



WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION TO FIGHT COUNTERFEITING & ENHANCE STEWARDSHIP

Dear Readers

It is a pleasure for me to have recently joined the Executive Committee of CropLife Africa Middle East as Vice President and at the same time to have become the Chairman of the West & Central Africa Hub. In doing so, I am once again taking part in actions which I was involved in 10 years ago in Uniphyto Côte d'Ivoire. Now, 10 years later, it is interesting to note that in some places few things have changed and in others much has changed. The harmonization of registration procedures across the region is still very much on the agenda and one of the key topics for CropLife. However one must recognize that only limited progress has been achieved, in spite of the many meetings and seminars on this subject.

Important efforts have been made and significant progress has been achieved in the field of obsolete stocks management and training of farmers and distributors for the safe use of plant protection products (stewardship). A lot remains to be done. Finally, the proliferation of counterfeit products and/or illegal generic products is a topic of growing concern for CropLife Africa Middle East.

CropLife Africa Middle East is committed to offering innovative technologies to African agriculture through crop protection and biotechnology products, as a guarantee for productivity and food security, thus contributing to poverty reduction and improving the livelihoods of the populations. The recent food crisis with the resulting increase in the price of commodities which primarily hit Sub-Saharan Africa confirms the need for engaging important investments in technological solutions for agriculture in Africa.

However the increasing proliferation of counterfeited products and the illegal trade of pesticides in recent years seriously threatens the health, the environment and the economy of the affected countries as well as the industry represented by CropLife. These threats require strong cooperation and concerted actions by all stakeholders involved in the management of pesticides and agricultural policies.

The West and Central Africa hub is pleased to welcome in Doula, Cameroon, the first annual workshop of our regional organisation, CropLife Africa Middle East. This workshop aims at sensitizing participants on the needs for cooperation between the administration and the industry and to engage in activities for "Effective Communication to Fight Counterfeiting and Enhance Stewardship". The workshop will debate on the mission of the industry through its core messages, on the support to "Better Regulations" and Food Safety, on stewardship activities and training to improve the professionalism of the supply chain. The debates will try and favour the dialogue with all stakeholders in order to define concrete measures to fight against counterfeiting of pesticides and to promote intellectual property to secure investments in innovative technologies. This approach aims at strengthening the strategic position of the industry in agricultural production, the engine of economic growth in Africa, to combat hunger, reduce poverty and thus contribute to sustained economic and social development. CropLife Africa Middle East is committed to fully engage in such a noble mission. I am pleased to invite all of you in Douala, Cameroon for fruitful debates.

See you!

Eric Bureau



Eric Bureau, Vice President and West and Central Africa Hub Chair.

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Representing the Plant Science Industry

COMMUNICATION EFFICACE POUR COMBATTRE LES CONTREFAÇONS ET RENFORCER LE STEWARDSHIP

Chers lecteurs,

C'est pour moi un plaisir d'avoir rejoint récemment le Comité Exécutif de CropLife Africa Middle East, en tant que Vice Président et d'avoir pris en même temps la présidence du Hub Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre. Je retrouve ainsi des préoccupations et des activités que j'avais connues il y a 10 ans, quand j'exerçais quelques responsabilités au sein de Uniphyto en Côte d'Ivoire. 10 ans plus tard, il est intéressant de constater que, à la fois, peu et beaucoup de choses ont changé.

Parmi les sujets qui sont toujours d'actualité et qui constituent une priorité pour Crop Life, on peut citer l'harmonisation des systèmes d'homologation au sein de la sous région. Force est de constater que des progrès limités ont été accomplis dans ce domaine, malgré les nombreux séminaires et réunions sur ce thème. Sur les sujets de la gestion des stocks de produits périmés et de la formation des agriculteurs et des distributeurs pour une utilisation raisonnée et sûre des produits de protection des plantes (stewardship), des efforts importants ont été consentis et des progrès significatifs peuvent être observés, mais il reste beaucoup à faire. Il est enfin un point qui a pris une importance croissante dans les préoccupations de Crop Life en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre, c'est la prolifération des produits contrefaits et/ou des produits génériques illégaux.

CropLife Africa Middle East est engagée à offrir à l'agriculture africaine des solutions technologiques innovantes dans le domaine des produits de la protection des plantes et des biotechnologies, gage de productivité agricole afin d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire, et contribuer ainsi à la réduction de la pauvreté et à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations. Les récentes crises alimentaires accompagnées par les hausses des prix des denrées alimentaires plus durement ressenties en Afrique subsaharienne justifient le besoin d'investissements importants dans ces solutions technologiques agricoles.

Cependant ces efforts sont mis en danger par la prolifération ces dernières années de produits de contrefaçon et par le commerce illicite sur ces pesticides qui menacent gravement non seulement la santé, l'environnement et l'économie des pays touchés, mais également l'industrie représentée par Crop Life. Ces menaces exigent donc la collaboration et des actions concertées entre l'industrie, les autorités réglementaires ainsi que les différents acteurs impliqués dans la gestion des pesticides et les politiques agricoles.

Le premier atelier annuel de CropLife Africa Middle East que le hub Afrique de l'Ouest et Centrale a l'honneur d'accueillir à Douala, Cameroun, vise ainsi à susciter la coopération entre les administrations et l'industrie pour s'engager dans des activités de « communication efficace pour lutter contre les contrefaçons et renforcer l'utilisation responsable des produits ». L'atelier abordera entre autres thèmes la mission de l'industrie, l'appui aux réglementations avisées et la qualité sanitaire des aliments, la gestion responsable des pesticides à travers la promotion de la lutte intégrée et du code de conduite international, la gestion des emballages vides et l'élimination des stocks obsolètes, la formation et la professionnalisation de la chaîne d'approvisionnement du petit paysannat. Ces thèmes visent à favoriser le dialogue avec les autres partenaires afin de définir des actions concrètes pour lutter contre les contrefaçons et promouvoir la propriété intellectuelle afin de sécuriser les investissements dans les innovations technologiques. Cette approche valorise au mieux la position stratégique de l'industrie dans la production agricole pour combattre la famine, la pauvreté et contribuer ainsi au développement économique et social durable. CropLife Africa Middle East entend s'investir pleinement dans cette noble mission. Je vous invite donc à Douala, Cameroun, pour des échanges fructueux dans ce sens.

A bientôt.

Eric Bureau, Vice Président, en Charge de la Division Afrique de l'Ouest et Centrale.

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VISIT OF THE HUB CHAIRMAN

The Vice President and Hub chair, Eric Bureau took the opportunity during a recent trip in West Africa to meet the national association in Côte d'Ivoire (March 24) and in Ghana (March 26). As an initial contact meeting, discussions focused on the outcome of the recent ExCo meeting in Milan covering issues such as funding of the associations and the need to link to other organizations as well as the upcoming hub workshop in Douala, Cameroon

Eric Bureau, WCA Hub chair, during the meeting with CropLife Côte d'Ivoire. Mrs Yao (centre) and Mr E. Fillon (centre right) members of the Consultative Council of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire attended the meeting as support to B. Traoré (corner left) President of the association



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

IPM/RU: Roll Out of the Training Course

A training course was held between 16-20 March 2009 to train the Master Trainers of the hub on the global IPM course for facilitating and cascading down training. Koffi Yeboué, Gisele Etoundi, Joseph Obagwu and Copperfield Banini attended the training. They are currently master trainers facilitating ToT sessions in the WCA hub. They will now conduct training for other trainers and stakeholders in pairs, Yeboué and Etoundi for the Francophone countries and Obagwu and Banini for the Anglophone countries.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

CropLife Nigeria held its General Assembly Meeting, reviewing the 2008 activities and 2009 Action Plans. It was agreed that in 2009 efforts will be concentrated on the following key result areas:

- Stewardship and Sustainable Agriculture
- Training on IPM/RU - 5 sessions in cooperation with the National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC).
- Obstocks – involvement in the ASP, Nigeria through the appointment of a Technical Adviser, Disposal (TAD) in cooperation with the NIRAS, Denmark.
- Regulations - meeting with NAFDAC to streamline procedures for product re-registration.
- Anti-counterfeiting - appointment of a Liaison Committee for collaboration with NAFDAC
- Alliances - cooperation with IFDC on National Agro Dealer Support Project (NADS) through agro-input dealer credit guarantees scheme and NADS innovative Input Market Competition.
- Strengthening and Sustainability - two new memberships admitted to CropLife Nigeria, namely Green Petals Nigeria Ltd and Gongoni Nigeria Ltd.

IPR'S / ANTI-COUNTERFEITING - Côte d'Ivoire

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and the Department of Crop Protection and Department of Crop Production of the Ministry of Agriculture held a meeting on 3 March 2009 to finalise the establishment of an Anti-Counterfeiting Committee. This meeting was a follow up on the previous meetings on the implementation of policies to combat counterfeiting and illegal trade of pesticides in the country.

The meeting discussed the following issues:

- Legal status and members of the an Anti-Counterfeiting Squad
- Activities and Funding
- Organisation/Structure of the committee
- Communication, Sensitization and Awareness creation campaigns

The next meeting scheduled for April will seek the participation of major stakeholders such as the Ministries of Commerce, Industry, Interior, Justice, the intellectual property service, customs, police and farmer based organisations.

East & Southern Africa

BIOTECHNOLOGY

CropLife International Africa Regional Meeting

The annual regional face-to-face meeting was held in Kampala Uganda 11-13 March. Key items recorded were:

Africa Harvest

- * Kenya is setting up a National Biosafety Authority (NBA). There is currently lobbying/advocacy taking place for various positions in the NBA
- * In 2009 there were challenges in the operationalization of legislation and conflicting information on legislation
- * A website, biotechkenya.org will be started with the view to get "Bio Aware" to take ownership of the website
- * Uganda will be starting a biotechuganda.org website
- * Uganda now has the opportunity to harmonize legislation with Kenya
- * Compliance management training will take place and improved network communication will be developed
- * Capacity building messaging and support of university biotech associations for region

ABSF

In Feb, NGO's AH, ISAAA and ABSF organized a stakeholders meeting to discuss lobbying for National Biosafety Authority. The main outcomes were:

- * ABSF has a seat on the National Biosafety Committee.
- * Felix Mmboyi has been appointed Agricultural Secretary Advisor in the Prime Minister's office, Kenya. He will be looking at the Malawi model for increasing food surplus in Kenya
- * In Kenya, church leader outreach and farmer based organizations on biotechnology have been developed.
- * A MoU has been developed with the Cereal Growers Association and Kenya Seed Traders Association.
- * The Agricultural Society of Kenya to provide tissue culture demonstration plots during Agricultural shows. They will partner with Africa Harvest and ISAAA.
- * Replicate tissue culture banana model in Rift Valley and Western provinces, grain growing areas. 35,000 – 50,000 farmers.
- * A capacity building program, (basic biotech for science teachers in schools - Ethiopia, National Biosafety Framework for regulators and agricultural officers – Uganda & Rwanda) has been started.



The Africa Regional Team together with valued participants

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Representing the Plant Science Industry

CROPLIFE UGANDA

A CropLife Uganda ExCo Meeting was held on 10 March 2009. Highlights of this meeting were:

- CropLife Uganda now has a full time Secretariat. The address for the association is: croplife@mtninternet.co.ug
- They share offices with the Seed Association.
- They are clearly focused in what they want to achieve. To this end their Work-Plan for 2009, the Anti Counterfeit Strategy as well as their Container Management Plan were completed and approved by ExCo.

Executive Committee of CropLife Uganda



CropLife International IPM Master Trainer Program – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16 – 20 March



Participants of the IPM Master Trainer Program together with Mr. Fikre Markos,

CropLife International has developed a participatory training course on the Introduction to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for participants with insufficient knowledge of IPM.

The course has the overall objective of providing an understanding of IPM concepts and principles, and provides an overview of the components of IPM and how they are related and inter-linked.

During the course, participants explore the different elements of each component by selecting local crops to use as examples. In addition there are sessions on health and safety, and the environment. The target audience for the course is agricultural extension officers and pesticide retailers / agro dealers.

To initiate this roll-out in the East and Southern Africa Region, a training course was held for Master Trainers from southern, eastern and western Africa at the Desalegne Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

In the opening ceremony participants were welcomed by Les Hillowitz, Area Coordinator for East and Southern Africa. The course was officially opened by Mr. Fikre Markos, Deputy Director for Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Directorate, representing His Excellency the State Minister of Agriculture.

Twelve participants from government (3), private sector (5), industry (3) and NGOs (1) attended the training

The training program was facilitated by Tony Treen and Manon Dohmen.

Mauritius



Himmunt Jugduth

CropLife (Mauritius) has a new President for 2009/10 in the person of Mr Himmunt Jugduth, currently the Manager of Blychem Ltd.

Himmunt took over the management of IBL Agrochemicals following the retirement of Serge L'Ecluse. In 2007 three IBL operations, namely IBL Agrochemicals, IBL Blychem and IBL Water Technology, merged to consolidate their respective synergistic values. As from 1 April 2009, the entity is officially trading under the name of Blychem Ltd. Blychem Ltd remains a 100 % owned subsidiary company of the IBL Group.

Himmunt has acted as Vice-President of CropLife (Mauritius) for the past two years and is very enthusiastic about his new role. We wish him every success with the CropLife projects on the drawing board.

Zambia

CropLife Zambia, created in 2004 from the Zambia Agrochemicals Association, has a membership of 24 participants in the various categories. During 2008 CropLife Zambia made a number of positive changes through conducting two "Training of Trainers" workshops and is at the advanced stage of organizing an additional one for later this month. The Association has also established a secretariat and is in partnership discussions with local NGOs on the training of field officers involved in extension and spraying services.

Last year, CropLife Zambia with the support from USAID-Profit, conducted a training of trainers' workshop for member companies. The training was conducted by Mr. Herman Louw, an accredited CropLife trainer.

The objective of the training was to equip the distributors/agents with the knowledge and skills to train the field service providers and general customers in the safe handling of pesticides as well as effective application for better results.

The training covered the following topics:

- * Scouting
- * Understanding the pesticide label
- * Classification of pesticides
- * Buying process of pesticides
- * Correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- * Transporting pesticides
- * Storing pesticides
- * Preparing for spray
- * Correct practices while working in the field
- * What to do after working in the field
- * Safety, Health (first aid) and Environmental protection
- * Correct disposal of empty pesticide containers
- * Basic record keeping
- * Training skills

The training was attended by 19 technical staff from various pesticide distribution companies. The member companies, through the trained technical staff, have to date trained in excess of 1700 Spray Service Providers in the different rural communities of Zambia.

This year, CropLife Zambia is arranging for a refresher course to take place during latter part of April, for the trainers who attended the training last year. In addition they will also train 30 new trainers, this to take place on 22 - 24 April. This training will be managed by Herman Louw. The training programme will again be with the full support of USAID-Profit.

CropLife Zambia recently entered into partnership discussions with CARE International, Zambia Branch to provide similar training requirements to farmers supported by CARE International. We anticipate that the trainings and certification will be up and running by end June 2009.

Zambia



Perry Ngoma

CropLife Zambia has now set up a fully functional Secretariat and has engaged a part time Coordinator, Mr. Perry Ngoma, who is now responsible for the coordination of the day-to-day activities of the association

Mr. Ngoma holds a Diploma in Export Horticulture (NRDC/ZEGA Training Trust) and an Advanced Diploma in Horticulture (Larenstein, Holland). Further education includes Internal Audit Principles and BRC- Certificate of Competence (Brussels, Belgium), Social Auditing -Ethical Trading Initiative, ETI Code (Africa Now, Kenya), BASIS and FACTS - Certificate of Competence BASIS PROGRAMME, UK (UK based courses for users and advisers of pesticides and fertilizer users). Training of Trainers in Pesticide Management – Certificate, (Brussels, Belgium). Applied HACCP Principles –Intermediate Certificate, (Natural Resources Institute, UK). Training of Trainers in Food Safety – Certificate (Lusaka, Zambia) and Internal Company and Country Auditing – Certificate of Competence.

Prior to joining CropLife Mr. Ngoma was the Training Administrator/Projects Coordinator/ Auditor at NZTT, Lusaka and has also worked with Agriflora as a Coordinator for Small Scale Farmer Out-grower Scheme. Currently a Horticultural Consultant, Mr. Ngoma brings very valuable experience and skills to CropLife Zambia and we all look forward to a long association with him.

Contact with Mr. Ngoma is as follows:

Email: croplifezambia@gmail.com or perryngoma@yahoo.co.uk

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CropLife Zambia hopes to develop and increase its membership, train more field spray service providers and provide the certification program in collaboration with the Environmental Council of Zambia. Additionally some seed funding through Profit-USAID and CARE International to help local agro-dealers reach their stewardship goals will also be sought.

Kenya

On 27th March 2009, AAK/CropLife Kenya held their Annual General Meeting and one of the key agenda items was to elect new office bearers for the year 2009/2010.

The membership of the association re-elected Mr. Daniel K Kagwe as Chairman/President of the association. Mr. Kagwe is currently the Managing Director of Profarm Africa Ltd.

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North Africa Middle East

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING—MILAN

The Executive Committee (ExCo) of CropLife Africa Middle East held its first meeting of 2009 at the Grand Hotel Brun in Milan, Italy.

Opening the meeting, President Pierre Flye and Executive President Rudolf Guyer expressed their thanks to the Sipcarn-Oxon Group for hosting the meeting and for their assistance with the organization.

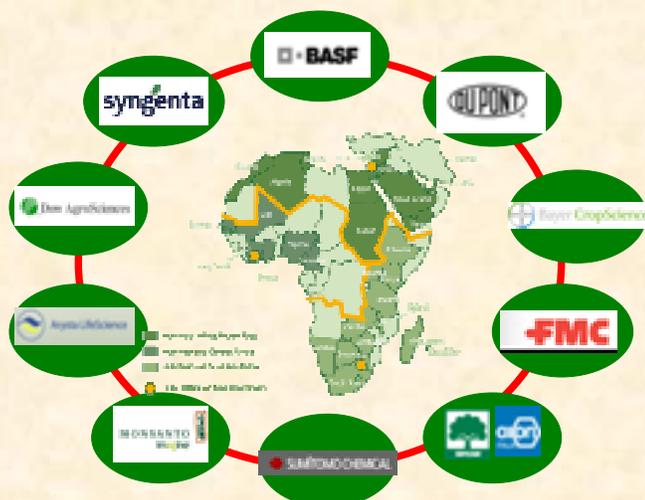
The Committee discussed a number of financial and legal matters and reviewed the progress of current activities and future projects.

The following issues were resolved:

- * Approval of the updated regional budget for 2009
- * The audit report for 2008 compiled by E&Y was approved
- * CropLife AME trademark filings for all relevant countries in the region finalised
- * The creation of a Regional Regulatory Committee to support the regulatory initiatives in the region was approved
- * Approval of the rollout plan of the Pilot IPM course with two regional training sessions to be organised in Addis Ababa in March 2009, and Amman in May 2009
- * The training plans for the 3 regional hubs
- * The appointment of Manon Dohmen as Association Specialist with CropLife AME to assist with national association strengthening and training coordination
- * Agreement to engage in a partnership and the drafting of a MOU with Agribusiness Trading Project (ATP) for prospective activities in WCA
- * Agreement to renew the MOU with IFDC for a 2nd term
- * Development of a regional communication plan in coordination with the Global Communication Committee
- * Agreement to review and align the strategic priorities of CropLife Africa Middle East
- * Approval to update the operations manual of CropLife Africa Middle East.

The next meeting will be held in June 2009 in Brussels, Belgium.

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GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

Representing the Plant Science Industry