

Pool of Master Trainers ready for action!



Group picture of the Anglophone master training in Accra in August facilitated by Manon Dohmen



Energizer during the training in Nairobi in July for the Francophone trainers.

A pool of 8 Master Trainers from several African countries was formed following training programs held in Nairobi in July and Accra in August. The trainers will facilitate Training-of-Trainers and technical training programs, identify training needs and collect training reports in their regions.

The master trainers that are now ready for action are for West and Central Africa: Mrs Gisèle Etoundi, Cameroon; Mr Roger Yeboue, Ivory Coast; Mr Joseph Obagwu, Nigeria and Mr Fred Boamong, Ghana.

The trainers for North Africa and the Middle East are Mr Said Abdellah, Egypt and Mr Youssef Raggad, Tunisia.

For East and Southern Africa the trainers are Mr. Herman Louw, Namibia and Mr Solofo Raberahona, Madagascar. All the master trainers followed a specialised Master Trainer course facilitated by Manon Dohmen of IFDC Africa. The Training-of-Trainers programs were explained in detail and discussions were held about the CropLife training strategy and follow up.

The master trainers agreed that training should remain one of the priorities of CropLife Africa Middle East. Several ideas were offered to improve the current training strategy. It was felt that more emphasis was needed on the follow up of training programs to measure impact.

The possibility to certify the CropLife training programs was mentioned. Finally, tasks were divided in order to improve the technical materials and to ensure that these materials will be translated into French and Arabic. Discussions among the master trainers will continue to formulate new ideas that can be used for the training strategy.

All master trainers received a 'Letter of Reference' in which it is stated that they are accredited Master Trainers for CropLife Africa Middle East and IFDC Africa.



IPM Pilot Course Launched in Egypt



Dr. Said Abdella (standing left) and 17 certified trainers representing the agricultural sector

The opening session speeches highlighted the importance and value of the course in the Egyptian context.

Seventeen participants from different agricultural departments and institutes attended the course, the majority of them from the extension service. Participants from private sector were present as well. All participants were highly qualified personnel and four of them were Ph.D. holders. Age and gender among the attendees was balanced. All the participants were successful and were awarded completion certificates endorsed with the logos of CropLife Egypt, CropLife Africa Middle East and MOA of Egypt.

In his closing statement Prof M Elgarhi Deputy Director of ARC for training and extension, accepted the ARC course and called for partnership with CropLife Egypt in order to promote the course within the agricultural sector. The Chairman of CropLife Egypt, Sarwat Sakr, promised due cooperation with agricultural authorities towards prospective dissemination of the course. ali@croplifeafrica.org

Following the approval of the Global IPM course developed by CropLife International and piloted in Ras Al Khaimeh last May, CropLife Egypt supported by CropLife Africa Middle East, took the initiative to conduct the first regional launch in Egypt.

The course was translated into Arabic. The approved structure and curricular content remained the same. Some modifications were also made to comply with local implementation and national IPM strategy.

The course conducted by Dr Said Abdella of CropLife Egypt was held between 10-13 August at the Central Agricultural Pesticide Lab (CAPL) under the umbrella of the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC), the highest authority for Research and Extension in Egypt. The four days of training included 11 informative sessions.

The opening session was attended by Prof. Magdi Elhariri representing the Director of ARC. Also present were Mr Hassan Saleh of the extension service, Prof M Malla of the CAPL, regional coordinator Ali Mohamed Ali and the course designer, Mr Tony Treen together with CropLife Egypt board members.



Certificates awarded at closing ceremony at Central Agricultural Pesticide Lab.

Representing the Plant Science Industry



ASP South Africa



The South African group with representatives from the Federal Government of Australia, Environment Protection Branch.



The South African group at the premises of Geocycle, a blending platform for the cement industry.

Study Tour to Australia

As part of CropLife International's technical support to the Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP) on behalf of the Plant Science industry, and in collaboration with Agsafe Limited, an independent subsidiary of CropLife Australia, a study tour was organized by CropLife International for senior representatives from the ASP project in South Africa.

The study tour consisted of meetings in Canberra with Agsafe Limited, CropLife Australia, and the Federal Department of Environment and Water Resources, together with site visits around Canberra and in Melbourne and Sydney to view facilities for the collection, processing and recycling of unwanted pesticides and empty containers.

The study tour, comprised of thirteen days from the end of July 2008 - including travel to and from Australia, and evaluated the ChemCollect, ChemClear, Guardian and drumMuster programmes in Australia with a view to establishing similar programmes in South Africa in place of current ASP project arrangements.

The party from South Africa comprised:

Ms Dee Fischer, Director, Waste Stream Management from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) – CropLife sponsored.

Mr. Tinus Joubert, Technical Advisor funded by CropLife, DEAT - CropLife sponsored.

Ms Nomphele Daniel; ASP Project Manager, DEAT – World Bank sponsored.

.

Mr. Jonathan Mudzungu, Registrar Act 36/47, Ministry of Agriculture - CropLife sponsored.

Dr Kevin Helps, Technical Support Unit of the FAO, Pretoria – FAO sponsored.

Mr. Les Hillowitz, CropLife International, Johannesburg - CropLife sponsored.

DEAT have undertaken to produce an agreed report of the study tour which will include recommendations and to make this available to all ASP stakeholders. The study tour represents an important step in CropLife's efforts to develop the case for a fundamental redesign of the ASP project in South Africa, and subsequently elsewhere, in order to achieve accelerated implementation, greater cost efficiency, greater industry involvement and recognition, as well as long term sustainability.

les@croplifeafrica.org

East & Southern Africa News



Prof. Martin Lema

Biotechnology Update

A meeting was arranged by AfricaBio at which Prof Martin Lema, Regulator of CONABIA gave a presentation "Agricultural Biotechnology in a Developing Country: The Argentine Case".

Key points arising from the presentation are as follows:

Agbiotech Adoption:

- ◆ 1991: creation of a national biosafety commission (CONABIA)
- ◆ 1996: first commercial release of a GM crop
- ◆ Planted area in 2007: 20 mill ha, historically ranked second in the world
- ◆ Currently 11 events with full commercialization. (Crops: soy, maize and cotton; traits: herbicide tolerance and/or insect resistance.

Environmental benefits:

- ◆ Soil conservation
- ◆ Reductions in greenhouse effect gases emission.
- ◆ Less insect-borne mycotoxin contaminations in corn.
- ◆ Safety: not a single adverse effect on human health after 10 years of consumption.

Estimated Economic Benefits 1995 – 2006:

Total income benefits: 20 billion dollars

Soybean:

- ◆ 1.7 billion dollars savings for the growers
- ◆ 40 billion dollars contributions to the GDP.
- ◆ 1 million jobs created (36% of total).
- ◆ 26 billion dollars in worldwide consumer savings.

2015 Vision

"Modern biotechnology in Argentina is an integrated component of agricultural production. Products are accepted by our markets abroad, and its application contributes to the preservation of the environment.

Finally, it has reached a high maturity level that provides increased productivity combined with technological self-sufficiency, and is avail-

Meeting with the World Bank

A meeting took place with Denis Jordy, TTL of the ASP in Pretoria, the purpose of which was to clarify all outstanding issues in the removal of the approx 100 tons obsolete pesticides being funded by CLI. The meeting took the form of a conference call and included the participation of Chris Waller. les@croplifeafrica.org



What's happening in West & Central Africa

CropLife Nigeria participation in the ASP Project

CropLife Nigeria and the African Stockpiles Programme project in Nigeria have signed a Memorandum of Understanding formalizing the role of CropLife Nigeria in the country project. The agreement follows a recommendation of the last ASP Forum that all ASP partners should have formal agreements with the ASP-P1 country projects. It is hoped that further CropLife Associations will shortly follow the CropLife Nigeria example by also formalizing their engagement with the ASP

bama@croplifeafrica.org



Sam Kunu (left), President of CropLife Nigeria, exchanging the MoU with Theodore Nwaokwe, Coordinator of the ASP project in Nigeria. (Photo: courtesy of CropLife Nigeria).

Obsolete Stocks ASP in Mali

As part of industry support being given to the Africa Stockpiles Programme, verification of obsolete stocks in Mali was carried out in August by CropLife International experts Vis Moodley and Adama Coulibaly in collaboration with Government representatives and CropLife Mali. The mission visited key storage sites to record the current status of obsolete stocks and to assess the accuracy of the stock inventory prior to planning for disposal operations.

bama@croplifeafrica.org



A lively lesson with the participants attending the course (Courtesy CropLife)

STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IPM/SU-RU ToTs Facilitators Course:

Fred BOAMPONG of Ghana and Joe OBAGWU from Nigeria participated in a special training course for facilitators in Accra/Ghana along with Dr Said Abdallah (Egypt) and Hermann Louw (Namibia). A positive evaluation from the IFDC facilitator M Dohmen was received for both participants; They will now will be used for ToTs facilitation and training activities within the hub.

Two important topics were also discussed :

Conducting proper follow-up, assessment/monitoring of training for database; Validation and "certification" of the ToTs by (international). other organisations such as CropLife International, FAO for uses in other international areas.

bama@croplifeafrica.org



Training in Cameroon



Participants at the training course held in Cameroon (Courtesy Crop-

RU-SU of Agrochemicals in Cocoa Production in Cameroon

A sensitization workshop was jointly organized by CropLife Cameroon and IRAD, the research institute in Cameroon, following an early investigation which concerned:

- ◆ The generalized use of pesticides in cocoa production.
- ◆ The use of fraudulent products some of unknown origin.
- ◆ The need for trained and competent personnel to properly handle pesticides on farms.
- ◆ The importance of safe use for the quality of export beans and for the protection of users and the environment.
- ◆ About 60 participants included agrochemicals retailers, cocoa producers and exporters attended the workshop.

RU-SU of Agrochemicals in Vegetables Production in Cameroon

A three day training session was jointly organized by CropLife Cameroon and the Ministry of Agriculture

Forty six participants including 39 producers, 5 trainers and 2 extensions agents discussed the following topics:

- ◆ Diagnosis of major constraints (diseases, insects pests, soil fertility) in vegetables production.
- ◆ Registered pesticides and fertilizer recommendations for use in vegetable production.
- ◆ Labelling, Risks and Risk minimization in handling agrochemicals.
- ◆ IPM principles.
- ◆ Quality promotion and competitiveness.

Trainers included Mrs. Gisele Etoundi who participated in the recent ToTs Facilitators course in Kenya and personnel of member companies of CropLife Cameroon.

RU-SU of Agrochemicals in Vegetables production- Ghana

A training session was held in Efutu-Awutu (Central Region) aiming at:

- ◆ Minimizing accidents relating to the uses/handling of agrochemical products.
- ◆ Sensitizing vegetable farmers in the region with regard to counterfeiting/faking.
- ◆ Two trainers who attended previous ToT's were given opportunity to facilitate the sessions and were also evaluated during the program.
- ◆ 56 small scale farmers who work four acre farms and are members of the Vegetable Farmers Association attended the programme and were given guidance in the following areas:
 - ◆ Why farmers should wear protective clothing. They were taught how pesticides enter the body and shown the basic protective equipment they should use when working with pesticides.
 - ◆ How to read a pesticide label correctly.
 - ◆ How to effectively use of agricultural inputs (CPP's/ fertilizers)

Snippets

ANGOLA

BRINGS LIFE BACK TO FARMING

US-based Dole Food, the world's largest fresh fruit and vegetable producer, and Chiquita Brands international, owner of the namesake banana label, are in talks with local authorities to help recover this valley's once prosperous banana industry.

Brazilian building giant Odebrecht recently announced plans to invest in Angola's sugar and ethanol sector, and other foreign companies are expected to invest millions of dollars in the war-shattered coffee, sugar, cassava and palm oil industries,

Many European, US and Asian companies have knocked on my door to say they want to invest in our land", says Abrantes Carlos, director for rural development in Benguela province.

Angola was the world's fourth-biggest coffee producer and a top exporter of sugarcane, bananas, sisal and cotton before a 27-year civil war. The oil and mineral-rich nation has since become one of Africa's fastest-growing economies, due to record oil exports, but has so far failed to kick-start its farming industry, importing more than half the food it consumes.

But as world food prices rise and joblessness in Angola hovers near 40%, the government is trying hard to attract investors to improve ordinary people's lives. "Agriculture is the key as it will increase jobs and help our economy grow as a whole," says Joaquim Duarte, a senior official at Angola's agriculture ministry.

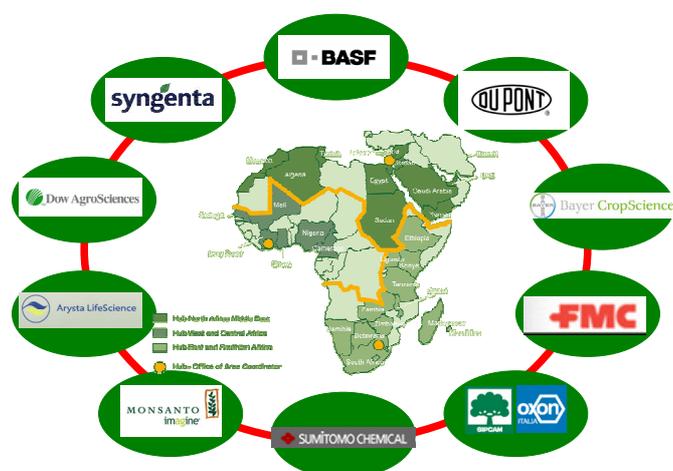
Farmers use less than 10% of the 35 million hectares of arable land making Angola one of the most promising agricultural nations.

Calendar

The annual hub meeting for North Africa and Middle East will take place in Tunisia on 28th & 29th October 2008.

The meeting of the Executive Committee will convene following the hub meeting on the 30th October 2008.

ali@croplifeafrica.org



Email Address Changes

Please note the new email addresses for Rudolf, Ali, Bama and Les.

The old addresses used by Ali, Bama and Les will remain active for the foreseeable future.

Contributors:

Ali Mohamed Ali (North Africa Middle East)

ali@croplifeafrica.org

Bama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa)

bama@croplifeafrica.org

Les Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa)

les@croplifeafrica.org