



Minister oversees CropLife Madagascar/IFDC ToT Course

CropLife Africa Middle East sponsored a five day Training-of-Trainers course for 14 participants from various stakeholders, including members of the agrochemical industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, NGO's and research. The course was organized by the national association, CropLife Madagascar and facilitated in French by Manon Dohmen and Raphael Vogel-sperger from IFDC.

The purpose of the program is to build capacity of (future) trainers and includes training in facilitation skills, learning about different training methods, compiling training aids, and adult learning theory.

The closing ceremony was performed by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Marius Ratolojanahary, following speeches from Rivo Andriamanalina, Chairman of CropLife Madagascar, Solofo Raberahona representing the participants and Raphael Vogelsperger representing IFDC. The Minister signed all certificates and handed them out to all participants. Other stakeholders and guests, including the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Directors of Ministry of Agriculture, Environment, Scientific Research, representative of International organizations, Chairmen of several associations and private companies, Heads of Agricultural projects, also at-



Rivo, Raphael & Manon in discussions with the Minister

tended the closing ceremony.

CropLife Madagascar and IFDC will initiate a project in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, to promote capacity building on fertilizers and pesticides. Cooperation between CropLife Madagascar and the Ministry of Agriculture will continue with the re-launch of the pesticides training program on national radio. See our website for more details and more pictures: www.croplifeafrica.org or contact les.hillowitz@icon.co.za



Rivo officiates at the certificate ceremony

What's happening?

- Madagascar ToT with IFDC
- Container Management Workshop for E&S Africa
- Training with Partners, BUSAC, IFDC, GAIDA in Ghana
- East African Community Meeting on SEARCH progress
- High Temperature Thermal Treatment of Waste W/S
- Africa Stockpiles Programme Implementation Committee
- West & Central Africa News: Cooperation, Regulations



Container Management Workshop: E&S Africa

A Container Management Workshop embracing five countries within the East and Southern Africa region, together with Kenya as a resource country, took place in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania on 03 and 04-October-2007. The countries participating in the initiative were: Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The programme covered the following topics:

- Developments in East and Southern Africa
- The “Basic Beginning” – Triple Rinsing
- CropLife International’s Perspective
- The recycling industry and accreditation
- Roadmap for establishing a Container Management Programme
- Kenya – the road to container management

Workgroups were then asked to develop a generic framework for a Container Management Programme in the region. This was followed by the country groups developing a “Roadmap” for their specific countries. These action plans



One of the breakout working groups being coached by Dr. Keith Jones of CropLife International

will form the basis in developing solutions to the problem of empty pesticide containers in the respective countries.

We were fortunate in having Dr. Keith Jones of CropLife International, as the facilitator for the programme and again fortunate in having a local recycler participate in the event.

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The group that participated in the Container Management Workshop in Dar-es-Salaam

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Training with Partners, BUSAC, IFDC and GAIDA, in Ghana

CropLife Ghana report that they have delivered two training courses, in conjunction with partners, BUSAC, GAIDA and IFDC's 1000+ Project, over the past few months.

These trainings took place in the northern sectors of Ghana for small-scale farmers and dealers. One session in May was held at the Pensioner's Hall, in Ho, Volta Region (pictures below). They were trained on how to effectively handle agrochemicals in order to avoid unnecessary accidents, and were also used to

sensitize them on the proliferation of adulterated/counterfeited products in the country.

This training was conducted by Joe Edmund of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Peter M. Biney of PPRSD, MOFA, Michael Kwakye, of the EPA, Franklin S. Mensah of Dizenhoff Ghana Limited, Monica Awuku of APFOG and Dr. Victor Clotthey of IFDC's 1000+ Project.

The second session was held at the Catholic Social Centre, in Bolgatanga, UER (below).



Group picture of Input Dealers



Franklin Mensah demonstrates aspects of calibration



Group picture of Small-scale Farmers

These participants will now disseminate the knowledge acquired to members of their own various associations, and the team will set up similar training programs in other parts of the country to benefit all farmers. CropLife Ghana will conduct a follow-up activity in late October and early November to check on the activities of the dealers and farmers in some communities.

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Representing the Plant Science Industry



Meeting with the East African Community (EAC)

Les Hillowitz of CropLife Africa Middle East and Alcheraus Rwazo of the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI), in Arusha, Tanzania, met with Timothy Wesonga, representative of the Secretariat of the East African Community, in Arusha as a follow-up to the actions developed by the "Mini SEARCH" working group, which was held in Entebbe, Uganda, on 23 and 24-June-2007. Discussions also covered the status of implementation of the harmonized regulations by Burundi and Rwanda and the integration of these two new members within the EAC.



Alcheraus Rwaza, TPRI, Arusha & Timothy Wesonga, Secretariat, East African Community

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Follow up Stakeholders Forum, Government's Position on "High Temperature Thermal Treatment" of Waste (HTTT) in South Africa

Les Hillowitz participated in the second Stakeholders Policy Workshop, held at the SANBI Conference Centre, Pretoria on 09-October-2007. At this meeting, the development of policies based on international best practice, management procedures and the ability to manage all aspects of processes were tabled. This included the policy statement of Government's position on High Temperature Thermal Treatment of Waste (HTTT) as well as the sector specific policy on the Co-processing of Waste as Alternative Fuels or Raw Materials (AFR) in Cement Kilns. It was said that subject to the outcome of the policy development process, formalization of management measures into the regulatory framework in line with policy statements, through a Sector Specific Guideline for AFR use in cement kilns. The policy is expected to be accepted by April 2008 and could have positive repercussions on the future development of a sustainable pesticide waste management initiative in South Africa.

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L – R: Kåre Karstensen of SINTEF, Sue Taylor of WWF, Dee Fischer of DEAT and Jorn Lauridsen of COWI

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Africa Stockpiles Programme Implementation Committee (ASPIC) Meeting & Stakeholder Forum

The ASPIC met in Rabat, Morocco on 15, 16 and 19-October-2007 and focused on the following activities:

- A financial review of the ASP- P1 project
- Funding needs and fundraising strategy
- NGO participation in the ASP
- Country project supervision missions
- Implementation of the obsolete stocks prevention component of the ASP
- ASP Phase 2 extension and country preparation
- Finalisation and roll out of the ASP Communications strategy
- Independent evaluation of the ASP to date

Action plans were developed for each area and will be communicated to the wider ASP partnership shortly.

During the week, the second ASP Stakeholder Forum was held to discuss progress and expansion of the continent-wide effort aimed at eliminating existing stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and preventing their future accumulation. Participants, including representatives of African Governments, international institutions, donors, civil society and the plant science industry reported over two days on the status of the ASP in seven initial countries and plans for the future expansion of the programme into additional countries in the coming months.

In his opening address, Dr. Shivaji Pandey, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO, informed participants that many studies indicated that the reduction of hunger and poverty and agricultural development go hand in hand. He acknowledged that the use of crop protection products is necessary to increase crop production, although it should be monitored to avoid overuse and the accumulation of obsolete, harmful and useless pesticides. He further noted that all country projects in ASP-P1, which is being carried out in Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Tunisia, are



Delegates at the 2nd ASP Stakeholder Forum, which was held in Rabat, Morocco

now operational with obsolete stock disposal expected to start next year. At the same time these countries are about to develop prevention strategies to avoid future accumulations of stocks and to promote better management of pesticides.

Forum recommendations were developed based on much constructive discussion in plenary and breakout groups. The Forum Report and recommendations will be available shortly at the ASP website, www.africastockpiles.net

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Chris Waller of CropLife International leading the formulation of recommendations at the ASP

Representing the Plant Science Industry



West & Central Africa News

Burkina Faso

A formal complaint letter was sent to the Department of Crop Protection to denounce the presence in the market of illegal products from DTE, a Chinese company operating in Burkina Faso and Mali. The department sent a team to investigate in the city of Bobo-Dioulasso. Non-registered products with labels in Chinese were effectively found. Regulatory authorities (Commission National de Contrôle des Pesticides, CNCP) have been informed and appropriate actions (seizing of the products, fines, withdrawal of the certification) will be conducted.

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Cote d'Ivoire

The need to support mango production through pest and diseases control and to identify subsequent pesticides were stressed in a recent workshop. A seminar was organised by CropLife Côte d'Ivoire, the Crop Protection Department, CNRA (National Research Institute) and Fonds Interprofessionnel de la Recherche et du Conseil Agricoles (Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research and Extension—FIRCA). Products identified are in conformity with COLEACP-PIP recommendations. The referred products need to go through the regular registration procedures as usual (field tests, dossier submission).

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Cooperation in Ghana with IFPRI and GSSP

The Ghana Strategy Support Program (GSSP) is a programme being implemented by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) with USAID to provide core funding.

The main objectives of the programme are to:

- Develop and implement research and capacity building agenda related to knowledge and capacity gaps for agriculture and rural development;
- Strengthen analytical capacity of research and institutions by adopting innovations;
- Strengthen policy making, stimulate policy dialogue and communicate research outcomes;

- Improve information and knowledge to develop and implement strategies...

Agriculture will play a central role in achieving these objectives based on its contribution to the country economy.

Strategic areas are Pro-Poor Growth, Markets and Competitiveness, Pro-Poor Investment, Non-farm and Urban links, Natural Resources. Activities to be conducted will require collaboration/partnerships with various stakeholders among which the private sector.

Cooperation activities will start with CropLife Ghana which could lead to a formal partnership in upcoming years on specific activities.

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North Africa Middle East Hub & Regulatory Conference

The annual hub conference and regulatory workshop for North Africa and Middle East countries is due to convene in Amman, Jordan between 6th-7th November 2007 at the Holiday Inn Hotel.

Conference organization has been jointly arranged by CropLife Africa Middle East, the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development and the Jordanian Industry Association (AMATPA). Dr. Salem ElLozi, Director General of AOAD will personally attend the conference deliberations in Jordan.

The conference will convene under the patronage of HE Dr. Mustafa Gurnfulla, the Minister of Agriculture of Jordan with participation of regulatory authorities from Arab countries, delegates of national industry associations of the sub-region, and experts from the plant science industry as well as stakeholder organizations.

The conference will focus on driving the ongoing regulatory harmonization initiative in member countries as well as concluding action plans by industry associations for the year 2008.

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CropLife Africa Middle East ExCo Meeting

The hub and regulatory meetings will be followed by the 3rd Meeting of the CropLife Africa Middle East Executive Committee for the year 2007, and that will focus on approval of activity plans and budgets for the year 2008 for the entire Africa Middle East region.

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FAO World Food Day Press Release

A press release from CropLife International on FAO World Food Day was sent out to national associations for use and for publication and reports in domestic media/newspapers. The press release can be found on the CropLife International website: www.croplife.org. The declaration was translated into French, by Bama Yao of the West & Central Africa hub and distributed to members throughout the Francophone countries.

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News Snippet

REGIONAL HARMONISATION IN WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA

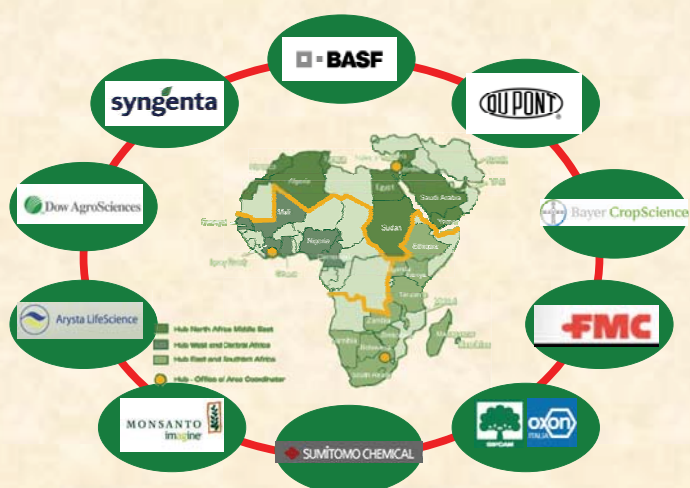
Following a meeting with Mr. G. Dimithè of ECOWAS, it was established that ECOWAS is considering a technical ministerial meeting to study, and adopt the framework on the regional registration of pesticides in the sub-region. Invitations have just been sent out for the meeting to convene on 05 to 07-November, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The adoption by the Council of Ministry is a follow-up of the validation workshop by country's experts, and will allow the start-up of the harmonisation process in West Africa, consisting of 15 ECOWAS countries, with the expectation of including Chad and Mauritania two CILLS countries not members of ECOWAS.

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RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- CropLife Africa Middle East Train-the-Trainer Follow-up Course, with IFDC, for CropLife Nigeria, Lagos, Nigeria: 29-September to 02-October-2007.
- CropLife Africa Middle East, North Africa Middle East Hub Meeting, Amman, Jordan: 06 & 07-November-2007.
- CropLife Africa Middle East, Executive Committee Meeting, Amman, Jordan: 08-November-2007.
- CropLife Africa Middle East Train-the-Trainer Follow-up Course for CropLife Senegal, Dakar, Senegal: 19 to 23-November-2007.
- CropLife Africa Middle East Train-the-Trainer Follow-up Course for CropLife Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: 26 to 30-November-2007.
- CropLife Africa Middle East Train-the-Trainer Follow-up Course for CropLife Mali, Bamako, Mali: 03 to 07-December-2007.
- CropLife Africa Middle East Train-the-Trainer Follow-up Course for CropLife Tanzania, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania: 10 to 14-December-2007.
- CropLife Africa Middle East's North Africa Middle East Hub Train-the-Trainer course for post-graduate students at the Mediterranean Agronomy Institute in Bari, Italy: 02 to 09-January-2008.



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