

Product Stewardship

Nigeria starts SSP activities with GIZ

CropLife Nigeria has started a partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) to introduce the Spray Service Provider (SSP) concept among rice farmers in the Jigawa State. During the last two weeks of June 2016, a total of 30 farmers were trained to become SSPs.

The SSP concept is incorporated as part of the Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) program which is currently implemented in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania. The program hopes to reach 122,000 small-scale rice farmers who have an average daily income of less than 2 \$ / day. The objective of CARI is to significantly improve the livelihoods of rice farmers by increasing the competitiveness of domestic rice supply to meet increasing regional demand.

GIZ sees the SSP concept as a valuable addition to their project owing to the involvement of the private sector and on the increase of the quality of rice as the program will prevent losses by pests or diseases. Jigawa State was selected as the "pilot state" owing to the fact that GIZ has a long term collaboration with several rice farmer groups that are very willing to introduce the SSP concept among their members. The feedback of those who were trained and GIZ staff observing the training program, were very positive.

A full set of Personal Protective Equipment is offered to every SSP. Every SSP will contribute 10% towards the total costs. The sets will be handed over at a graduation ceremony that will take place during the month of July. Monitoring of activities will take place in July and August after which GIZ and CropLife Nigeria will decide if the SSP concept will be introduced into other states of Nigeria.

Manon Mireille Dohmen



CropLife Field Officer Babajide Adigun explains the parts of a knapsack sprayer



Practical In-Field Training



Group Photo

South African Bee Industry Organization (SABIO) – BEECON 2016

BEECON took place in Oudtshoorn on 1st and 2nd July. The meeting was formally opened by Mr. Ernest Phoku, Director, Directorate Inspection Services, Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries. Approximately 160 delegates attended.

International speakers included Dr. Christian Maus and Dr. Doug Somerville, from Australia. Dr. Maus' talk was titled "Bee Health and Pesticides".

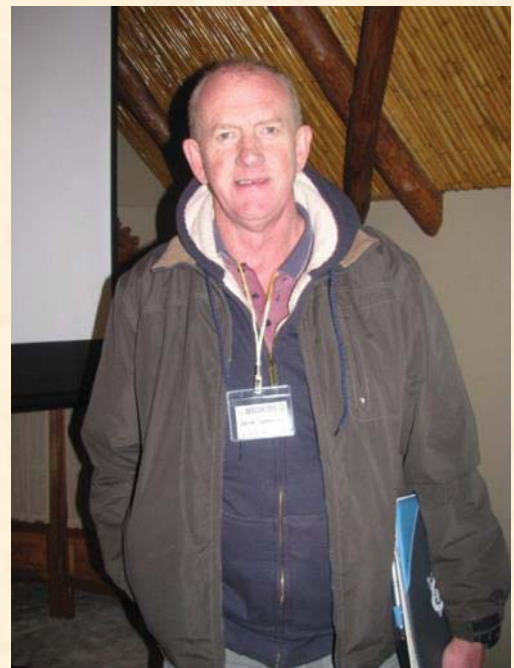
Les Hillowitz



Mr. Ernest Phoku



Dr Christian Maus



Dr. Doug Somerville

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Pollinator Forum: South Africa



Christo van der Rheede and Jonathan Mudzunga, Registrar of Pesticides in South Africa



Photo: WKMS



Christian Maus and Mike Allsopp

The Pollinator Forum took place at the Klein Karoo Koöperative in Oudtshoorn on 30 June. The meeting was chaired by Christo van der Rheede, Deputy Executive Director of AGRI SA. Both Christian Maus and Mike Allsopp provided presentations.

The key points arising from the discussions included:

- A formalized structure is required to coordinate issues related to Pollination. This includes:
- The need for dialogue between stakeholders
- The recording of incidents covering bee losses
- A coordinated research focus
- The development of guidelines related to bee health

A draft Pollinator Guideline has been developed by The Registrar and final comments are still awaited from stakeholders.

Bee keepers are expressing a need for OTC's for the control of bacterial diseases. A formal request from the Bee industry may be made to the Registrar who will review the merits of this request.

The pollination needs for crops such as Sunflower, Vegetable seed, Macadamia, Avocados, Pomes and Stones are growing dramatically. Insufficient bee hives remain a key concern as less and less hives become available based on the anticipated increase in hectareage.

The availability of "bee foraging" remains a growing concern. This is also linked to the removal of Eucalyptus species.

The Responsible Use of crop protection products is critical and CropLife member companies must continue to make their members aware of the consequences of the impact of misuse of crop protection products.

As an action point, a follow-up discussion between stakeholders will be arranged with AGRI SA to determine a strategy on creating a formalized structure and terms of reference.

Les Hillowitz

Another 27 SSPs trained in the cotton sector in Ghana



Working groups in the training session

CropLife Ghana has trained a further 27 Spray Service Providers (SSP) who are all members of the Masara N'Arziki Farmers' Association.

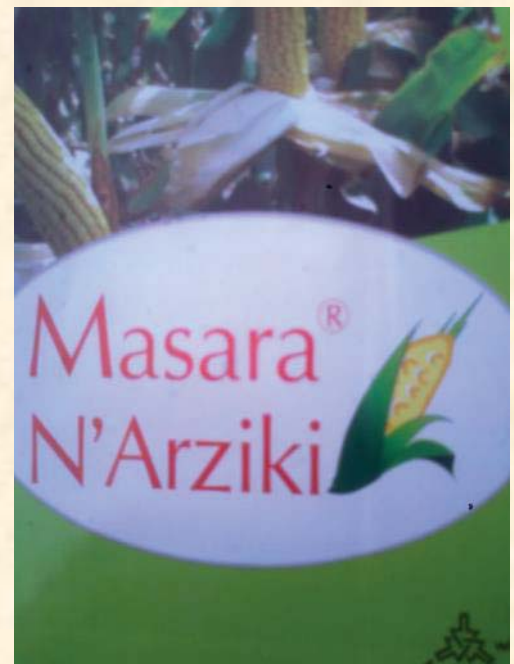
In April this year, 28 SSPs were trained, bringing the total number of SSPs within the association to 55. All SSPs received a full set of PPE and are ready to sell their services.

Earlier this year, CropLife Ghana signed a contract with Masara to introduce the SSP concept among their 12,000 members who are mainly maize and cotton farmers. It was agreed to start with a pilot project in areas where mainly cotton is grown.

Manon Mireille Dohmen



Understanding the knapsack sprayer



Introduction to IPM for SSP trainers in Malawi

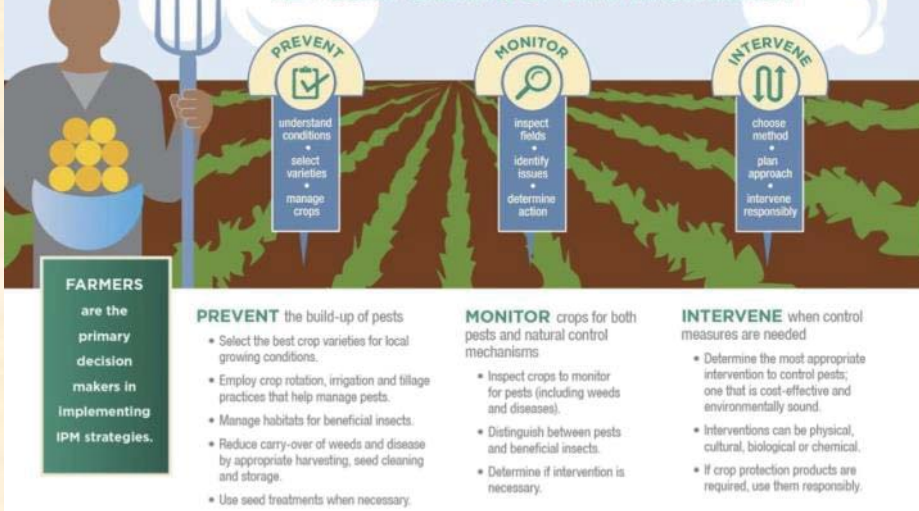
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

IPM is a holistic approach to sustainable agriculture that focuses on managing insects, weeds and diseases through a combination of cultural, biological and chemical measures that are cost effective, environmentally sound and socially acceptable.¹ This includes the responsible use of crop protection and plant biotech products.

WHY IS IPM IMPORTANT?



KEY COMPONENTS OF AN IPM STRATEGY



¹CropLife International and its member companies support the IPM definition put forth by the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (FAO, 2015).



CropLife Africa Middle East (CLAME) has developed an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) course for Spray Service Providers (SSPs). The main objective of the course is to train SSPs in IPM principles to enable them to assist farmers to design and implement IPM systems for their farms. This allows for all pest management options to be considered and focuses on producing a healthy crop. In addition, the SSP is then able to offer additional services and choices to the farmer from land preparation to harvest and post-harvest.

The initial pilot training in East & Southern Africa took place in Zambia in December 2015 with the second just completed for SSP trainers in Malawi in the cotton sector. The training took place in Lilongwe on 13 - 16 June and was attended by 12 participants. The participants were drawn from previously trained and certified SSP trainers.

It is envisaged that the trainers will start with the training of SSPs on IPM principles from mid-July to prepare them to assist farmers for the coming season. Malawi Oilseed Sector Transformation (MOST) and CropLife Malawi agreed to train a total of 760 SSPs before the beginning of the season which kicks off in November.

The first day focused on revising the facilitation skills of participants who had attended a TOT in 2015 and early 2016. On day (2), the IPM course and its objectives were introduced. This was to enable the participants to understand how IPM fitted into the SSP project.

The training was facilitated by Perry Ngoma.

Les Hillowitz

CropLife Malawi Field Coordinator demonstrating on how to use a knapsack sprayer



Representing the Plant Science Industry

GEF-FAO Obsolete Stocks Project in CILSS, meeting of the Steering Committee

The immediate organization of a steering committee (SC) meeting was among the key recommendations of the inception workshop held on 02-04 March 2016 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on the Global Environment Fund and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (GEF-FAO) project aiming at disposing of obsolete pesticides in the CILSS countries.

This first meeting of the SC took place on 03 June 2016 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, at which 15 representatives of the key funders and members of the steering committee of the project got together. These are GEF, FAO, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the national committee of (CONACILSS), the Sahelian Institute (Institut du Sahel, INSAH) and the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (Comité Sahélien des Pesticides, CSP), CropLife Africa Middle East, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD). The Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA-PPRSD) of Ghana represented a group of six countries (Ghana, Guinea C., Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo) not beneficiaries of the CILSS project and with no GEF project similar to those ongoing in Benin and Cote d'Ivoire.

Sy Alain Traore, Director Agriculture and Rural Development, ECOWAS Commission who represented both the ECOWAS and the WAEMU commissions chaired the meeting which aimed to adopt the work plan and budget for 2016, the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the project and the co-funding mechanisms.

F. Mancini from FAO Rome, and B. Bedane from FAO-RAF Accra, thanked the participants and their respective organizations for their attendance. They both reminded the participants of the importance of the obsolete pesticides project and the initiative "Pest and Pesticide Management in Sahel and W. Africa (PPM-SWA)" a unique regional initiative targeting many countries at the same time. They expressed their wishes for fruitful deliberations.

The chairman Sy Alain Traore, also thanked the participants and the organizations involved in the project for their continuous support to ECOWAS and WAEMU. He also stressed on the particular importance of the project and the regional ECOWAS pesticides registration initiative, the West Africa Committee for Pesticides Registration (WACPR). He then expressed his wishes that such support will continue under the PPM-SWA for an effective implementation of the WACPR to make it a reality.



Partial views of the participants at the Steering Committee meeting with M. Ammati (L, 1st R-L).



GEF-FAO Obsolete Stocks Project in CILSS, meeting of the Steering Committee

Following the adoption of the agenda Mohamed Ammati, FAO Senior International Consultant, provided an update on the project and the recommendations of the inception workshop. He focused on the conception of the project which is based on international partnerships for the development of a regional strategy for pesticide management to control locust outbreaks in the CILSS countries, and to capitalize on the Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP).

The GEF-FAO project has then been expanded to cover other ECOWAS-WAEMU countries. Antoine Some, Director General of INSAH, in his presentation referred to the concept of the PPM-SWA initiative to capitalize on the achievements of the obsolete pesticides project through the various components, especially the capacity strengthening of the regulatory framework, for an integrated and sustainable management of pesticides therefore avoiding new accumulation of obsolete pesticides in the sub-region.

The institutional arrangements as proposed for the management of the project were discussed and adopted, with a Steering Committee (SC) to supervise the project for a smooth and coherent implementation to meet the objectives, a Technical Committee in charge of planning and following-up the activities of the project.

The Regional Coordination and Management Unit (RCMU) in charge of the daily coordination and management of the project, will work under the supervision of the Technical Committee, and will be hosted by and work closely with the INSAH.

The Annual Work Plans and Budgets of the five components were adopted following some recommendations for future preparation of the plans and budgets for the coming years.

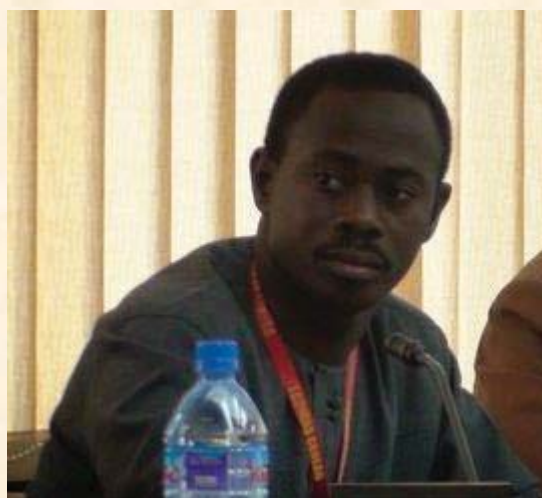
The meeting was informed of the ongoing discussion between CropLife International and the FAO for setting-up a mechanism by which CropLife International will contribute to the funding which will target the safeguarding and disposal of stocks in Senegal. The other participants confirmed the participation of their respective institutions, some of the funding being released now in nature through various ongoing activities.

M. Ammati briefed the meeting on two Medium-Size-Projects (MSP) which have been submitted and accepted by the GEF. These MSP will be implemented in the 6 other above mentioned countries. These projects are referred to as "Management of POPs and Related Wastes" and "Capacity Strengthening for the Post Registration Life Cycle".

Bama Yao



Francesca Mancini - FAO Rome



Sy Alain Traore, Director Agriculture and Rural Development,
ECOWAS Commission

Container Management in Ethiopia Takes a Step Forward

The Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporters Association (EHPEA) has 110 members, 75 flower producers and 35 veggie producers. EHPEA standards are aligned to GlobalGAP and the management of empty pesticide containers is an absolute requirement within their standards. Currently there are 1400ha under flower production, and such acreage is expanding. There are 2 major clusters of growers and it was originally thought that 2 collection points could be identified for empty pesticide containers. This possibility was soon shelved as “land” became an issue aggravated by regulatory requirements.

Currently all growers incinerate on the farm. This is frowned upon but tolerated by the environmental authorities as they are unable to offer an alternative solution. The standard practice is for growers to “triple rinse”, puncture and store on the farm for two weeks and then incinerate. The standard, and most popular incinerator is the use of a 200-liter metal drum designed in-line with the specifications drawn up by the British Agrochemicals Association and which is no longer in use. About 25% of the growers have now installed small brick-built incinerators.

Approximately 7 tons of plastics are generated per year mainly from 1 liter bottles. The growers are aware of the need to recycle rather than burn and if a recycler can be found to partner the project, access to the 2 clusters is quite easy with the growers very willing to play their part.

A recycler was identified and a meeting took place at the offices of EHPEA. The recycler is Biniyam G/Eggrabihen of the recycling company B-gg-B, which specializes in the production of HDPE piping. They have their factory outside of Addis and on the road to the key flower production region which places them nicely to become a partner in the project. They are keen to start with the collection of the ±7tons generated by the flower industry and to partner in the future rollout into the major agricultural areas.

An agreement is to be developed between EHPEA and the recycler.

Les Hillowitz



L-R Helina Getachew, Dedefo Abdo, Getachew Cherinet and Biniyam G/Eggrabihen

Bee Health Conference June 3, 2016

A bee health conference was organized by Zimbabwe's national apiculture association bringing together 75 participants from various sectors. The meeting was opened by Dr U Ushewokunze-Obatolu – Principal Director – Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture Mechanization and Irrigation Development. Key presentations directly related to bee health included:

- Perspectives on bee diseases in Zimbabwe by Mrs. E. Schomkle, renown researcher on bee diseases in Zimbabwe
- Bee health issues status in Zimbabwe and listed diseases and Pests, Department of Veterinary Services
- State of bee health in the SADC region, Agriculture Research Council (South Africa)
- Crop pollination in Zimbabwe by Seedco ,
- Bees as a natural resource and Perspectives from the Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe on the bee sector.

Other presentations related to bee- keeping practices, production, quality and marketing included

- Promotion of beekeeping projects by Environment Africa
- Bee production support services from the Development of Livestock and Production Department
- Trade and sanitary requirements and OIE standards
- Challenges of a beekeeper, Beekeepers Association
- Honey markets and pricing, Zimtrade
- Honey standards, Standards Association of Zimbabwe

From the plenary discussions, it was recommended that

- Although pesticides are currently a minor problem, stakeholders should collaborate awareness creation and education activities.
- Bee diseases and pests were the leading causes of poor bee health and needed to be addressed.
- Zimbabwe's apicultural association to regularly hold meetings to bring together stakeholders to share updates on bee health, bee keeping practices, honey production and marketing

Stella Simiyu Wafukho (CLAME) and Jacqui Gowe (National Apiculture Association)



Mike Allsop, conducting a presentation on the state of bee health in the SADC region

Regulatory

Stakeholders' workshop on the Registration of Microbial Biopesticides, Malawi, 14- 15

44 stakeholders drawn from various sectors including research and academia, farmer organizations, industry, regulatory authorities and local and international Non-Governmental Organisations attended a consultative workshop on Registration guidance for Microbial biopesticides in Malawi.

The meeting was organised by Pesticides Control Board (PCB) in conjunction with African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) and International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) with financial support from the United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS) through funds provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The meeting was officially opened by the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Honourable Dr. George Chaponda (MP). The Principal Secretary for the Ministry and other senior government officials were also in attendance.

The aims of the workshop were to identify gaps in the existing pesticides regulatory framework for registration of biopesticides. Pesticides registration in Malawi is governed by the Pesticide Act of 2000 with regulations of 2002.

Presentations were made on the following topics:

- Impact of Aflatoxin contamination
- Possible solutions to mitigating aflatoxin
- Regulatory gaps in Malawi.
- Background on and Introduction of Bio-pesticide Guidance Document (BGD).
- Application for Registration of Aflasafe in Senegal

These were followed by break-out sessions to identify aspects of the guidance document for inclusion in the current Act and regulations as applicable.

The workshop identified gaps including among others; definition of biopesticides, pre- submission consultation processes, and requirements for registration of biopesticides, time frame for registration and attendant processes, responsibilities for authorities and registrants during post-registration periods. Participants concluded that the meeting had agreed on critical steps towards the development of processes for the registration of bio-pesticides in Malawi. This will entail including biopesticides in the definitions of the current Act currently under review, while aspects of the guidance document will be included in the regulations yet to be reviewed.

Misheck Soko (PCB, Malawi): David Tarus (AATF): Chris Peterson (USDA-FAS): Stella Simiyu (CLAME)



At the centre; Dr. George Chaponda, Minister of Agriculture and Principal Secretary (MOA) with Workshop participants

Representing the Plant Science Industry

IUTOX workshop, Nairobi June 21 – 23

CropLife Africa Middle East joined the International Union of Toxicology - IUTOX (www.iutox.org), the Environmental Compliance Institute (ECI) and the East African Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (EANECE) organized a regional workshop on Environmental Toxicological Risk Assessment. The workshop was supported by the American Chemical Council Foundation and CropLife Africa Middle East.

The objectives of the workshop were to introduce East African scientists in the area of toxicology/environmental science to contemporary concepts of risk assessment and establish the basis for an East African network in toxicology/risk assessment (East African Society of Toxicology)

Over the three days of the workshop, various topics were covered under three broad sessions on the general introduction to risk assessment, Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and risk assessment case studies and regulation. The workshop was facilitated by the following experts

- Herman Autrup, President, IUTOX,
- Mary Gulumian, Vice President, IUTOX,
- Emmanuela Testai, Toxicologist, National Health Institute of Italy (Istituto Superiore di Sanità) and
- Sabitha Papineni, Senior Toxicologist at Dow AgroSciences, LLC, USA

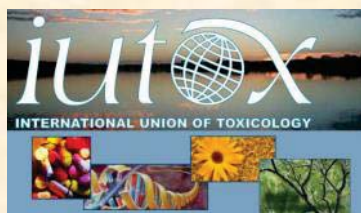
Participants learned the key elements of risk assessment and that hazard-based assessment is very limiting because the likelihood of harm depends on the exposure. As opposed to hazard-based assessment, using a 'risk-based assessment' is comprehensive evaluating all the relevant scientific information including exposure.

Key outcome out of the workshop was the resolution to pursue the establishment of an East African Society of Toxicology and organisation of more sessions in risk assessment to enhance the capacity of scientists from the region.

Stella Simiyu Wafukho (CropLife) Gerphas Opondo



Participants during the IUTOX workshop at Laico Regency in Nairobi



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Uncertainty around the European Commission Proposal for Criteria for Endocrine Disruptors

The European Commission (EC) proposed new criteria to identify endocrine disruptors (EDs) – both natural and man-made that cause adverse effects to human health or wildlife based on the WHO/IPCS (2002) definition, with possible derogations for crop protection products. Any substance deemed an ED by the new criteria will be banned in the EU, taking a hazard-based approach, “unless strict derogations apply.” Before becoming effective, the proposal needs to be voted upon by the EU Member States. The final criteria could be adopted in early-mid 2017 with entry into force relatively soon afterwards.

The plant science industry, represented by the European Crop Protection Association, is voicing serious concern about the proposal. This concern relates mainly to using the WHO/IPCS definition alone for criteria to “identify” EDs which are then subject to specific regulatory action, i.e., a ban based on hazard characteristics unless certain negligible risk derogations are met. Industry is of the view that further elements of hazard characterization, such as potency, should be incorporated into the criteria as these are essential to separate substances of high concern from those of no/ little concern.

Firstly, CropLife Africa Middle East is concerned about the impact this EU regulation will have on the region’s agricultural trade. The proposed regulation has not introduced proportionate and risk-based criteria for ED properties to maintain existing high levels of protection for human health and the environment. The EC proposal could also result in significant uncertainty and disruption in global agricultural trade with an impact on its entire value chain.

Secondly, regulation by derogation has been proposed in the new criteria which would allow an exemption from the hazard-based cut-off. The scope of possible derogations has been widened in the EC proposal from negligible exposure to negligible risk, which means a risk assessment would be required. However, the concern is that regulation based on derogation is not a good approach and there still remains a large degree of uncertainty as to how the derogations would be applied in practice. Derogations are by default uncertain and vulnerable to political interference.

The current debate on glyphosate is a good example as the decision is purely based on politics. Regulating substances based on risk assessment provides a more predictable framework and better supports innovation than regulating hazards by derogation.

Thirdly, import tolerance (IT) and Maximum Residue Level (MRL) setting could be impacted by the new EC regulation. In its proposal, active substances will be assessed against the EC’s criteria for ED properties at their time of renewal or for new active substances. If a compound does not trigger the criteria, MRLs can be set under the known process of Directive 396/2005. If the criterion of an active ingredient has ED properties, the derogation would allow for further risk assessment, not an immediate ban. If negligible risk can be demonstrated, the product can still be authorized. In this case, MRL setting is expected to be possible alongside the established process of Directive 396/2005.

For a substance triggering the criteria for ED properties where negligible risk cannot be demonstrated, the compound will not be authorized. In this case, the EC proposal is not clear on how MRLs/ITs would be set, but based on feedback, it is highly likely that no MRLs/ITs could be set.

This means that substances will be banned without preceding risk assessment and ITs for food imported from Africa and Middle East countries will be potentially set to the default level.

In principle, the introduced derogation allows for elements of risk assessment and limits the number of compounds likely to be impacted by the application of an ED cut-off. However, there is still significant uncertainty on whether agreement will be reached to include the derogations in the final criteria and if so, how these would operate in practice. Therefore, the proposal will still put a significant number of products at risk and potentially limit the tool box of farmers.

Related to this is a call by EU commission for public comments on the EU Commission proposal for criteria for endocrine disrupting properties running from June 30th 2016 to July 28, 2016.

The public commenting is open to everybody including stakeholders outside the EU. To provide comments on the Commission proposal go to the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives_en

Stella Simiyu Wafukho

Anti Counterfeiting

CropLife Ghana holds Anti-Counterfeiting workshop in Brong Ahafo region, 9 June

Part of the activities of CropLife Ghana is to provide responsible-use training to farmers, input-dealers and other stakeholders including enforcement and the regulatory agencies. The Plant Science Industry is committed to promoting practices that encourage the responsible and effective use of its products and also to sensitize stakeholders on current issues being tackled including the curbing of counterfeit activities especially along the border towns of Ghana.

In view of this development, CropLife Ghana collaborated with the Chemical Control Management Centre of EPA and the Plant Protection & Regulatory Services Directorate of MoFA, to organize a 1-day Anti-Counterfeiting sensitization workshop for officers of the Customs Division of Ghana Revenue Authority and Plant Quarantine Officers from the border posts in the Brong Ahafo Region. This covered the identification of illegal pesticides and ways of preventing these products into the country. The workshop was designed to improve the knowledge and skills of the Customs Excise & Preventative Service (CEPS) & Plant Quarantine officers to enable them to effectively control cross-border activities with counterfeit products. This was under the umbrella of "NOT FOR SALE AGRI-PRODUCTS" including seed, fertilizers and pesticides.

Other topics discussed included the following:

- Overview of the Legal Framework for the Management of Pesticides;
- Pesticides (Definitions, Toxicity and User Safety)
- Introduction of GCNet Clearance Procedures to EPA (software program for the capture of data on imports and exports at borders)

More than 60 officers from the Customs Division, Plant Quarantine of MoFA and officers of EPA and PPRSD/MoFA participated in the program. Fred Boampong, of CropLife Ghana gave a presentation on the following:

- What you should know about CropLife Ghana;
- How to Identify a genuine pesticide versus that of a counterfeit product?
- He made a passionate plea to the Customs and Plant Quarantine Officers manning the border posts to use all their skills to prevent both imports and exports of unapproved pesticides and fertilizers from entering and leaving the country.



Group Photo



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Mr. Joe Edmund, Deputy Registrar of CCMC/EPA, covered the Registration, Labelling and importation of Pesticides into the country and indicated the role of the CEPS officers in the current Pesticide Act 490. Mr. Edmund took the participants through A spate of agrochemical counterfeiting in Ghana. According to him, agrochemical counterfeiters are experienced in re-labeling. He indicated their readiness to embark on swoops to apprehend the culprits. The Customs Division was presented with 10 copies of the current Pesticide Registers, to enable them to identify pesticides that have been approved in Ghana. Madam Baaba of EPA also took the participants through the operation of the GCNET.

Mr. Eric Dzimado of PPRSD/MoFA, stressed on the need for officers to be watchful over the frequent transportation of subsidized fertilizers across the borders to neighbouring countries. According to him, this situation prevents the targeted farmers in Ghana from accessing these inputs, thereby reducing government's projection targets on agricultural yields.

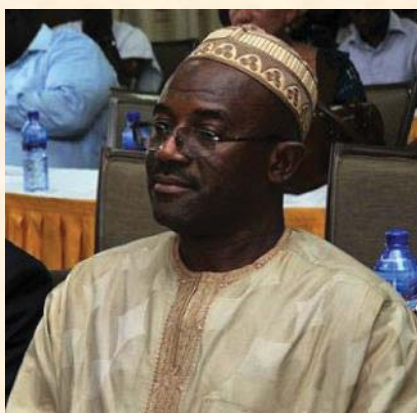
The participants were presented with training manuals on counterfeit agrochemicals for further training programs amongst themselves.

The workshop was attended by important officials from the Customs Division in Brong Ahafo, including the Regional Commander and his assistants. They were extremely happy about the program and expressed their willingness of collaboration to secure the borders. They were also impressed with the activities of CropLife Ghana, and encouraged and requested them to organize these trainings as often as possible.

During the Q&A session, it became clear that officers have realized the need to strengthen their posts to prevent unwanted products from entering or leaving the country.

This was without doubt one of the best patronized Anti-Counterfeiting workshops in terms of the caliber of the participants, and the contributions made during the program. That the Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Yakubu Alhassan (Hon) and the EPA and other agencies came together to collaborate with CropLife Ghana to find a lasting solution is testament to this.

Fred Boampong



Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Yakubu Alhassan



Above: Fred Boampong undertaking his presentation



Left: Mr. Joe Edmund, Deputy Registrar of CCMC/EPA giving his presentation

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Anti-Counterfeiting training workshop for enforcement agencies in Cote d'Ivoire

On 23 June, in Man, Western Cote d'Ivoire, a meeting took place comprising of 37 participants made up of, 12 regional officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), 10 Customs officers, 10 Gendarmes, 5 Forestry officers. The Director of the Crop Protection and Quality Control Directorate (DPVCQ) and the Manager of the Certification Service, the Director of Local Development and External Services (DDLSE) of the MINADER attended the workshop. CropLife AME was represented by Bama Yao and CropLife CI by K. Yeboue.

The purpose of the workshop was to pursue the sensitization programme across the country and provide both knowledge and skills to the enforcement and security bodies to identify counterfeit and illegal pesticides entering and or on the markets.

Following the introductory message by the Director of the DPVCQ who stressed on the importance of the workshop, the presentations and subsequent discussions focused on the following:

- Regulations, laws and decrees requiring the registration of all pesticides prior to distribution and uses; these requirements are important for the safety to man and the environment and for effective use.
- The importance of pesticides in sustainable agriculture to meet the challenges of food security for a growing population, and to protect the environment.
- The risks associated with counterfeit and illegal pesticides such as crop destruction, human health and environmental issues, financial and economic losses for the country, loss of credibility towards the pesticide industry and the regulatory authorities
- The cooperation needed among the enforcers and security bodies to combat counterfeit and illegal pesticides across the country.

Participants found the workshop extremely useful and stressed on the needs to strengthen cooperation and conduct joint missions to fight the illegal trade of pesticides in the country. The closing ceremony was chaired by the Secretary General of the Prefecture (SG) who thanked CropLife AME and CropLife CI for their support to the DPVCQ and the MINADER for such cooperation. Participants were then presented with their certificates of participation.

Bama Yao



Left: The SG of the Prefecture presenting a certificate to a Customs Officer in the presence of the DDLSE (L) and DPVCQ (R).

Below: Group photo after the closing ceremony.



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Association Management

Change of Leadership at CropLife Malawi

CropLife Malawi held an Extra Ordinary General Meeting on 17 June, following the departure of former Chairperson, Adamson Tong'o from the industry and the resignation of former Treasurer, Dalitso Gadama.

Thirteen CropLife Malawi members who were represented at this meeting and ushered in new office bearers to fill in the vacant positions. Ronald Chilumpha of Farmers Organisation Ltd is now the new Chairperson of CropLife Malawi. The other executive office bearers are Christopher Beya (ATC) – Secretary, Patrick Manja (AHL Chemicals & Steel Co. Ltd) - Treasurer and Dumisani Chisala (C&M) – Executive Member.

In his acceptance speech, Ronald Chilumpha made a commitment to take CropLife Malawi to the next level focusing on key projects which include empty pesticide container management, spray service provider programs and the revision of the “chemical handbook”. He also promised to pursue the enactment of the revised Pesticide Act and improve the overall image of CropLife Malawi.

Les Hillowitz



Ronald Chilumpha

CropLife Kenya Appoints New Stewardship Manager



Benson Ngigi

CropLife Kenya announced the appointment of Benson Ngigi as their new Stewardship Manager, effective July 11 2016.

He takes over from Evelyn Lusenaka who was recently appointed as CEO of the national association.

Benson was Chief Agricultural Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries, and brings with him a wealth of experience in training on Responsible Use of pesticides.

He has been instrumental in the implementation of projects such as the “Small Scale Horticulture Development, Spray Service Provider program” and “Plant Clinics” which are run in partnership with CABI Kenya with whom he is a certified trainer of Plant Doctors.

He is currently holds a Bachelor’s degree in Agriculture and is pursuing a Master’s degree in Crop Protection at the University of Nairobi. He is warmly welcomed him to the CropLife family.

Les Hillowitz

Plant Biotechnology

Tanzania is Ready for GM Crops, Affirms Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture

The Permanent Secretary of Tanzania's Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Honorable Florens Turuka has vouched for the country's readiness to transact business on GM crops. Speaking at the launch of the ISAAA Global Report on Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops (2015), Honorable Turuka said the government intends to revolutionize agriculture by introducing biotech crops to improve the quality of yields.

"We want to make sure that the quality of the yields that we are harvesting is improved. We believe this report we have launched will help us show the public on how other countries are benefiting from agri-biotechnology." Prof. Gerald Monela, Vice Chancellor, Sokoine University of Agriculture, the host of the event, echoed Hon. Turuka's sentiments, adding that the country has the required capacity for research on GM crops.

"Our experts here at the university will follow internationally accepted guidelines to conduct the research on GM crops. " Prof. Monela urged the public not to worry and asked leaders "who because of misinformation, might have said inaccurate things, that have instilled fear in the public to reassure them of the safety standards in place."

The meeting was organized by the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Tanzania in collaboration with the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Morogoro, Eastern Tanzania, on May 30, 2016. It was attended by 90 participants, including farmers, scientists, representatives from academia and media.

ISAAA



110 Nobel Laureates Sign Letter Calling Greenpeace to Stop GMO Opposition

More than 100 Nobel Laureates have taken the stand to support GMOs and biotechnological innovations in agriculture by signing a letter calling upon Greenpeace to cease and desist GMO opposition specifically Golden Rice, and for governments around the world to reject Greenpeace's campaign against Golden Rice, and crops and foods improved through biotechnology in general.

Addressed to the leaders of Greenpeace, the United Nations, and the Governments around the world, the letter cites that scientific and regulatory agencies around the world have repeatedly and consistently found crops and foods improved through biotechnology to be as safe as, if not safer than those derived from any other method of production. There has never been a single confirmed case of a negative health outcome for humans or animals from their consumption.

A strong call to action, the letter urges Governments to do everything in their power to oppose Greenpeace's actions and accelerate the access of farmers to tools of modern biology, especially seeds improved through biotechnology. The Laureates close the letter by asking, "How many poor people in the world must die before we consider this a crime against humanity?"

ISAAA

Uganda Agri Minister Supports Biotech

"I am an ally of scientists and I support biotechnology. We do not need to implore people to embrace science and technology; it's the way to go". This was one of the remarks made by Uganda's State Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Christopher Kibazanga, while launching the ISAAA report on the 20th anniversary of global commercialization of biotech crops on June 29, 2016 in Kampala. Hon. Kibazanga was astonished that the world has been using biotech crops for over 20 years, but Uganda is lagging behind in making necessary steps to give farmers access to these improved crops. He called upon all Ugandans to support biotechnology and other modern science in light of current challenges like booming population, land scarcity and climate change.

The report launch was attended by over 30 participants, including journalists, scientists, members of the civil society, and Members of Parliament. During a panel discussion on the report findings, meeting participants expressed disappointment over the fact that despite Uganda is a regional leader in agri-biotech research, it is lagging behind in converting this research into tangible benefits for Ugandan farmers partly due to absence of requisite regulatory structures. Speaking about the food security situation in Bugisu, Eastern Uganda, Hon. Rosemary Mutunyo Masaba, MP for Bubulo West, noted that population explosion has led to food shortage and land scarcity, overuse, and infertility. She therefore cautioned, "If we do not have better crops, we are not going to feed our people."

The Minister and the Lady Member of Parliament pledge that as champions of the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, they will work with their colleagues to make sure that this Bill is passed into law by the current parliament soon.

ISAAA



Representing the Plant Science Industry

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pollinator Forum, South Africa	June 30
SABIO / BEECON, South Africa	July 1 - 2
Meeting of the RRC, Brussels	July 4-5
IPM training for SSPs in cocoa sector, Cote d'Ivoire,	July 3 - 8
Meeting with IFDC, SNV and CL Ethiopia to discuss respective project implementation	July 10-13
GHS and MRL Training workshop at PCPB Kenya	July 11-14
IPM-RU training by CropLife and CM-MINADER in N-W, S-W & Central Cameroon	July 5 -6
July 12 - 13 : July 19 -20	
IPM-RU training by CropLife and CM-MINADER, Centre, East Cameroon	July 26 - 27
Potential Project Implementation Meetings, Lusaka	July 19 - 20
IPM training of SSPs in Zambia	July 25 - 30
ED Research Workshop, Basel, Switzerland	July 29
Anti-Counterfeiting training for enforcement agencies, Soubre, S-W CIV	Aug 4 - 5
IPM-RU training by CropLife and CM-MINADER, South Cameroon	Aug 9 -10
TOT for SNV, Ethiopia	Aug 15 - 19
E & SA Hub and Regulatory Workshop, Dar es Salaam	Sep 6 - 7

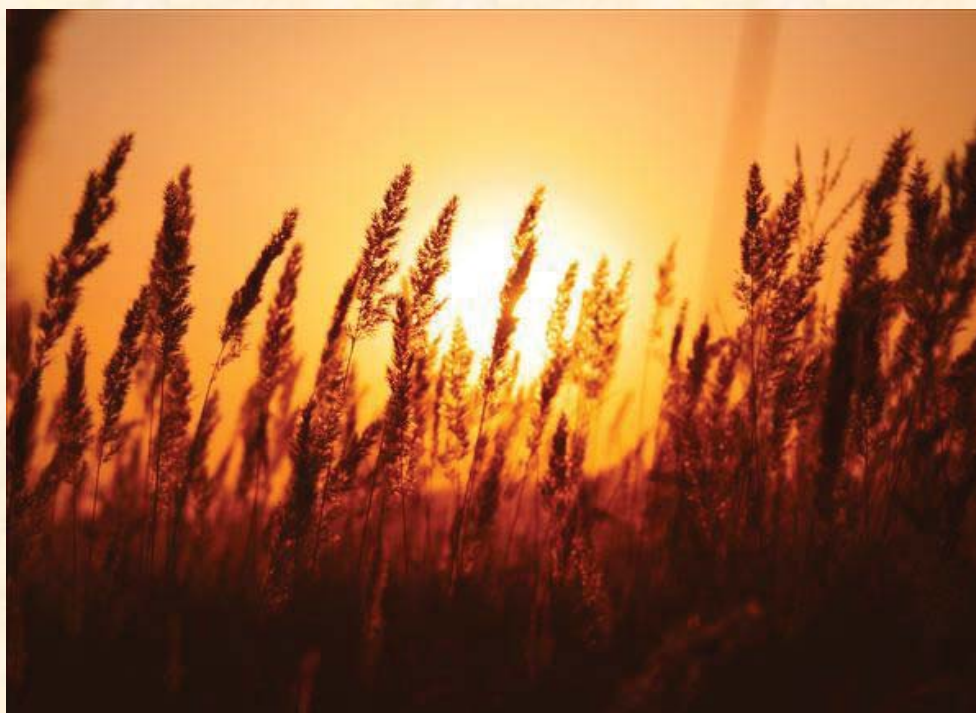


Photo: PEHUB

