

## Product Stewardship

### Update on Spray Service Providers Activities in the Africa Middle East Region

More and more countries in Africa are at present implementing the Spray Service Provider (SSP) concept. As we are halfway into the year, we thought it was time for an update as to what is happening in the region. At the moment, SSP activities are ongoing in Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia. All activities are implemented with partners, including 3 with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded projects in Egypt, Nigeria and Uganda; 2 projects with the 2Scale program of the International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) in Ethiopia and Nigeria; 2 projects funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in Malawi and Nigeria; 1 project funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), 2 projects with the Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) program implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Ghana and Nigeria; 1 with the N2Africa project of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria; 1 with International Development Enterprises (IDE) in Zambia, and 2 with the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) in Ethiopia and Kenya. Below is a summary of activities in several countries.

#### Egypt

In November 2015, CropLife Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Blue Moon Ltd., which is a Premium Project for Egyptian Small Growers funded by USAID. The main objective is to train farmers as SSPs and teach Agricultural Technical School (ATS) students the SSP concept to preserve food safety in addition to health and environment. So far, 50 ATS teachers were trained as Master Trainers who in turn trained 500 students in 10 selected Schools in Upper Egypt and Delta. In an official statement of the Ministry of Agriculture, it was indicated that Egypt needs 55,000 SSPs.



### Ethiopia

In 2016, the SSP concept was introduced in Ethiopia covering vegetables in collaboration with the IFDC 2Scale program. So far, a group of 15 SSP trainers have been trained who have trained a total of 57 SSPs. Each SSP also followed the one-day business training. They will each receive a full set of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and start selling their services to vegetable farmers in Oromia region shortly. Another contract was signed with SNV to train 270 SSPs in 4 regions reaching 7,000 farmers over a period of 3 years. The training of SSP trainers is planned for September 2016 after which the SSP training programs will rollout. A new field coordinator was hired by CropLife Ethiopia to implement all activities.



SSP training with IFDC/2Scale



Training for Masara Farmers' Organization



Training for the IFDC/2Scale team

### Ghana

After the successful introduction of the SSP concept in the cocoa sector in 2013 with the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), CropLife Ghana has continued coaching 600 active SSPs. Approximately one third of them were trained in 2015 in Integrated Pest Management (IPM). In 2016, an additional 100 SSPs will follow the IPM course.

Last year, the SSP concept was introduced in vegetables, mangoes, pineapples and soybean in collaboration with the 2Scale program of IFDC. This year, it was the turn of the cotton sector. CropLife Ghana signed a contract with Masara N'Arziki, the largest organization for maize and cotton farmers in Ghana, to start a pilot project.

To date, 60 SSPs have been trained and monitoring of their activities will start very soon. Another contract will be signed this month with the GIZ/CARI program. A total of 30 SSPs will be trained in the rice sector. To date approximately 19,000 Ghanaian farmers have made use of the services of SSPs.

## Kenya

The SSP concept in Kenya has taken on a top level priority for CropLife Kenya and it forms one of its major activities. CropLife Kenya has committed itself towards setting up sustainable SSP projects which will help farmers countrywide. Kenya started its SSP activities in 2014. The first SSP project was in Kirinyaga. The aim of this project was to ensure that Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) on French beans and snow peas for export are observed through Good Agricultural Practices, especially in the application of pesticides. In the project, a total of 66 SSPs were trained to serve 2 farmer groups that had been banned from exporting to the European Union due to exceedance of MRLs. In 2015, the two farmer groups were once again able to export and still continue to do so.

Following the successful pilot of the SSP program in Kirinyaga among the horticultural export farmers, CropLife partnered with the Agriculture Sector Development Support Program (ASDSP), a program under the Ministry of Agriculture that is funded by SIDA. The overall program goal ASDSP is to support the transformation of Kenya's agricultural sector into an innovative, commercially oriented, competitive and modern industry that will contribute to poverty reduction and improved food security in rural and urban Kenya. CropLife and ASDSP partnered to setup an SSP program in 10 counties covering different value chains.

The objective was to train 20 spray service provider supervisors who underwent a 6-day training as SSPs. Having attained certification, they were expected to recruit 10 sprayers each. Each SSP was expected to serve at least 10 to 15 farmers in a season. The program was expected to assist 20,000- 30,000 farmers. The sprayers were expected to provide the service in a professional manner, using the right equipment, genuine products and in a sustainable manner that will create employment for youth.

Under this partnership, CropLife was able to train a total of 197 SSP-trainers from November 2015 to June 2016. Currently, the SSP-trainers are recruiting SSPs whom they will train and work with. Monitoring and Evaluation of the SSP activities in the field is ongoing.

In August 2016, CropLife will be signing a partnership agreement with SNV for one of the biggest SSP projects in Kenya. The project aims to target horticultural farmers producing for both local and export markets and its overall goal is improvement of food safety through adoption of professional spray service providers. Also to improve food safety with the promotion of IPM and responsible pesticide use through the setting up of Spray Service Provider programs in 10 counties in Kenya. The project will cover 6 counties in Kenya.





An SSP receiving his certificate and set of PPE in IITA/N2Africa project



SSP training with USAID/MARKETS II project



SSP training on rice with GIZ/CARI project

## Nigeria

2016 was the breakthrough year for SSPs in Nigeria. In 2013, the concept was introduced with the support of the WCF in the cocoa sector in 5 states serving more than 7,000 farmers. Together with the member companies of CropLife Nigeria and the USAID/Markets II project, the training of new SSPs and coaching of existing SSPs continues in the cocoa sector.

To date more than half of the 600 active SSPs have followed the IPM training and this will continue in the second half of 2016. In addition to all SSP activities in the cocoa sector, CropLife Nigeria started 3 new partnerships in 2016 to introduce the SSP concept in other crops. With IFDC/2Scale, 78 SSPs have been trained in 3 states to serve tomato, chili and maize farmers. Each SSP also followed the 1-day business training and received a full set of PPE. Monitoring and coaching activities are planned for August 2016.

Another contract was signed with the IITA/N2Africa project. In December 2015, an assessment was done on the performance of existing spray teams in Borno state. Based on the results, IITA requested CropLife to train 45 applicators.

The training programs took place in early 2016. These SSPs also followed the business training and received a full set of PPE. Monitoring and coaching is scheduled for August 2016.

The latest contract was signed with the Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) program implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). As the rice season had already started, it was decided to start with a pilot in only one state.

To date 30 SSPs have been trained in Jigawa state. This month they will receive their sets of PPE to enable them to start selling their services.

Another project will hopefully start in September 2016 with Propcom, which is a program funded by DFID and implemented by the Palladium group.

During a one-year period 225 SSPs will be trained reaching more than 7,000 farmers.

### Uganda

CropLife Uganda rolled out the SSP concept in Uganda in 2014 in collaboration with the IFDC/CATALIST project.

A total of 4 SSP trainers trained 86 SSPs reaching more than 2,500 farmers in Irish potatoes, sunflower, maize and beans.

This year, a contract was signed with the USAID Feed the Future project Agri-Input Activity to set up SSP teams in 10 different districts. To date 14 SSP trainers were trained who trained 148 SSPs. All of them will receive a full set of PPE shortly.



SSP training with USAID/Agri-Input Activity project

### Zambia

As the pioneer of the SSP concept, Zambia has come a long way since the concept was introduced in the country in 2009. The first pilot project was run with the USAID funded project, PROFIT in the maize sector in which 2,700 SSPs were trained over a period of 3 years reaching 22,000 farmers.

The main objective was to improve the application of pesticides and to relieve women and children of hand weeding with the use of herbicides. An independent assessment conducted by CARE International revealed that yields increased dramatically owing to the better control of weeds.

In 2014, BASF picked up the SSP concept and integrated into one of their projects called *Lima Chuma* (Cultivating Prosperity). The project aims at assisting smallholder farmers becoming more efficient and productive. The overall goal of the *Lima Chuma* project is to contribute to the prosperity and growth of the smallholder farming sector in Zambia through provision of good agro-inputs and crop marketing knowledge. SSPs therefore seemed a logical and beneficial concept to incorporate into the project. So far, 12 SSP-trainers were trained who in turn trained 200 SSPs who have provided their service to over 2,000 farmers.

Last year, CropLife Zambia signed a contract with iDE to train 136 SSPs. They will start selling their services in the coming few months. Zambia has also started to train active SSPs in IPM principles. Last year, 12 SSP trainers received the IPM training which will be rolled out in 2016.

Demonstrating a knapsack sprayer



Manon Mireille Dohmen with contributions from Said Abdella, Ronald Chilumpha, Evelyn Lusenaka, and Perry Ngoma

## Lima Chuma ® project in Zambia adds momentum to the Spray Service Programme

Lima Chuma ® in collaboration with CropLife Zambia have accelerated efforts towards the Spray Service Programme. The Lima Chuma ® project which was established in 2014 aims at providing smallholder farmers with the skills, technical know-how, and inputs needed to achieve significantly higher yields as well as information on the responsible and effective use of crop protection products. The Lima Chuma consortium partners includes BASF, DuPont Pioneer, and Omnia Fertilizer and is supported by Musika and Conservation Farming Unit (CFU). The Spray Service Programme has been incorporated into the project and is aligned to the overall set goals.

The Spray Service Programme specifically places emphasis on product stewardship and sustainability. The programme has recruited, trained and certified 200 Spray Service Providers (SSPs) in the local villages. A Spray Service Provider is an individual who has undergone thorough training on the safe use of agrochemicals and hires out his acquired skill to the community. These SSPs provide the necessary tools and expertise and are then hired by smallholder farmers for their spraying services. The SSPs are fully equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and Knapsack Sprayers procured by the Spray Service Programme partners. The SSPs spray farmer fields in a responsible, professional and environmentally friendly manner. This concept has worked particularly well for smallholder farmers who require a spray service but have no capacity to purchase the spraying equipment or repeat users who haven't been trained on the responsible handling of agrochemicals. The 2015/2016 season saw 2000 farmers in Southern Province using the spray service. The target for the 2016/2017 farming season is 10,000 smallholder farmers.

Through collaboration with CropLife Zambia, Lima Chuma ® is also concentrating their efforts on the direct training of smallholder farmers. Farmers are trained on the proper selection of agro inputs, transportation, storage, measuring and mixing, effective application and the management of empty agrochemical containers. During training, smallholder farmers are also encouraged to wear protective clothing all the time when handling agrochemicals. As the farmer applies agrochemicals in their field, 'Safety must come first'. It is cardinal that the farmers protect themselves as well as the environment. According to BASF Zambia Limited Managing Director, Mr Eike Hupe "Product Stewardship is one of the top priorities for BASF. We will never compromise on safety, to enable farmers to produce healthy food in a safe and secure manner."

Furthermore, the safe disposal of agrochemical containers is also another focus area within the Spray Service Programme. Lima Chuma® and CropLife Zambia have partnered with traditional leaders to sensitize farmers on the safe disposal of packaging materials. Currently, 10 collection cages have been placed in various village communities. Here farmers can dispose the packaging in a safe and secure manner. Farmers are urged to triple rinse and puncture containers after use in readiness for disposal.

Lima Chuma® and CropLife Zambia will continue to encourage safe and sustainable agricultural practices that ultimately increases farmer agricultural yields.

Perry Ngoma / Masauso Mwenda



Several Lima Chuma® trainees, above and left

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## IPM-RU Training Workshops in Cameroon

Four workshops took place; in the Bafang district on June 28-29 and on July 26-27, in Buea on July 12-13 and in Obala on July 21-22

The 182 trainees in the 4 training sessions comprised mainly of vegetable producer's extension agents and applicators. Other participants included retailers and stockists.

The sessions were organized under the regular joint training activities within the framework of the cooperation program between CropLife Cameroon and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER). The sessions are part of the annual IPM/RU plan to provide knowledge and tools to the smallholders in the key vegetable producing regions in the country.

Topics covered during the sessions included:

- Major pests and diseases in vegetable production.
- Pesticide composition and formulations (active substances, co-formulants, types...), mode of action and toxicity.
- Labels, pictograms and PPE.
- IPM/RU, container management
- Counterfeit and fake pesticides and the risks associated with their uses.
- Sprayers: parts and their function, calibration, maintenance, measuring and the mixing of pesticides.

The sessions were facilitated by trainers from both CropLife Cameroon and the MINADER.

**Bama Yao**



Above: Partial views of participants during the plenary and group sessions

Below: Group photo of the Obala session (Photo Courtesy CropLife Cameroon)



## CropLife Plans Activities in Ethiopia

Staff of CropLife Africa Middle East met with the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) in Ethiopia on 11 July to discuss the planning for the upcoming activities in the country. The focus of the Horti-LIFE project is to double the export sales of fresh horticultural produce within the next 3 years. To achieve this a contract was signed with CropLife Africa Middle East which will involve a Spray Service Provider (SSP) program to reach 7000 farmers. The program will introduce Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles with the aim of reducing residue levels.

CropLife was represented by Rudolf Guyer, Manon Dohmen and Les Hillowitz. They met with the Chief of Party, Gerrit Holtland, and Thomas Assefa of SNV to move the planning phase a step further. At the moment, the project has reached the end of the inception phase in which details are discussed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR). One of the first activities CropLife will face is the organization of a Training-of-Trainers program to get a pool of SSP-trainers from different regions.

During the same week of this visit, a meeting was organized with the International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC). The agenda covered was the ongoing SSP activities carried out by CropLife under the IFDC/2Scale program. Activities commenced in March and are well underway. Next month, the first round of monitoring and coaching of SSPs will take place in the field.

In a follow-up meeting with the member companies of CropLife Ethiopia, commitment was received on their participation in the project, primarily on the training of SSPs.

**Les Hillowitz**



Left: From L-R, Rudolf Guyer, Gerrit Holtland, Worku Behonegne, SNV Country Director, Getachew Cherinet, Manon Dohmen, and Thomas Assefa

Below: Representatives of CropLife Ethiopia member companies that participated in the discussions



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### Update on the SSP Program in Zambia



L-R Kenneth Chelmu, and Ganizani Gwai, IDE with Perry Ngoma

The smallholder farming sector in Zambia has grown exponentially over the past 5 years and this can be attributed to the take-up and rollout of the SSP concept.

As CropLife we need to ensure that our database is regularly updated along with the progressive development of the concept.

Both CropLife Zambia member companies, notably BASF, Arysta and ATS as well as partner organizations including IDE and Profit Plus are leading in pushing the concept forward.

The role of Musika continues to be of absolute importance and who will shortly partner with CLZ in updating the database of the SSPs

Les Hillowitz



Perry Ngoma with Joshua Munkombwe of Musika



## Regulatory

### Regional Regulatory Committee (RRC) Meeting

The Regional Regulatory Committee held its second meeting of the year on 4 – 5 July in Brussels to deliberate on ongoing regulatory issues in the region.

Specific issues focused on:

- New requirements for pesticide registrations released by CILSS-CSP. The new requirements are considered as the groundwork for the future ECOWAS regional regulations for pesticide registrations once adopted.
- The feedback highlighted from the WCA Regulatory Workshop of May 09-10, in Abuja, Nigeria, and on the high number of important participants that attended. Also covered were the topics of the presentations and the outcome of the group work
- An update on the preparations for the ESA regulatory workshop to be held on September 6 – 7 in Dar es Salaam

**Stella Simiyu Wafukho**

## Association Management

### Appointment of Executive Secretary - CropLife Mauritius



Miss Weena Ramen was recently appointed as Executive Secretary of CropLife Mauritius.

Weena joined CropLife Mauritius at the beginning of June 2016 as Project Leader of the Empty Container Pilot Project.

We share with the Executive Committee of CropLife Mauritius in welcoming Weena to her new role.

**Les Hillowitz**

## Plant Biotechnology

### Kenyan Senator Urges Adoption of GM Crops in the Country

Senate Education Committee Chairman, Honourable Daniel Karaba, has urged Kenya to take up biotechnology to boost food security. Speaking at a biotech communication and sensitization training for journalists and extension officers held on July 7-8, 2016 at Mountain Breeze Hotel in Embu County, Eastern Kenya, Hon. Karaba said that countries that had embraced biotech crops are more food secure and have a thriving economy. He dismissed reports that attribute cancer to GM foods.

"We should not talk about cancer as being a result of biotechnology. This is a retrogressive propaganda that will not help us. We can't think that we will be dynamic unless we act now. Biotechnology will help Kenya employ more people in agriculture and manufacturing areas," said Hon. Karaba.

He called on local leaders who have participated in study tours in biotech growing countries to share the knowledge gained with decision makers in order to encourage acceptance of the crops in the country. He promised to support and advocate biotech crops to decision makers.

"The Senate will soon hold discussions with the Health and Agriculture Cabinet secretaries in a bid to see how the country can reap the benefits of biotechnology and demystify myths confronting it," said Hon. Karaba.

The workshop was organized by African Agricultural Technology Foundation under the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project.



Senate Education Committee Chairman,  
Honourable Daniel Karaba

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### Philippines Supreme Court Reverses Bt Talong Ruling

In a unanimous decision, the Philippines Supreme Court on Tuesday, July 26, 2016, reversed its December 2015 ruling, which temporarily stopped the field testing, propagation, commercialization, and importation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the country.

In the En Banc session, the Supreme Court granted nine Motions for Reconsideration filed by the Bt talong (eggplant) proponents, and issued a new one, dismissing on the ground of mootness, the petition for Writ of Continuing Mandamus and Writ of Kalikasan filed by Greenpeace Southeast Asia (Philippines) and Magsasaka at Siyentipiko sa Pagpapaulad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG).

The Supreme Court agreed with the petitioners that the case should have been dismissed in view of the completion and termination of the Bt talong field trials and the expiration of the Biosafety permits in 2012. The Court also stated that it should not have resolved the case on its substantive merits due to mootness, and should not have acted on the constitutional question of whether the Department of Agriculture (DA) Administrative Order 08-2002 was unconstitutional, citing that this matter was only collaterally raised.

The Court also stated that the exceptions to mootness were not present and thus the Court should not, in the first place, have decided the matter.

In December 2015, the Supreme Court not only stopped the field testing of Bt talong, but also temporarily stopped any application for field testing, contained use, propagation, and importation of GMOs; it also nullified DA AO 08-2002, saying the order lacked the minimum safety requirements under Executive Order 514, which established the National Biosafety Framework.



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## Cost of Developing a GM Crop Demystified

A recent study published in the *International Journal of Biotechnology* demystifies the belief that releasing a GM crop costs tens, if not hundreds, of millions of U.S. dollars.

The study assessed the cost and time of developing a GM late blight resistant (LBr) potato variety for deregulation and release as a public good, in a specific developing country.

Two independently not-for-profit assessed projects have estimated that to deliver one LBr variety to resource-poor farmers in a developing country, it would cost between US\$1.3-1.5 million, within a period of eight to nine years. Such costs are not far from a conventionally-bred variety, although the two should not be compared since GM produces products unachievable by conventional breeding.

Publicly funded institutions have been deterred from developing biotech crops because of the cost implications attached to the process of developing and releasing a GM variety.

Previous costs, from discovery to deregulation and release, have been estimated at US\$136 million. These findings therefore suggest that public institutions in developing countries can make significant contribution to crop improvement through genetic engineering.

The paper titled *Demystification of GM crop costs: releasing late blight resistant potato varieties as public goods in developing countries* is available online using DOI: 10.1504/IJBT.2016.077942.



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## Upcoming Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<b>IPM-RU Training: CropLife Cameroon &amp; MINADER, Centre, East &amp; South Cameroon</b>	<b>Jul 26-27: Aug 2-3 / 9-10</b>
<b>Anti-counterfeiting training for enforcement bodies in Soubre, S-W Cote d'Ivoire</b>	<b>Aug 4-5</b>
<b>GlobalGAP NTWG Meeting, Midrand, South Africa</b>	<b>Aug 16</b>
<b>IPM training of SSPs in Zambia</b>	<b>Aug 22-26</b>
<b>East &amp; Southern Africa Hub and Regulatory Meeting Dar es Salaam</b>	<b>Sep 6-7</b>
<b>CLAME Regional Team Meeting, Dar es Salaam</b>	<b>Sep 8</b>
<b>HHP PIT Meeting, Washington</b>	<b>Sep 12</b>
<b>RSC Meeting, Washington</b>	<b>Sep 13-14</b>
<b>ED Issue Team Meeting - Brussels</b>	<b>Oct 12</b>



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