



## CropLife Africa Middle East News Update

### Welcome to the new CropLife Executive Director

On 1 February, Dr. Samira Amellal joined CropLife Africa Middle East as its new Executive Director.

Samira brings 10 years of experience in the Plant Science Industry, working first in Promo Vert, France as an expert in environmental safety and ecotoxicology and held the position of Registration Manager for the region of Europe. In 2008, Samira joined Bayer Morocco, where she became Head of Regulatory and Development for the Maghreb and West and Central African territory. Samira has been the Bayer company representative at CropLife Morocco since 2009 and was elected Vice President of CropLife Morocco in 2010. She was re-elected as Vice President of the national association in September 2016.

After a introductory period Samira will take over an increasing number of executive duties currently being undertaken by the Director General, Rudolf Guyer. Rudolf will continue in his role as the Director General / CEO of the association.

Samira holds a Master Degree in Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology from the University of Fez, Morocco and a PhD in Agronomic Sciences from the *Institut National Polytechnique de Nancy (INPL)*, France. Following her PhD Samira first worked as an Assistant Professor at the University of Nancy, at the National Polytechnic Laboratory of Soil and Environmental Sciences and later joined the *Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)* in Bordeaux as a Research Engineer.

Samira is married and has one daughter.

We welcome Samira to the CropLife Africa Middle East team



Dr. Samira Amellal



Dr Rudolf Guyer

## Stewardship

### Launch of the SSP Project in Mali

The launch of the SSP Project in Mali took place in Ségou on 13 January as part of the graduation ceremony for the SSPs. This attracted approximately 150 participants including 36 SSPs, stakeholders, representatives of member companies of CropLife Mali, the management team of the IFDC-2SCALE Mali and the media.

The graduation ceremony of the 36 SSPs who are now ready to service the vegetable producers in the Segou region was organized under the chairmanship of the Segou Regional Director of Agriculture (RDA). Following the welcome address by the Mayor of Segou, the three successive messages by the President of CropLife Mali, the National Coordinator of IFDC-2SCALE and the Segou RDA all paid tribute to CropLife Mali, CropLife AME and IFDC, and spoke highly of the SSP project. This covered the benefits related to improving productivity with emphasis on yields, quality, greater incomes, and the safety for both workers and consumers.

The 36 SSPs were then presented to the participants, especially to the producers and producers' organizations. They then received their kits comprising a full set of PPE, a knapsack sprayer, a certificate and badge, as well as a ledger to record their activities.

**Bama Yao**



The officials (Above) and participants (Below) during the ceremony.

Photo Courtesy: CropLife Mali



Group photo of some of the SSPs at the end of the launch ceremony. Photo Courtesy CropLife Mali



## Meeting between CropLife Cote d'Ivoire and the Council of Coffee-Cacao

On January 11, a delegation from the Council of Coffee-Cocoa (CCC) headed by the Director General and comprising the Director of Projects and Sustainability, the Director of Technical Operations, the Head of the Support Programme to Producers and the Head of Projects and Partnerships, met with CropLife Cote d'Ivoire. Participants from CropLife Cote d'Ivoire included the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the Regional Director WCA of CropLife AME.

The meeting was sought by CropLife CI to strengthen cooperation with the CCC based on their current objectives. CCC is responsible for the regulation, stabilization and the development of sustainable coffee and cocoa programmes. The CCC is a member, as is CropLife CI, of the national public-private partnership platform (PPPP) for the development of a sustainable cocoa programme, and strongly supported the SSP project of the WCF-ACI.

Following the welcome by Mrs Masandje Toure-Litse, Director General of the CCC the following topics were covered:

- CropLife CI: Organization structure, vision & mission, key activities conducted over the past four years, alone and through partnerships, including the CCC under the PPPP programme.
- The forthcoming roundtable to be organized by CropLife Cote d'Ivoire on the "issue of pesticide use for sustainable Agriculture" in a near future and the motivation for strong participation of the CCC.
- The SSP project. A brief summary was given focusing on the strong support received from the CCC. The feedback included the number of SSP trainers, number of SSPs trained, farmers serviced, acreage sprayed, additional incomes and the rollout of the IPM training program

The positive outcome paved the road for the CCC and CropLife CI to engage and strengthen the ongoing program by the CCC for the Quantity-Quality-Growth (Quantité-Qualité-Croissance, 2QC). CropLife CI and its member companies can provide a toolbox to contribute to a successful program through the supply of quality crop protection products and effective stewardship activities under an SSPs program. The CCC accepted to support the renewed program of the badges of SSPs and CropLife CI committed to train in excess of 600 agents of the CCC on responsible use of pesticides. It was agreed to organize a series of follow-up meetings to discuss and set-up specific joint activities for an effective cooperation between the CCC and CropLife CI.

**Bama Yao**



Mrs. Massandje Touré-Litse, Director General of CCC (Middle) with the Vice President, the President the representative of the BoD and the counsellor of the President (Left to Right). Courtesy: The Council of Coffee Cocoa

## First Spray Service Provider Project in Tanzania

BASF Tanzania, in partnership with the Clinton Development Initiative (CDI) Anchor Farm Project, kicked-off the first ever Spray Service Provider project in Tanzania. This took place in the Iringa District at which 14 participants underwent a training for SSP Trainers.

As background, CDI began working with smallholder communities in Iringa during the 2013-14 season under the Anchor Farm Project. Since then, CDI field officers have facilitated the formation of “farmer clubs” with nearly 6,000 farmers. CDI provides smallholder farmers with access to inputs, post-harvest opportunities, and training. CDI field officers are establishing a well-organized and empowered network of “farmer clubs” and associations and utilize demonstration plots in the community to illustrate the benefits of improved inputs and climate-smart agronomic practices. In order to continue assisting farmers to access good quality inputs, CDI in partnership with BASF has embraced the SSP concept as this adds value to small-scale farming in many ways.

Participants were drawn from the Clinton Development Initiative, BASF Tanzania and the local Government Extension office. The training took place from 9 - 13 January 2017 and was facilitated by Perry Ngoma. The program was officially opened by Don Thomson, Country Director for the CDI Anchor Farm Project.

All candidates underwent a pre-test, post-test and application test to ascertain their ability to train SSPs. Regrettably, 3 of the 14 did not meet the set level of requirements.

With the goal of training and equipping 50 SSPs, still this season, both CDI and BASF have an action list to complete, this, with a timescale of achieving the SSP training in 4 areas, 4<sup>th</sup> week January. Graduation ceremonies will follow each training. A refresher training including a 3- day IPM training for all active trainers is planned for around November 2017.

Special Note: Sadly, on 23 January we learned that the Clinton Foundation had closed the Clinton Global Initiative and that the CDI offices in Tanzania ceased operations with immediate effect.

Les Hillowitz



Group Photo

Demonstrating on how to wear PPE





## ToT Responsible Use Training and rollout of RU training for smallholder farmers

CropLife Egypt has a longstanding relationship with Blue Moon in activities involving professional sprayer teams with the aim of servicing stakeholders of the **USAID funded premium project for Egyptian small growers** which includes small producer organizations.

Master Trainer of CropLife Africa Middle East, Said Abdella, and the CropLife team conducted a specialized ToT training program for Blue Moon field staff covering the Responsible Use of pesticides.

The main focus of the program was to promote the responsible use of pesticides, usage of PPE, the importance of first aid and how to manage empty pesticide containers. Also, included, was the selection process of candidates to participate in the forthcoming SSP program.

The program took place on 23 - 24 January at the offices of Blue Moon in Esna – Luxor and consisted of 2 parts: theoretical training, covering training skills and responsible use, and a practical training covering PPE and first aid. A total of 11 participants from Blue Moon Agricultural Engineers staff attended the program .

Following on from this, the first round of farmer programs took place on 25 - 26 January, at six associations, namely; Adayma, Asfun, Ghariera, Matana, Namasa and Negou, in Luxor. This covered 271 GlobalGAP registered small holder farmers as participants of the **USAID funded premium project for Egyptian small growers**.

Said Abdella



Above: Group photo of ToT Trainers

Top Right: Explaining at "farmer level "

Right Middle: The correct usage of PPE being explained to the group of smallholder farmers

Bottom Right: Said Abdella explaining the benefits of Responsible Use

## Regulatory

### Risk Mitigation Workshop for West and Central Africa



The workshop took place on January 31-February 01 in Accra, Ghana and attracted 26 participants. Guests included the regulators and SAICM focal points from key countries of the West and Central African (WCA) region. The countries included Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. Other participants included the President of the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (Comité Sahélien des Pesticides, CSP) a representative from the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA), representatives of CropLife national associations of the WCA Hub, the FAO-RAF office in Accra, the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of the African Union (AU-IAPSC) and the Chairman of the SAICM African Group



The workshop took the form of mainly group work sessions and was facilitated by Christoph Neumann and Keith Jones from CropLife International with the support of Stella Wafukho and Bama Yao of CropLife AME. This provided a platform to engage in information sharing and discussion on CropLife International's approach on pesticide risk prevention and mitigation. The presentations and discussions focused on the CropLife International's activities across the regions, risks scenarios and cases studies of risk prevention and mitigation at global level as well as special cases related to Africa Middle East. Among those cases were the various SSP programs across Africa which encompasses the CropLife stewardship activities of IPM/RU, Container Management, Resistance Management, the International CoC, and Obsolete Stocks). A risk mitigation toolbox, developed by CropLife International with the available materials, and impact monitoring approaches was also covered. The participative nature of the sessions led participants to commit to linking up to the CropLife network at both country and regional levels to create the needed synergy and seek the necessary support to properly manage risk scenarios in countries and the sub-region.

**Bama Yao**

Participants were provided with useful guidance during the plenary session and in the group work sessions facilitated by K. Jones and C. Neumann. Photo Courtesy CropLife Ghana





## Association Management

### Capacity Building - Uganda 30 Jan – 1 Feb

Following the election of a new Executive Committee of CropLife Uganda, the opportunity was taken to assist with capacity building and to address member companies. The timing also allowed for meetings with several stakeholders.

The program for the member companies took place on Monday 30 January at which representatives from 8 member companies participated. Areas covered included CLAME and its activities, activities of CL Uganda, the SSP concept, and expectations and benefits for members.

It was clear from those present that they were not always aware of the activities undertaken by CL Uganda. The release of the CropLife Uganda publication, "CropLife Uganda in Action for Ten Years, (2005 – 2015)" goes a long way in addressing this.

Workshop exercises were undertaken to focus on the expectations of member companies and to highlight their responsibilities.

CropLife Uganda has an Executive Committee comprising of 7 members, 5 of which are newly elected every 2 years Six of the seven participated at the workshop.

The workshop was able to draw together an organizational structure with roles and responsibilities clearly identified. The area of internal communications was found to be an issue and needs to be addressed.

A closer look was taken at the key activities implemented by CLU over the past 5 years and how these addressed members' expectations. This led into the topic of project management and the division of responsibilities between staff (Secretariat),



CropLife member companies at the workshop

The trip to Uganda allowed the opportunity to catch-up with earlier partner organizations and to establish contact with potentially new partners. It also allowed for a meeting with Farm Radio International.

Our interest was to possibly partner with them in Container Management Schemes in identified countries within the African continent. For such a project in a country or group of countries, complete details must be given. In this case "to triple rinse and puncture" followed by "what to do with the containers", e.g. return to dealers, etc. We however, are not at this stage, and as best, we have pilot schemes, often with blockages at the final stage of disposal. We therefore need to progress our end further before we can think of using this type of media outreach.

What did become apparent, is that this media outreach would almost be ideal to carry messages on Anti-Counterfeiting. This needs to be explored further with inputs from several sources.

**Les Hillowitz**

ExCo members with secretarial staff



### Visit to Zimbabwe, 12 - 13 January

The main purpose of the visit was to provide information on the upcoming Hub Meeting to the ExCom of CropLife Zimbabwe, and the role that the national association plays in hosting this event, also to find a suitable venue for the meeting.

Six hotels were surveyed of which Meikles, met all the criteria. Arrangements will now take place directly with the hotel.

This opportunity was taken to address the ExCom on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and show them the benefits that are derived from projects, both to the national association and to the members. This turned out to be a very worthwhile session.

It was found that several key donor agencies are present in the country, but none are apparently engaged in the small-scale agriculture sector. This needs to be followed up

**Les Hillowitz**



L-R Themba Pilime, Bayer, Joe Mkandla, Syngenta, Carol Smith, CLZ Secretariat, and Jacob Nyagweta, ZFC

### CropLife Nigeria Moves into New Office

CropLife Nigeria has relocated to new offices in Akure in Ondo state. The move was effective as of 1 February. The offices are shared with Conservation Alliance, a not-for-profit non-governmental environmental organization. Earlier, CropLife Nigeria shared office accommodation with several other organizations but owing that some projects have ended, the office block became too large for the few remaining organizations. Siji Ofoesuwa, national coordinator of CropLife Nigeria, in charge of activities in the Southern states of Nigeria, is based at the Akure office. CropLife Nigeria also has office accommodation in Kaduna, the same building housing a member company, Miagro. Field Coordinator Babajide Adigun, oversees activities in the Northern states from this office.

The visiting address to the new offices, is Plot 2, Block 2, Alagbaka, Akure, and can be reached via telephone number +234-809 309 6149.

**Manon Dohmen**



National Coordinator Siji Ofoesuwa in front of the new offices of CropLife Nigeria in Akure.

The second CropLife office in Kaduna,

New office in Akure, Ondo state





## Plant Biotechnology

### Kenyan Farmers Urge the Gov't to Release WEMA Bt Maize Amid Ravaging Drought

Farmers in Kirinyaga County, Central Kenya have reiterated their call on the government to lift the ban on GM food imports that was imposed by a cabinet decision in 2012. The farmers spoke during a field day organized to showcase good performance of the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) maize amid the ravaging drought that continues to be witnessed in most parts of Kenya. This maize variety is the non-transgenic counterpart of the GE maize developed to have resistance against stalk borer pests.

The event, organized by Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa (OFAB-Kenya) in partnership with Integrated Community Organization for Sustainable Empowerment and Education for Development (ICOSEED) and Dryland Seeds Company highlighted the massive crop failure that farmers will have to face in the ensuing drought.

"We can clearly see that these drought tolerant varieties work, we demand that the government releases the WEMA-Bt maize to avert the crop failure that we face. We know that the research on these genetically engineered varieties is now complete," observed Mr. Mugo Magondu. He is among the farmers who attended the event, whose maize crops had completely failed due to inadequate October-December short rains. The CEC of Agriculture in Kirinyaga County, Mr. Peter Warui, lamented that the region does not expect any maize harvest in the year and faces a serious food deficit as a result. He advised farmers to adopt drought tolerant maize in the future and called on the government to hasten the release of WEMA Bt maize that would help ensure the region's and Kenya's food security.

The WEMA maize in the demonstration field has performed well, with farmers who had grown the crop expecting over 70 percent of their harvest. They encouraged other farmers to adopt new technologies and urged them to have confidence that the products of research will be safe. The farmers were at the frontline in dismissing misinformation that only results in fear of GM technology.

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Peter Warui - CEC Member Transport & Public Works

## Rothamsted Research Granted Permission by Defra to Conduct GM Wheat Field Trials

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has granted permission to Rothamsted Research to conduct field trials of wheat plants genetically modified (GM) to carry out photosynthesis more efficiently. The field trial will evaluate the performance of the engineered plants in the field.

Scientists at Rothamsted Research, together with researchers at the University of Essex and Lancaster University, have developed wheat plants with increased efficiency to convert energy from sunlight into biomass. Rothamsted Research submitted the application to Defra on November 3, 2016, for permission to carry out GM field trials on the Rothamsted Farm between 2017 and 2019. The risk assessment was reviewed by the independent Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE), and a 48-day public consultation was carried out by Defra. All scientific issues raised by the public with respect to this application have been addressed, according to ACRE.

Dr. Malcolm Hawkesford, Head of the Plant Biology and Crop Science Department at Rothamsted Research and lead scientist at Rothamsted for this trial said, "The trial will be a significant step forward as we will be able to assess in real environmental conditions' the potential of these plants to produce more using the same resources and land area as their non-GM counterparts. These field trials are the only way to assess the viability of a solution that can bring economic benefits to farmers, returns to the UK taxpayer from the long-term investment in this research, benefits to the UK economy as a whole and the environment in general."

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Photo: BBSRC



## Upcoming Events

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<b>Meeting of the CPSC, Brussels</b>	<b>February 16</b>
<b>CL AME Planning Meeting in Accra, Ghana</b>	<b>February 21-22</b>
<b>Inaugural meeting for the creation of CropLife Mozambique, w/c</b>	<b>February 27</b>
<b>Anti-Counterfeiting training workshop for CEPS officers, Kumasi, Ghana</b>	<b>February 24</b>
<b>CropLife South Africa AGM</b>	<b>March 7</b>
<b>Meeting covering Secondary Standards &amp; Container Management Cape Town</b>	<b>March 9-10</b>
<b>Pollinator Task Team Meeting, Brussels</b>	<b>March 13</b>
<b>Meeting of the Steering Committee on PRD, Brussels</b>	<b>March 13</b>
<b>RSC meeting, Brussels</b>	<b>March 15-16</b>
<b>AfricaBio General Assembly Pretoria, South Africa</b>	<b>March 16</b>
<b>Maghreb Regulatory Meeting, Tunis</b>	<b>March 22 -23</b>
<b>CropLife Cameroon AGM, Yaoundé, Cameroon</b>	<b>March 23-24</b>
<b>Container Management Project Team Meeting, Sao Paulo, Brazil</b>	<b>March 21-23</b>
<b>Workshop on Risk Assessment and Trade impact for Agricultural Commodities, Nairobi, Kenya</b>	<b>March 28-29</b>
<b>CLAME Board Meeting, Brussels</b>	<b>April 3-4</b>
<b>IPM Project Team Meeting, Brussels</b>	<b>April 4</b>
<b>WCA Hub &amp; Regulatory Meeting, Accra Ghana</b>	<b>May 3 - 4</b>





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