



## East & Southern Africa



### CropLife Kenya - Poison Information Centre

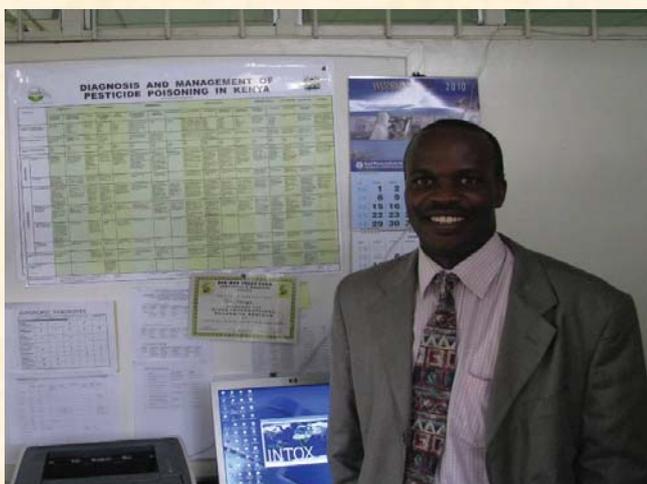
In 1996 CropLife Kenya commenced with the training of doctors for pesticide poisoning related issues. However, it soon became apparent that although these programmes were successful, a focal point was missing to which the public at large could turn to. In 2005 the association organised a workshop to discuss on how to take this further. The result is the Poison Information Centre established within the Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi and which has been functioning since 2008.

Although the centre is the brain-child of CropLife Kenya, the focus is on poisoning in general and not specific to pesticide related issues. Affected persons can call a toll free number and ask for advice on such matters as snake bites, overdose of medicines or any other type of poisoning. The doctors on the toll free number can be reached 24 /7 and will advise on what to do in an emergency situation. This is then followed up leading to the responsible care and treatment of the patient. Presently the centre receives between 10 - 15 calls per day.

The Poison Information Centre is run by several stakeholders. CropLife Kenya provides the sum of \$30,000 per annum for training, the cost of the toll free number and the development and updating of poison charts. The poison chart shows per active ingredient what the best treatment is. The hospital covers the salaries of the staff and makes office and treatment space available. The Pharmaceutical Board of Kenya is also involved in the initiative.

The reason that the Kenyatta National Hospital took the decision to go ahead with the poison information centre was to be able to offer advice to the public on all types of poisoning related issues and in so doing, save lives. CropLife Kenya, Chairman A.K. Otieno describes the reason as follows: "It is the responsibility of the industry and we see it as a service to our members."

During the recent Study Tour to Kenya, representatives from CropLife Tanzania and CropLife Ethiopia together with government officials from these two countries were shown this facility.



Dr. T.B. Menge, responsible person for the Poison Information Centre

Directions to the Poison Information Centre at the Hospital



## Container Management - Uganda



CropLife Uganda started their container management initiative in 2008 by undertaking a full assessment of the problem including the major production areas and key crops. This was followed by partnerships formed with both the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment leading in turn to a number of training interventions.

### This directed them to focus on the following sectors:

- The Uganda Flower Export Growers Association covering mainly insecticides and fungicides.
- The members of the Sugarcane Growers Association which embraces both estates and smallholders covering predominantly herbicides.
- The cotton industry through the Cotton Development Authority and respective ginners focusing on cotton insecticides.
- Lastly, the contract spray gang organisations who undertake services mainly for the smallholder segment of the market

The collection of the containers from the 2009 season is now underway and on completion will produce the first set of numbers from this initiative.

During 2009 and again earlier this year, a number of recycling plants were assessed and a one in particular was selected that met the needs of the association. One major leading sugarcane grower is already using this facility which actually buys the empty "clean" containers for conversion into pellets for use as a raw material for the refuse plastic bag industry.

Aside from this, the incineration facilities at the Faculty of Veterinary Services at Makerere University are being used to incinerate "Icon" empty sachets and small soft plastics from the animal health industry.

The incineration capability at the Hima Cement factory was assessed to establish whether this could be a route for the destruction of empty containers remaining after the annual contract spraying for malaria control. It was established that the facility can absorb containers which do not contain silicon content in their composition.



Empty small pack containers from the flower industry

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## Biotechnology



A request for a comprehensive strategy for CropLife's engagement in Africa was made during a Funders meeting late last year. Several converging factors warranted the development of a revised comprehensive strategy.

- \* The debate in Africa continues to shift from the safety of plant biotechnology to a discussion of what crops and traits will be useful in Africa.
- \* Several joint research and development projects are expected to help accelerate the path to commercialization in a number of countries in the coming years
- \* Unlike other regions such as the US and Europe, where a more regional approach to biotech regulations has been adopted, in Africa, it has historically been on a country by country basis

The Africa team believes that while national interests will still ultimately determine commercialization, the influence of political and economic trading blocks in the harmonisation process is at a pivotal turning point of influence. Engagement with these selected regional bodies in the short term (starting 2011) is proposed. .

The pull from these political blocks is acute with the objective to provide a single and focused voice for CropLife members to engage in the venture and to act as a liaison between the biotech providers, COMESA and ECOWAS. A new position was proposed to support COMESA in the drive towards regulatory harmonization and if this proves successful, to duplicate this for ECOWAS.

The seed sector in Africa has a powerful voice with policy makers, academics, scientists, and farmers. Formal engagement with the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) has been proposed and based on the MOU they have with COMESA, CropLife will fund a position in AFSTA to support the harmonization initiative at COMESA. Enock Chikava, Product Management Lead at Monsanto, who is also a member of the CropLife Africa Group, was recently elected President of AFSTA, a position he will hold for two years.

Enock Chikva - elected President of AFSTA



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## Labelling - South Africa

With regulations covering the labelling of foodstuffs presently being drafted, AfricaBio held a stakeholders workshop on “Adventitious Presence”

Key points arising from the workshop:

The NACI Project (National Advisory Council on Innovation)

### What is NACI?

NACI was created by the NACI Act, 1997 to advise the Minister of Science & Technology. It is supported by a professional secretariat based within the Department of Science & Technology and consists of 22 counsellors, representing sectors and organizations involved in the South African National System of Innovation (NSI).

### What is the Project?

In March 2010 the National Biotechnology Advisory Committee, a committee of the NACI called for proposals on the following project: ADVENTITIOUS PRESENCE OF GMO's IN COMMODITIES.

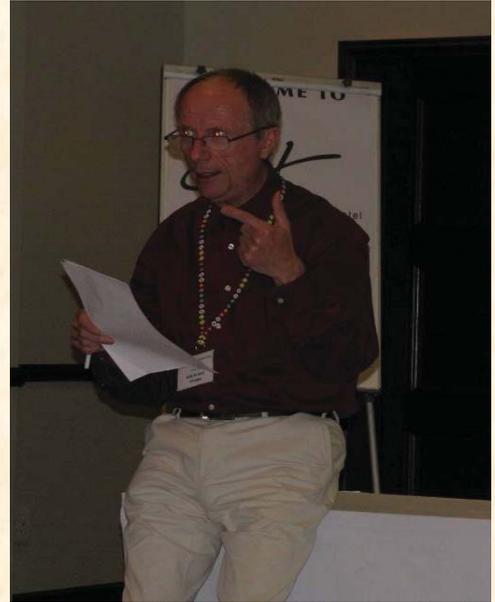
### The purpose of the Project

To determine the understanding by regulators, scientists and “industry” of the requirements for labelling. To determine how this should be done and who should bear the cost.

### The objective of the Project

To identify the understanding by regulators, scientists and “industry” of the requirements for labelling, the level of engagement between these role players and how these requirements can be harmonized to contribute to the growth of the biotechnology sector.

Emphasis was placed on the difference between “adventitious presence of GM material” and “ low level presence of GM material.”



Willie de Greef giving a presentation at the Workshop

## FANRPAN

### Harmonised Seed Security Project (HSSP) Common Vision Workshop

The purpose of selected participation at this workshop was to honour the MOU we have with this organisation as well as to network with key stakeholders, primarily COMESA.



Participants at the workshop

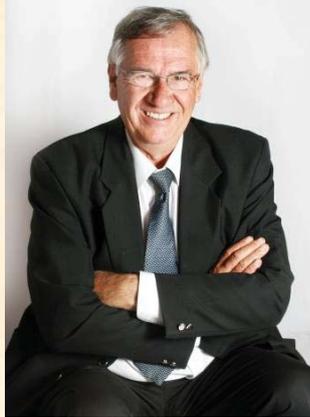
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## New Appointments

### South Africa

At the CropLife South Africa AGM earlier this month the following two key office bearers were elected:



Piet de Beer - President



Andre Schreuder - Vice President

### Tanzania

At the CropLife Tanzania AGM held on Saturday 22 May the following two key office bearers were elected:



Harish Dhutia - Chairman



Ernest Massae - Vice Chairman

## East African Community Gets Stronger

The five East African nations want to collapse their borders so that foreigners will need only one visa to travel to any of the five nations.

The proposal is part of an effort to forge Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda into a single market and increase investment in the region. Negotiations are at an advanced with the EU's 25-nation zone of open frontiers being used as a model.



Citizens of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda do not need visas to travel within their economic bloc, the East African Community which on Thursday 1 July officially began operating as a single market with one set of regulations

Each country, however, still has to change a wide range of laws, including labour, taxation and immigration laws, to conform to the protocol.

On Friday 2 July, Kenya waived all work permit requirements for East Africans, who will only need to register with the immigration department as a formality. Rwanda, a year ago eliminated work permit requirements for all citizens of the Community.

Since 2005 the Community has charged a uniform set of duties for any imports from outside the region under a customs agreement. Over a five-year period, duties were also progressively cut to nothing on all products and goods produced and traded within the region. The Community also has a court and a parliament.

Creating a federation is the ultimate goal of the nine-year old Community. It brings together more than 125 million people.

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## North Africa Middle East

### USAID Workshop on Agribusiness in Egypt



On 18 May the USAID resident mission in Egypt and ACDI VOCA held a workshop on the theme of “Expanding Agribusiness Opportunities in Egypt.” This was attended by the MOA, MOT, NGOs, private sector together with CropLife Egypt.

Over the past 30 years USAID has made a significant contribution of ca \$ 28.6 billion to help improve the quality of life of rural population in Egypt.

The agricultural sector and the water management sector has received in excess of \$ 1.3 billion of this contribution.

The importance of agribusiness to the country’s economy is paramount and contributes 30% of Egypt’s annual exports, while agriculture as a whole makes up 17% of the country’s gross domestic product and employs 34% of the labour force.

The goal of the USAID workshop was to provide a setting whereby the key players in agribusiness industry including farmers, agro-input suppliers, exporters together with logistical service providers and processors could engage with the international donor community and the government of Egypt in an open and constructive discussion on means and measures to promote the growing agribusiness sector.

Among the activities outlined for Egypt was the USAID support of more than 100 horticultural producer associations with more than 20,000 producers receiving training on agricultural techniques, together with developing the Egyptian national authority for biosafety through which farmers are trained on responsible use and benefits of agricultural biotechnology.



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## CropLife Syria

CropLife Syria held its annual general assembly meeting (AGM) on 6 April 2010 at the Kiwan Palace Restaurant in Damascus with full quorum of its 16 member companies.

Mr. Elias Salhani, former Chairman of the board of directors, reviewed the annual report of the association covering activities and official correspondences in 2009 together with financial year end statements and the action plan and budget for 2010. These were duly approved by the board.

The AGM also elected a new board of directors consisting of 9 members who will serve a 2 year term of office:

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Asim Sulaiman      | President         |
| Abul Raziq Altahan | Vice President    |
| Elias Salhani      | Secretary General |
| Bassam Sunaitir    | Board Member      |
| Farid Khouri       | Board Member      |
| Yasir Halbawi      | Board Member      |
| Mohamed Abboud     | Board Member      |
| Mohyeldin Alsabbaq | Board Member      |
| Nadir Gabbani      | Board Member      |

The association also approved relevant budgets and has rented and established an independent executive office of the association. Mr. Bassam Hajir has been appointed as Executive Manager of its office responsible for the coordination of the association's activities, communication and contacts with the local authorities on day-to-day basis.

The AGM in session



CropLife Syria - Annual General Meeting - Damascus

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## West & Central Africa

### IPR - Anti-Counterfeiting - Dakar, Senegal

#### IPR/ANTICOUNTERFEITING

An Interpol Intellectual Property (IP) Crime Workshop was held in Dakar, Senegal from 20 – 25 May 2010. Participants from the Police, Customs and Judiciary attended as well as IP officers from North, West and Central Africa.

The objective of the workshop was to provide tools / guidelines to participants on IP and the combating of counterfeiting / Illicit trade. Discussions focused on:

- \* Country / Regional Perspectives: Algeria, Senegal, DRC, Zambia, Zimbabwe;
- \* IP, IP Crimes Investigations and Capacity Building at Regional and Global Levels;
- \* Operational cases with the focus on the tobacco, textile, cosmetic, automobile, pharmaceutical and agrochemical industries. The economic, human health, consumer protection and environment dimensions were also presented. The profile of CropLife was effectively raised during the workshop through the recommendations and the presentations covered by D'Arcy Quinn and Bama Yao which highlighted the following:
- \* CropLife International / AME members supplying RD based CPP's and Biotech products;
- \* Global challenges with tools offered ("Core Messages");
- \* IP and subsequent innovative technologies;
- \* Cases of counterfeiting in (West and Central) Africa, Europe, Latin America etc.
- \* Anti-Counterfeiting with the focus on cooperation among police, customs, regulators and other stakeholders.

#### Recommendations Arising from the Workshop

- \* Creation of national committees with focal points
- \* Involvement of major stakeholders / participating agencies
- \* Design strategies and actions
- \* Raising of awareness
- \* Strengthening cooperation with other committees
- \* Targeting main products (cars/car parts, cigarettes, CDs/DVDs, alcohols, agrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and Body / skin care products, textiles / brands clothes, canned foods, mobile / telephone parts...).
- \* Operational activities for the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarters for the year will cover countries where the industry is active.

Important contacts were made during the workshop and follow-up actions will be conducted to ensure that anti-counterfeiting measures remains active with customs, the police and prosecutors. Farmers and other stakeholders would also be sensitized.



Group Photo at the Interpol Workshop

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## CropLife Côte d'Ivoire



On 27 May CropLife Côte d'Ivoire met to elect a new Board and discuss organizational structure of the association.

Mrs. Mariamme Dosso was elected as President of the association. Mrs. Dosso was the Vice President of the previous executive board. Mrs. Dosso is the first female President of the Association.

Mr. Koffi Roger Yeboué will act as part time Executive Secretary. Mr. Yeboué, presently training consultant for francophone countries of the WCA hub served as president for 3 terms whilst still serving the industry and before his retirement in 2007.

Mrs Mariamme Dosso (L) President and Koffi R. Yéboué (R) Executive Secretary of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire,



## Cameroon

### Special obsolete stocks intervention in Cameroon completed

A special intervention initiative in Cameroon has recently been completed for the safe collection and destruction of 6 tonnes of obsolete stocks of migratory pest control products and associated wastes. The initiative was of particular interest because of the way it was funded and implemented.

The obsolete products concerned were Dieldrin ULV, originally manufactured by the Shell Group of Companies (Shell) and Queletox originating from Bayer CropScience. Dieldrin is an organochlorine insecticide for the control of locusts and other pests which is listed by the Stockholm Convention as a high priority persistent organic pollutant (POP) requiring immediate destruction. Shell is well advanced in its global stewardship programme for the safe collection and destruction of all known remaining stocks of Dieldrin, of which the Cameroon stock formed a small but significant percentage. Queletox is an organophosphorus product used for the control of migratory *Quelea* birds.

The project formed part of the CleanFarms safeguarding project being implemented by CropLife International in Cameroon in collaboration with the Cameroon Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and other organisations including CropLife Cameroon. The CleanFarms initiative in Cameroon forms part of industry's contribution to the Africa Stockpiles Programme. For the disposal of the obsolete stocks at the Garoua Phytosanitary Station in the north of Cameroon, Shell funded and organised the services of an experienced international hazardous waste management company (Veolia Environmental Services Ltd, UK) and CropLife undertook to coordinate the necessary local facilitation via CropLife Cameroon. The initiative also included Veolia-led training for government and industry personnel, supported by CropLife and Shell.

The sealed container was then trucked to Douala Port and finally shipped to the Veolia incinerator in the UK.

The project carefully followed the legal and procedural elements required, including local approvals and the export of the stocks in full accordance with the Basel Convention for the control of trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste.



Stocks at Garoua

Following verification of the obsolete products by CropLife Cameroon, a process of completion of the necessary legal agreements and contracts was followed. Once signed, Veolia, in conjunction with the Cameroon Ministry of Environment gained permission from the UK Environmental Agency to import the wastes to the UK for environmentally safe destruction.

The stocks, finally comprising 2.4 tonnes of Dieldrin, 1.1 tonnes of Queletox and 2.8 tonnes of contaminated soil and empty containers, were repacked on site into new drums and subsequently a freight container

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