### CropLife Sudan (SAGA) – Summary of Activities - Training Programs (preceding 4 months)



Group Participants



The Asslaya Sugar Company: 43 employees from the crop protection unit were trained on responsible use, spraying techniques and equipment calibration, during the period 2-6 May 2015.

A workshop on sorghum production embracing new technologies including herbicides and seed treatment took place on 15-16 April, - 120 sorghum producers and other stakeholder attended and the event.

Fruit and vegetable growers in River Nile, Kassala North and Khartoum states were trained on 1-8 April, in pest monitoring and on the correct use including calibration of knapsack sprayers.

A total number of 120 farmers and spray applicators participated in these trainings.

Elsir Omer



## Association Management - Sudan

The Chairman and the Secretary General of SAGA were invited to a meeting at end April, which was chaired by the Vice President, and which was attended by other relevant Ministers. The focus of the meeting was the availability of agri-inputs for the 2015 / 2016 season and the problems anticipated.

SAGA briefed the meeting on the main problems faced in the supply of crop protection products, notably the availability of foreign exchange, the current method of payment, which is sight confirmed LC's and high customs duties, compared with other agri-inputs. The Vice President instructed the Governor of the Bank of Sudan to accept all modes of payment, which was a welcome outcome of the meeting. The Minister of Agriculture was asked to prepare a comprehensive report on the customs issue to be discussed further at the Council of Ministers level, which is presently under preparation. Furthermore, SAGA also highlighted the extremely serious impact of counterfeiting on the pesticide market resulting in poor quality of some products, with a big question mark on health, safety and environment issues. It was agreed that there is a need to finalize the revision of the Act and bylaws as soon as possible, which would address this.

A meeting took place with the new Federal Minister of Agriculture, Prof. Ibrahim Ahmed Eldikheri, previously from agricultural research. The opportunity was taken to wish him every success in his new position with the promise of full support and cooperation from the association. The meeting briefly discussed the regulations governing pesticides, smuggling, counterfeiting and the high customs duties. It was agreed to work together in an attempt to address the issues currently being experienced. SAGA supported their brief by preparing a short PowerPoint presentation for him to use when addressing the other concerned Ministers.

The Undersecretary of the Federal Ministry, Mr. Bahaa Aldin Khamis who at the same time is the Chairman of the National Pesticides Council (NPC) also attended the meeting. The Minister asked the Undersecretary to take onboard the issues of the obstocks, empty pesticide containers and the SSP concept, to the NPC meetings

SAGA met the FAO consultant on obsolete pesticides twice, on 27 July and again on 30 July at the NPC meeting, in which he briefed the meeting of his mission. He assured SAGA of his cooperation and to exchange views. SAGA proposed that he broaden the scope of his mission to include inventory of both POP's and other wastes as well as the safeguarding of these materials. He is planning to return to Sudan again in September.

With regard to the NPC, SAGA representatives are actively participating on all committees, particularly those pushing to finalize the revision of the pesticide legislation and bylaws.

A meeting took place with the Deputy Director General of the Sudanese Standard & Metrology Organization (SSMO) to discuss the regulations concerning preliminary compliance and pre-shipment inspection certificates. The issue was further discussed at the meeting held with the Union of National Chambers of Commerce of which SAGA is a member, at which it was agreed not to request a preliminary compliance certificate for all commodities including pesticides.

Aside from this, he promised to work jointly with SAGA on any shared issues and invited SAGA to use their meeting rooms

Elsir Omer

Federal Minister of  
Agriculture, Prof.  
Ibrahim Ahmed  
Eldikheri



Mr. Bahaa Aldin, Under  
Secretary, Ministry of  
Agriculture



## Plant Biotechnology

### Kenyan Parliamentarians Endorse Government Plan to Lift GMO Ban

Four Kenyan Parliamentarians namely Kareke Mbiuki (Vice-chair, Agriculture Committee), Florence Mutua (Member, Agriculture Committee), Robert Pukose (Vice-chair, Health Committee) and James Wandayi (Agriculture Committee) have voiced their support for the government's plan to lift ban on GMOs.

In a press conference organized at the parliament building on August 26, 2015, Hon. Mbiuki deplored the lack of knowledge on GMOs that has led to gross misinformation about biotechnology. He narrated his encounter with GMOs and farmers growing GM crops during a fact-finding tour in the European Union, together with his colleagues. "My trip to Europe exposed me to know more about safety and use of GMOs. Europe has approved at least 58 GM crops for food and feed including GMO maize, soya, oilseed, sugar beet and cotton. According to farmers we interacted with, there has not been any harm due to GM crops over the years," said Hon. Mbiuki.

"We are happy that the Deputy President as a scientist has hinted of lifting the ban, which we fully support, 'said Hon. Mutua and underlined the urgency of delivering GM crops for the country, such as Bt cotton and Bt maize. "Lifting the GMO ban means more jobs for the youth. Further, the textile industry could be revived if we adopt Bt cotton and other farming technologies." Hon. Wandayi noted that Kenya cannot afford to live in denial or isolation, "The country cannot be left behind when other countries like South Africa, Burkina Faso, and Sudan are embracing biotechnology. Furthermore, it's wastage of resources to allow students to study biotechnology yet the country cannot allow its application."

ISAAA



Kenyan MPs Florence Mutua, Robert Pukose, Kareke Mbiuki, and James Wandayi

### Certified GM Foods in China Safe, According to the Ministry of Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture of China through its website has issued a statement saying that all certified genetically modified foods that are sold on the Chinese market are safe. China has established a safety supervision system that covers the complete chain of GM products, including research, production and trading, according to the ministry.

The ministry will work with other departments to improve legislation of GM products and their testing technologies to ensure their safety, the ministry said in a reply to a March proposal by 10 members of China's top political advisory body on the improved safety management of GM foods.

The reply, posted on the ministry's website, said that China and other countries have done much research on the safety of GM foods that proved certified GM foods are as safe as traditional foods. "Internationally, there is a conclusion on the safety of GM foods, that is, that all GM foods that have passed safety evaluation and been certified are safe," the ministry said. The reply added, "The conclusion by the World Health Organization is that no health damage has been seen in any people worldwide who have consumed GM foods that have been approved by authorities."



ISAAA

## GMO maize to boost food sufficiency, says Industrialization Principal Secretary Wilson Songa

Kenya could become self-sufficient in its staple grain, maize, once the cultivation of Genetically Modified *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) maize is approved. Hinting on the possibility expected to come with the anticipated commercialisation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in Kenya, Industrialization Principal Secretary Wilson Songa said an average 400,000 tonnes that amounts to 13 per cent of maize production is lost to the stem borer pest annually. "The Bt gene that naturally protects plants from stock borers and ball worms in the case of cotton will forestall the loss that regrettably is equivalent to Kenya's normal annual maize imports in the current dispensation," said Dr. Songa during the official opening of the green growth consultative meeting on biotechnology with Government Technical officers at a Nairobi hotel yesterday.

He said research had established that the Bt gene produces a protein that cannot be digested by the destructive stem borer insects while it is harmless to humans. "In addition, Bt maize reduces the need for frequent drenching with expensive chemical sprays that are harmful to humans and the environment," noted Songa. The PS (pictured) pointed out that Kenya currently produces an average of 1.6 tonnes per hectare of maize as compared to the global average of 5.0 tonnes. "I am reliably informed by the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation that Bt maize varieties recorded a yield increase of 3.7 tonnes per hectare above the best commercial hybrid used in the trials, proof enough that we can attain the global average" he said. See also: Dam for Galana project to be built He added: "For Kenya, the need for modern technologies has never been greater. As demonstrated in other countries, biotechnology can help not only farmers, but consumers and the environment as well. He described Bt technology as "one that offers enormous opportunity to our country's quest for food security, poverty eradication and economic development".

"By taking an evidence-based approach to biotech policy and regulatory decisions, we can improve millions of lives at home and set an invaluable precedent for the region and the continent," said Songa. Present at the meeting were director of research in the Ministry of Science and Technology George Omabkho and representatives from African Agricultural Technology Fund, Kenya Agricultural and livestock Research Organisation and International Maize and Wheat improvement Centre.

Joe Ombuor : 20 August 2015

Principal Secretary Wilson Songa



Director of Research in the Ministry of Science and Technology George Omabkho

## SA Farmers to Use more GMO's

Johannesburg - Grain SA said South African farmers must make use of more Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) during farming to protect themselves against droughts in the future.

The organisation said 85 percent of South Africa's maize meal contains GMOs. This year's maize harvest has been almost completely decimated by a drought gripping the Free State, the North West and Mpumalanga.

Agriculture Minister Senzeni Zokwana said genetically modified farming techniques are being developed by his department and should be adopted by the industry. "We are working with the department of technology in finding new methods by which we can improve new cultivars, the new seeds that are 20 percent resistant to drought."

Grain SA CEO Jannie De Villiers said climate change will only worsen in the future and farmers must adapt. "What will the new technology bring to us is that mainly the plants will be able to hang in there until the end of February, so if we get rain, they will recover and then we will have a full crop again. So this is what farmers are looking for."

Edited by Shimoney Regter



Grain SA says this may help farmers protect themselves against droughts in the future. Picture: EWN

## ICAR Emphasizes Importance of Field Trials of GM Crops



India's premier agriculture research body Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has emphasized the importance of genetically engineered crops in bridging the demand and supply gap for food grains in the future. 'Vision 2050' which provides a strategic framework for innovation-led inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth in the country has listed research into genetically modified organisms (GMOs) among nine key areas which have to be harnessed to enhance productivity, nutrition, and farmers' income.

ICAR in its vision document said, "*Genetic enhancement is considered to be a major option to bridge the demand and supply gap under normal situations as well as under projected scenarios of increased frequency and intensity of stresses.*" The document, released by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Patna on July 25, also noted that the GMOs do not provide a "miracle solution" to all problems, it detailed how scientific research in this area, backed by proper field trials, would help in dealing with safety and ethical aspects of genetically engineered crops.

"I am sure that ICAR Vision 2050 would stir new thinking in researchers to harness science, in the policymakers to develop policies for sustainable development of agriculture to provide food, income and livelihood, and in the consumers an urge to tailor their lifestyle, keeping in view the planetary boundaries of the Earth's resource system", said Dr. S. Ayyappan, director general of ICAR, in his preface to the vision document.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Bee Symposium, Cairo, Egypt</b>	<b>Sep 6-8</b>
<b>SSP TOT training, Malawi (2 interventions in partnership with MOST)</b>	<b>Sep 7-18</b>
<b>CropLife South Africa (AVCASA) Congress</b>	<b>Sep 8-9</b>
<b>Anti-Counterfeiting training for enforcement bodies (customs, police and pesticide control agents)</b>	
<b>San-Pedro, S. Western Cote d'Ivoire</b>	<b>Sep 10</b>
<b>Global Stewardship SC and IPM PT Meeting, Washington DC</b>	<b>Oct 7-8</b>
<b>NAME Hub and Regulatory Workshop, Cairo</b>	<b>Oct 27-28</b>
<b>RRC Meeting, Cairo</b>	<b>Oct 29</b>
<b>1st African Conference on Health Effects of Endocrine Disruptors –Challenges and Opportunities, Kruger Park, South Africa</b>	<b>Nov 2 - 6</b>
<b>Member States General Assembly African Apiculture Platform (MSP)- Harare, Zimbabwe</b>	<b>Nov 16–18</b>
<b>CLI Container Management Meeting, Cape Town</b>	<b>Nov 16-18</b>
<b>CLAME Board Meeting, Johannesburg</b>	<b>Nov 20</b>
<b>Pollinator Issue Team, Brussels</b>	<b>Dec 14</b>



Photo USAID



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**GROWING FOOD – CREATING RENEWABLES – SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY**

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