



Training Prize: East & Southern Africa



Joe Siyoko receiving his prize and certificate from Björn Neumann, CropLife Africa Middle East Hub Chairman for East and Southern Africa

On Tuesday 20-November-2007, the training prize for the East & Southern Africa region for achievements during 2006 was handed to the recipient, **Joe Siyoko** of Total, South Africa. In his covering address, Les Hillowitz gave mention as to what Joe had achieved. This included 231 training courses during the year, all of which covered Responsible Use. The duration of these training courses varied between a half and two days, depending on audiences. Joe has already completed 301 training courses so far this year. Congratulations Joe!

The "hand over" function was planned to coincide with the AVCASA Board of Directors meeting and an enjoyable lunch was had by all.

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What's happening?

- Training prize for East & Southern Africa
- North Africa Middle East Hub & Regulatory Meetings in Amman, Jordan
- Follow-up training in Nigeria (with IFDC)
- CropLife International DG, Dr. Christian Verschuere steps down
- Third Executive Committee Meeting for 2007
- West Africa activities
- MRL internet information source for South Africa
- Cascade safe use training in Nigeria
- IFDC Train-the-Trainer in Burkina Faso
- SADC plant protection committee meeting
- Container management in South Africa
- New Chairman for CropLife Tanzania



Annual Conference for North Africa Middle East



The CropLife Africa Middle East annual conference for the North Africa Middle East sub-region convened in the Holiday Inn Hotel, Amman, Jordan between 06 and 07-November-2007. This was held under the patronage of **His Excellency Prof. Mostafa Qrunfleh** (pictured below), the Minister of Agriculture of Jordan who opened the conference proceedings.



Attended by more than 100 participants, the conference was co-organised in cooperation with the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and the Agricultural Materials Traders and Producers Association of Jordan.

Dr. Rudolf Guyer, President of CropLife Africa

Middle East and Vice-President, **Mr. Michel Char-touni** together with **Dr. Salem Ellozi**, Director General of the AOAD addressed the opening ceremony and were present throughout the working sessions.

The conference was composed of three major meetings:

- Combined Training Workshop, which was lead by **Ali Mohamed Ali** (pictured below, leading the discussions).
- Industry Hub Meeting For North Africa Middle, also lead by **Ali Mohamed Ali**.
- Regulatory workshop for North Africa Middle East, facilitated by **Halima Itani** of BASF.



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Combined Training Workshop

This session was attended by delegates representing both the industry and the regulatory authorities of the region.

An interactive training workshop was conducted by **Dr. Bernhard Johnen**, Manager of Regulatory and Policy Affairs of CropLife International on the theme of "Pesticide Specifications and the Role of JMPS" in line with FAO/WHO criteria on approval of pesticides and determination of equivalence.

In addition, the combined workshop included a joint presentation delivered by guest speaker, **Lichelle Carlos** (pictured right) of CropLife Asia, and Peter Mills of CropLife Africa Middle East focusing on "Common Communications Activities and Tools in both regions".

Lichelle Carlos



The workshop managed to identify common communications approaches by the two sister organizations in the context of their inter-regional cooperation.

Industry Hub Meeting: North Africa Middle East

National association representatives from 10 countries of the sub-region participated in the hub industry sessions.



Country activity reports were reviewed and plans of activities for the year 2008 were outlined and approved in relation to the regional initiatives on stewardship programs, regulatory harmonization, IPM, IPR, Obstocks, communications and sustainability. **Sarwat Sakr** provided the report for Egypt (above).

Priority issues were determined on a case by case basis at country level.

Regulatory workshop for North Africa Middle

Halima Itani (pictured below) lead the Registrars of pesticides from 15 countries of the sub-region, who deliberated over two days on a specific agenda aimed at harmonizing legislative and procedural



measures governing the regulation of pesticide registration, handling and use.

Specific conclusions were reached in the context of pesticide specification in line with FAO/WHO guidelines. Measures related to harmonization of trial protocols, information exchange and Me-Too registrations were concluded by the registrars of the sub-region.

The regulatory workshop also recommended the initiation of a regional database on pesticide regulations and usages under the umbrella of the AOAD.

Combined Feedback & Conclusion Session

Following the two separate industry and regulators meetings, the two audiences combined for a feedback session on findings from both meetings, concluded by the President of CropLife Africa Middle East, **Dr. Rudolf Guyer** (pictured below).



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CropLife-IFDC Follow-up Training in Abuja, Nigeria

Raphael Vogelsperger of IFDC and Peter Mills of CropLife Africa Middle East, conducted a five-day "Train-the-Trainer Follow-up" course in Abuja, Nigeria, between 29-October-2007 and 02-November-2007. In this programme, which included refresher and evaluation sessions, seven Master Trainers delivered a two-day Responsible Use Course to 32 participants, including representatives from Dealers organisations, Farmers organisations and Journalists. These Responsible Use trainings consisted of 14 lessons on all aspects of IPM & Responsible Use. Each Master Trainer delivered two lessons, repeated in two separate training venues. Prior to the two-day training, Master Trainers attended a Refresher course and supervised preparations. Participants were given a written test at the end of the course, and were presented with certificates by representatives of sponsors, IFDC and CropLife.

Following the successful two-day "Responsible Use" training, the Master Trainers participated in a one day feedback and evaluation session, during which their performances were analysed by Raphael and Peter, and the evaluation forms which were completed by the participants were analysed and summarised.

The feedback from all participants was tremendously enthusiastic, and participants have asked for more trainings and for the trainings to be taken to wider audiences, including the government extension staff. Journalists have committed to promoting the training programmes and to lobby government for better regulation of pesticides, prevention of counterfeits and fakes and to champion the cause of the farmers with respect to agricultural inputs.

Following the five day programme, plans were discussed to put in place a Master Trainer pro-



Contributions from respected leaders were enthusiastically received by all participants

gramme for IFDC & USAID MARKETS projects in Nigeria. In this programme, it is envisaged that extension agents from government will be trained and supervised in their cascade training to farmers in Ebonyi and Kanu provinces. This pilot programme should start in mid-December, and end in April-2008 for evaluation and implementation of a full programme.

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Scott Wallace of IFDC and Emmanuel Ajayi of CropLife Nigeria presented certificates of attendance to participants. Here Journalist, Nkechi I. Okoronkwo happily receives her certificate.

Representing the Plant Science Industry

CropLife Africa Middle East salutes Christian Verschueren

After many years of leadership and service to the plant science industry, **Dr. Christian Verschueren** announced yesterday that he is stepping down as Director General of CropLife International on November 30, 2007 to pursue other interests.

In a tribute to Dr. Verschueren, **Ali Mohamed Ali**, Regional Coordinator for CropLife Africa Middle East, had the following to say:

"On behalf of all colleagues in CropLife Africa Middle East, we are numbed with surprise and shock at the sudden news that Dr. Verschueren is leaving CropLife International.

It has always been a great privilege to each and everyone in our network to work with Dr. Verschueren over the past seven years, that witnessed his remarkable achievements as a leader of our global federation.

We have always known Dr. Verschueren as a leader, who sincerely represented the values of the plant science industry while driving its numerous initiatives with creative imagination, courage and dedication.

On the personal level, we have perceived Dr. Verschueren as a people-oriented personality who maintained the virtues of working with others on grounds of common interest and shared respect.

In CropLife Africa Middle East, we remain indebted to Dr. Verschueren as a strong supporter of our network who spared no effort in assisting our regional structure and activities.

CropLife Africa Middle East pays tribute to Dr. Verschueren and wishes him the best for his future challenges".



Africa Middle East ExCo Meeting



The Executive Committee of CropLife Africa Middle East held its 3rd meeting for the year 2007 in Amman, Jordan on the 8th of November under the chairmanship of the President, Dr. Rudolf Guyer. The meeting focused on the review and approval of action plans related to the three regional hubs of the Africa/Middle East region. The operational and project budgets of the organization for the year 2008 were also deliberated and approved. The Executive Committee also reviewed progress on obsolete stocks disposal projects, stewardship/IPM programmes, and resolved on legal and operational requirements together with approvals on the organisation's meetings and events for 2008. Contact: ali-croplife@nets.com.jo



West Africa Activities

IPM and RESPONSIBLE USE TRAINING

SESSIONS: SENEGAL

Following the cancellation of the planned training session in Senegal (November 19-23), a meeting was set-up to formulate an alternative plan. As a result, 12 participants were identified as participants for the course, a suitable venue was located, and three other potential co-facilitators will be identified to be coached by Training Consultant, Peter Mills, to increase the capacity to run Train-the-Trainer courses in French in West and Central Africa. This will take place in February-2008.

REGULATIONS

Adoption of the Regional Harmonisation Framework (ECOWAS)

The ECOWAS Technical Committee for Food and Agriculture (TCFA) workshop was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso between 05 and 08-November-2007, for adoption of the regional framework on regulatory harmonisation initiative. This initiative was validated in May-2007, by coun-

try registrars/representatives and industry experts. Following this adoption, ECOWAS will engage signature of the framework by the statutory Council of Ministers for it then, to be considered as law in the sub-region.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

In Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire, discussions have taken place with both national associations for sensitization on the issue of counterfeits/fraudulent products in the market. A simple survey will be conducted to assess the importance of counterfeits in these countries and then proposed actions. Such actions are likely to lead to organizing workshops in these two countries, with the participation of major stakeholders of the pesticides sector and other (industry) sectors. Victims of counterfeits will be implicated to create necessary synergy in these countries. Proposals from these national associations are expected in early 2008, for early implementation.

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South Africa: New MRL info source to bolster fresh produce exports

The launch of a new MRL (maximum residue limits) information source aims to improve South Africa's competitiveness in the international fresh produce market. This takes the form of an electronic information hub available on the internet. The web-based MRL information source will be accessible on the ABSi website at www.absi.co.za from 14 December 2007.

Related queries can be directed to the Department of Agriculture at telephone +27-12-3196058.

For more information contact: Mr Kobus Hartman on +27-21-9172695 or +27-82-8015308 or kobus@absi.co.za

Master Trainer Mohammed Murtala busy training in Nigeria

Mohammed Murtala of SARO AgroSciences in Nigeria has been involved in many trainings this year, with several sessions in 2007.



Mohammed Murtala trains extensionists in Bauchi

In February, together with Claude Legroux of Bayer CropScience in Germany, he trained 48 extensionists, dealers, farmers and rice association personnel on safe use and new trends in Crop Protection Products. The training was conducted in Bauchi, and was sponsored by Saro, Bayer and Bauchi State Agricultural Development Project. Also in February, they conducted training on the same topics for the Ondu Agricultural Input Supply Project in Akure, training 48 extensionists, storekeepers and students.



Mohammed Murtala in Ilorin

In April, Mohamed trained 25 extension agents from the Kwara State Agricultural Development Programme, at their Head Quarters, in Ilorin. Later in the month, he trained 39 extension agents, farmers and agrochemical dealers for the Niger State Agricultural Development Programme in Minna. Another 40 extension agents from Gombe State Agricultural Development Programme were trained, and extension agents and agricultural inputs supply staff were trained in Asaba for the Delta State Agricultural Development Programme. Thirty one extension agents, women in agriculture, media officers and seed company representatives were trained in Yola for the Adamawa State Agricultural Development Programme.

In May, Mohammed trained 27 extension agents in Abakaliki for the Ebonyi State Agricultural Development Programme, 23 in Enugu, 26 in Kano, 25 in Gusau for the Zamfara and 31 for Birnin Kebbi Agricultural Development Programmes, respectively.

In November, as part of the IFDC-CropLife Africa Middle East Follow-up training programme, he trained 31 journalists, farmers & dealers in Abuja.

It is envisaged that Mohamed will take part in the cascade training of agricultural extension agents in Ebonyi state as part of the cooperation with IFDC and the USAID MARKETS Project.

Great work. Well done, Mohammed.

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Participants from the training in Akure pose with trainers, Mohamed and Claude

Representing the Plant Science Industry



Burkina Faso Master Trainer Course with IFDC

Facilitators Raphael Vogelsperger and Manon Dohmen from IFDC facilitated a CropLife co-sponsored Train-the-Trainer course between 26 and 30-November-2007 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The training was opened and attended by CropLife Africa Middle East Area Coordinator for West Central Africa. The target group was mixed, consisting of 10 participants, five from industry, one from the Ministry of Agriculture, Crop Protection Department, one from the Cotton company, SOFITEX, one from the retailers association and two from IFDC. All, in their normal working environment, are implicated in training activities related to pesticides: policies, management and responsible handling/use.

The intensive five-day course has now set up a pool of 11 trainers for Burkina Faso, which includes one trainer who was trained in Casablanca, Morocco in 2006. All participants passed the evaluation, which included group and individual exercises and assignments, a written test, a lesson plan and presentation.

In addition to the course, plans were put forward for the coming year, including:

- Determining priority areas for further development,
- Requirements for managerial, technical and financial support for cascade activities,
- The various needs for the cascade training activities for all stakeholders.

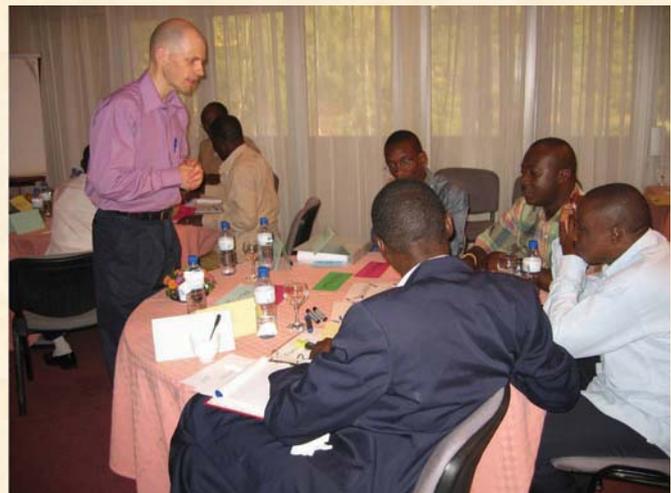


Facilitator Manon Dohmen of IFDC, explaining the necessary synergy between major stakeholders and the Crop Protection Products industry for sustainable policy implementation.

Cooperation in training with IFDC



Bama Yao, WCA Hub Coordinator addressing participants on workshop objectives.



Facilitator Raphael Vogelsperger of IFDC, giving explanations to participants during the lesson.

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Representing the Plant Science Industry

SADC Plant Protection Technical Committee Meeting

The Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the SADC Plant Protection Technical Committee took place in Johannesburg on 19 and 20-November-2007. This was the first meeting since 2005 and time was spent in catching up on activities, particularly in the area of migratory pest control.

An update was provided by the Secretariat on the SADC / EC MRL Project which is expected to 'kick-off' in April 2008.

Les Hillowitz gave presentations on SEARCH and the Africa Stockpiles Programme.

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Back L-R: William Riwa, Tanzania; Margaret Kieser, ISOCAMP Coordinator; Tshipo Moruti, Botswana; Pitso Masupha, Lesotho; Simon Mwale, SADC Secretariat.

Front: Regina Gata, Zimbabwe; Maria Emilia Pires, Angola



Container Management: RSA



Two regional projects are operating in South Africa.

The **Western Cape project** started approximately 3 years ago as a partnership with the Plastics Federation of South Africa, labelled "Plastics on the Farm" and covers such articles as obsolete irrigation pipes, obsolete fumigation sheeting, empty pesticide containers and other non-usable plastic items. The key driver of this initiative is "compliance to the GLOBALGAP standards" as the cropping in this region is geared towards the European export markets. The accredited recycler produces "black garbage bags" from the materi-

One would be wrong to think that Dr Rudolf Guyer (at left, on right of picture) is practicing for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, but there is a connection.....most of the "plastic balls" produced from the obsolete pesticide drums are being used in the construction of the numerous soccer stadiums being built in the country.

als collected. We recently learned that approximately 100,000 drums went through the recycling process last year. This recycler has a problem with the disposal of wash water which needs urgent addressing.

The **North/Central project** started shortly before the "kick-off" of the Africa Stockpiles Programme" (ASP) in South Africa. The ASP helped develop and accelerate the take-off of the initiative as this was the first time that collection points were used. This project has developed rapidly and from start-up in March earlier this year to the present, has collected well in excess of 160,000 containers. The roll out of this undertaking into the remainder of the country will occur over the next 12 to 18 months. The recycled end product is a "plastic ball" used in the reinforcement of concrete construction.

The successes in collection to-date should be measured alongside the usage of pesticides in the country as approximately 2.8 million pesticide containers are placed in the market annually of which the most popular pack size is the 20 litre drum.

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News Snippets

NEW CROPLIFE TANZANIA CHAIRMAN

At the recent AGM in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, which took place on 23-October-2007, Cosmas Matanda was elected as the new Chairman of CropLife Tanzania. Congratulations, Cosmas. We look forward to a productive term of office.



RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- CropLife Africa Middle East Train-the-Trainer Follow-up Course for CropLife Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: 26 to 30-November-2007.
- CropLife International, Global Stewardship Steering Committee (SSC), in Brussels, Belgium: 27 to 28-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.
- CropLife Africa Middle East Train-the-Trainer Course for USAID MARKETS Project and IFDC with CropLife Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria: 21 to 25-January-2008.
- CropLife Africa Middle East, Executive Committee Meeting, Zurich, Switzerland: 06-February-2008.
- CropLife Africa Middle East Obsolete Stocks Workshop: Zurich, Switzerland: 07 to 08-February-2008.
- CropLife Africa Middle East Train-the-Trainer Follow-up Course for CropLife Senegal, Dakar, Senegal: 25 to 29-February-2008.
- CropLife Africa Middle East Train-the-Trainer Course for CropLife Mali, Bamako, Mali: 03 to 07-March-2008.



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