

Uganda Hosts Safe Use Training



Above: Delegates in serious discussion at Uganda workshop

Safe Use of Pesticides in Uganda

In developing countries such as Uganda, more needs to be done with regard to the safe use of pesticides. In light of this CropLife Uganda in conjunction with the USAID funded organization, APEP, held a successful training workshop in April in the town of Jinja, Uganda. A group of 12 attended the workshop from organizations including UNADA, APEP CropLife Uganda, MAAIF, UFEA and Coffee Growers. The course content included 6 modules from Pesticide General Knowledge, Safety Health & Environment, Purchasing & Transportation of Pesticides. Practical field experience with pesticides was also given which included container & waste management as well as some background on how to identify and work with a plastics recycling unit. Participants received training handouts and were coached with the use of multimedia, flip-charts and demonstrations. At the end of the session participants had a new outlook on workable solutions to the current problems in terms of safe use of pesticides. The spirit in the manner that MAAIF and other stakeholders reached out to one other was positive and the individual inputs were of a high standard. Herman Louw hermanlouw@iway.na

Issues that require attention in Uganda

Feedback from the Workshop made it clear that certain issues need to be addressed fairly quickly and these include:

- General awareness on the handling of pesticides;
- Safe use training;
- The availability of PPE;

Improved product knowledge and Improved law enforcement.

It was also agreed that the development of specific training material needs to be undertaken. It was recommended that the materials in question should be a 'simple farmers' manual and should be bilingual (English and a local language). Funding is needed for a media campaign to establish the 'how, what and who' about pesticides. One of the major issues to be addressed is to train farmers in terms of product knowledge of pesticides from types, classification and what to buy. Labels should be printed in local languages. With regard to law enforcement, stakeholders agreed that there should be a 'Code of Fair Trade' and laws, regulations and penalties should be introduced and enforced. Herman Louw hermanlouw@iway.na

A CODE OF CONDUCT NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED IN UGANDA

UNADA, the dealership organization already has a Code of Conduct. It is important that all stakeholders become involved to create a suitable Code of Conduct for the industry as a whole in Uganda. The code of conduct should include:

- The delegation of authority to Crop Protection Officers; (Develop an abridged version of the Law and Regulations for mass distribution).

- Uganda Revenue Authorities have a 'way' of discussing tax matters with the people. This same principal should apply in terms of responsible use of pesticides

- The regulatory authorities must be funded by Government. Other stakeholders can assist with support and a drive should be made to get the current 3% of the GDP that Agriculture plays, up to 10%.

Herman Louw

hermanlouw@iway.na

Representing the Plant Science Industry



Global IPM Pilot Course held in the UAE

Global IPM Pilot Course Experts Happy!

The Global IPM Team of CropLife International and CropLife Africa Middle East co-sponsored the launch of the Pilot IPM Course which took place at the Hilton Hotel, Ras Al Khaimeh, UAE on the 26th through to the 28th of May. The course was led by the international consultant, Tony Treen and Dr Said Abdallah, training specialist for CropLife Egypt. The twenty participants represented CropLife International, CropLife Africa Middle East, CropLife Asia, CIHEAM and ICARDA together with local and regional stakeholders. The three day course focused on the principles of integrated pest management as an essential component of integrated crop management and outlined cultural, biological and chemical control elements with training methodologies relevant to the extension service, dealers and farmers. In the final feedback session, the course was evaluated by the attending experts which resulted in constructive criticism and approval of the curricular content. Eva Erisgen, Chairperson of the Global IPM Team, expressed satisfaction with IPM Pilot course indicating that after final "fine tuning", the course will be released for practical use in training activities by CropLife International and its affiliated regional and country associations.

-Content: The structuring, organisation and terminology, some of which required reworking.

-Duration: At least 3 days were deemed as necessary but could be adapted according to the target groups.

-Target: All stakeholders including farmers, end users, retailers, dealers, regulatory authorities and other parties implicated in pesticides and agricultural policies.

-Availability: Identified amendments are to be made during the following month in order for the final version to be available by September 2008.

National and regional associations will be asked to implement the course as widely and as speedily as possible.

ali-croplife@nets.com.jo



Above: Twenty participants representing a cross section of the CropLife family at the IPM Pilot Course

Meeting of the Global IPM Team

Following the construction of the IPM pilot course in Ras Al Khaimeh, the Global IPM Project Team held its scheduled meeting on the 29th and 30th of May. The meeting reviewed the IPM/Responsible Use activities carried out by the regional associations in Africa Middle East, Asia and Latin America. The project team approved the current activities and outlined action plans for 2009 with discussions on budgetary issues and governance of resources. At the meeting the approval of the curricular content of the Pilot IPM Course was confirmed.

ali-croplife@nets.com.jo



Above: Tony Treen (R) and Said Abdella (L) facilitating IPM Pilot Course

Representing the Plant Science Industry



Nigeria Hosts GHS Workshop

GLOBAL HARMONISED SYSTEM (GHS)

The GHS Workshop was held between the 13th and 15th of May in Abuja, Nigeria. 114 Participants including government delegates from the 15 ECOWAS countries, UN Agencies, International and Regional Cooperation organizations, the industry (CropLife), Civil Society, NGO's and the media attended the event. The workshop was chaired by the Honorable Halima Tayo Alao who is the Federal Minister of Environment, Housing and Development. The objective was:

- To provide guidance for regional harmonised legislation and strategy for chemical management;
- To provide an implementation strategy for GHS;
- To strengthen cooperation amongst stakeholders to ensure coherence in chemicals management.
- *All the general issues were made in the form of presentations so that basic information and elements for guidance were explained to the participants:*
 - Overview on GHS (Laurence Musset, OECD);
 - UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Program (Cheryl Chang, UNITAR);
 - Linking GHS to SAICM (Lesley Onyon, WHO);
 - GHS and the Millennium Development Goals (Jan Van Der Kolk, UNITAR);
 - Status of GHS Implementation in Pilot Countries (The Gambia, Nigeria and Senegal);
 - Overview on Chemicals Legislation/Management in ECOWAS countries;
 - ECOWAS Commission and GHS Implementation; Perspective for CropLife (B. Yao), public interest organisations (R. Diouf, Pan-AFRICA.)
 - *The CropLife presentation focused on three important issues:*
 - The network at global, regional and sub-regional levels with five national associations in West Africa and other allied associations, so that they could play an important role in GHS implementation.
 - Priority Areas: IPR's/ Anti-counterfeiting, Regulations, Stewardship and Communication

- Recommendations for interest, role and contribution in GHS implementation were indicated as per the guidance set out by Bernhard Johnen, Manager International Regulatory Policy, CropLife Inter-

FEEDBACK FROM WORKING GROUPS

Discussions covering feedback with regard to this important issue is expected from CropLife.

Issues included:

- Sensitization and awareness creation, for farmers/users and other stakeholders;
- Designing training of trainers, technical training and capacity building programs;
- Technical and financial support, and resources mobilisation;
- Information, education and communication;
- Strengthening private and public cooperation;
- Support to other stakeholders by providing information to farmers/users;
- Providing toolkits for training of personnel, farmers and supply chain;
- Motivation for GHS adoption.

bama-croplife@aviso.ci

GHS — WARNING SIGNS



West Africa News Roundup



Above: Brahim Traore elected president of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire

New President for CropLife Côte d'Ivoire

At the AGM of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire Mr Brahim Traore was elected as the new president of the National Association.

ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Follow-up on MIR Project

At a recent evaluation workshop the need to capitalize on achievements of MIR. ECOWAS agreed that the IFDC should lead a working group made-up of ECOWAS, WAEMU and CILSS so that a working group could formulate a regional program on ag-inputs. The national associations of CropLife Africa Middle East will contribute to the study by guiding the working group on the following topics:

- Overview on production, market and uses of ag-inputs structures and operational characteristics, agricultural policies, national and regional strategies related to promotion and uses of ag-inputs, major national and regional programs on ag-inputs.
- Detailed proposals of the Sub-program for the development and integration for ag-inputs market based on conclusions of the study.

The outcome of the study will be presented to the major stakeholders during a validation workshop next September.

Côte d'Ivoire Update

At the recent AGM of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire which took place at the end of May, two important issues were agreed on:

- That a dedicated Executive Director be recruited. This position is required due to the growing needs of the association. The Executive Director will be responsible for various issues on pesticides and agricultural policies, for the building of alliances and partnerships as well to provide necessary support in stewardship activities.
- At the meeting Brahim Traore, formerly Vice President was elected as President. He will serve an initial two year term. Brahim Traore is presently the Commercial Manager of Calivoire/Arysta LifeScience.

CropLife Cameroon Conference Dinner

A conference dinner was held to discuss various issues. Participants agreed on two important matters.

- Member companies were informed of the results of the recent WCA Hub Annual Workshop which dealt with the combating of counterfeiting of CPPs.
- Pesticide regulations in Cameroon were discussed especially the need for rationalizing CPP registration by integrating commercial concerns and efficacy, supporting and promoting enforcement of pesticide laws, the implementation of control measures, and that strict regulations should be in place when offering distribution patented products to third parties.



East & Southern Africa Update



Standing: L-R Dirk Prevoo, World Bank, Tim Snow, NGO, Kevin Helps, FAO, Tinus Joubert, TAD, Seated: Nomphele Daniel, DEAT, Dee Fischer, DEAT, Thandi Gxaba, World Bank July Mokoena, DEAT

Biotechnology

AfricaBio arranged a workshop "Latest Developments and Trends in the Food Biotechnology Industry". The guest speaker at the workshop was Dr Clive James, founder and chairman of ISAAA.

Topics covered included the following:

- Global overview of current and future trends in Biotechnology and Biosafety.
- What are the consumer needs?
- What are the feed industry needs?
- Biotechnology Regulatory Process in South Africa.
- SA Labelling Regulation / Codex Alimentarius
- What is in the pipeline
- Stewardship / AP / Trade
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Safety of GM Crops / concerns.

GLOBALGAP

On 21 May GLOBALGAP arranged a meeting to define strategies for the South African market. The meeting was hosted by Frederik Callens, Manager Operations and Finance, and Dr Elmé Coetzer, Manager Standards. The key focus of the meeting was to get a National Technical Working Group established which could address the many issues at hand. The topical problematical areas of "minor use" and the lack of harmonization within the many "secondary standards" that now exist (nine in South Africa) and the cost to the producer to cater for access to these different markets.



L-R Frederik Callens, Dr Elmé Coetzer

ASP, South Africa

A World Bank Supervision Mission took place 12 – 15 May. The key items covered were:

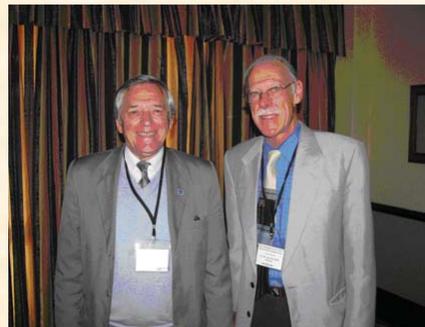
The proposal for the creation of an NGA as part of a long term strategy for the management of obsolete / left over pesticides.

- The disposal of the Limpopo stocks.
- Fund disbursement and current bottlenecks

It was most encouraging that the World Bank found favour for the creation of an NGA (public / private partnership) and the South African experience could be the "blue print" for future countries within the ASP programme. The action plan and timetable developed will be included in the Aide Memoire which should be available shortly.

les.hillowitz@icon.co.za

'The Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP) is working to clean up obsolete pesticides, dispose of them safely and prevent more stocks from accumulating. It is the only inter-agency, international initiative that has as a key objective the removal and destruction of obsolete pesticides from an entire region.'
Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations



L-R Dr Clive James Dr Wynand van der Walt

Representing the Plant Science Industry



Middle East Roundup



Above: CropLife Egypt General Assembly in Session

CropLife Egypt Hold Annual Meeting in Cairo

The General Assembly of CropLife Egypt held its annual meeting last month in Cairo. This assembly focused on a number of administrative issues and outlined areas of activity for the year 2008 and 2009. The focal points emphasized were as follows:

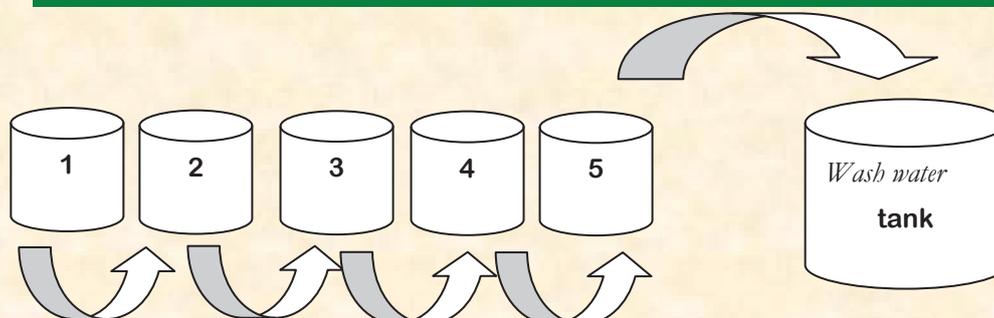
- The master IPM course was circulated through CropLife Egypt training specialists, with the emphasis on the training of service personnel and the private sector master trainers.
- Liaison with CropLife Africa Middle East in the organization of specialized national workshops for the promotion of biotechnology and IPR in view of the rising profiles of these issues in Egypt.
- The promotion of biotech legislation and biosafety protocols in Egypt were also covered as was the cooperation with the MOA of aspects relating to the regulations of CPP's.

ali-croplife@nets.com.jo

Representing the Plant Science Industry



Container problem in Namibia



Empty Pesticide Container Problem in Namibia

During one of the regular meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture in 2007 it was mentioned that they had an empty pesticide container problem at the National Pesticide Store. During a site inspection visit to the store which is located in Okahandja, the existence of a plastics recycling plant was discovered based in the town itself. Following a discussion with the plant manager, it was arranged that they would take all empty containers for recycling once these had been "triple rinsed". It was further arranged that the recycled end product would conform to the CropLife International guidelines.

New project:

A project was developed to thoroughly clean the empty containers and deliver these to the recycling plant.

The project covers the following focal points:

- Agreement with the recycling plant to ensure that the recycled plastic will not be used for any end product that falls outside of the CropLife Guidelines.
- Guidelines for the triple rinsing process were developed.
- Training of personnel to undertake the triple rinsing.
- Precautions to avoid spillage such as the construction of a rinse bay, emergency guidelines and the use of protective clothing were introduced.
- Formalised delivery documentation containing the details of the rinsed containers to accompany the consignment to the recycling plant.

The Rinsing Process

The cleaning process consists of the following:

- Setting up of a rinsing bay with pallets and plastic sheeting.

- Draining of containers to eliminate any remaining pesticide residues.
- To initially rinse with clean water.
- Second rinse with a low foam detergent.
- Third rinse with clean water.
- Remove cap and place in separate container.
- Puncture container in several places to ensure this as unusable.
- Count the number of rinsed containers.
- Arrange delivery against signature.

The outcome:

CropLife Namibia placed the existing empty pesticide containers held at the Government store into the recycling stream under a Phase (1) project. This was followed up with the cleaning of empty pesticide containers collected from the regions under a Phase (2) project.

Sustainability:

Resulting from the above initiative, the recycling plant came to an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and all empty pesticide containers will in future be collected at the regions, cleaned and recycled on a regular basis.

CropLife Namibia will later in the year facilitate a short training course for all regional officers on triple rinsing and empty pesticide container management.

Conclusion:

The success of the project was due to the excellent working relationship between the Government of Namibia and CropLife Namibia.

The last word from CropLife Namibia is that "in Africa we must create our own unique solutions together".

News Snippets

NEW APPOINTMENT



Ms Gillian Christians, newly appointed Registrar for GMO's.

Behind the scenes at the Ugandan Workshop held in May



Above: Breakaway workgroup in discussion in Uganda

A NEW APPROACH TO TRAINING IN UGANDA

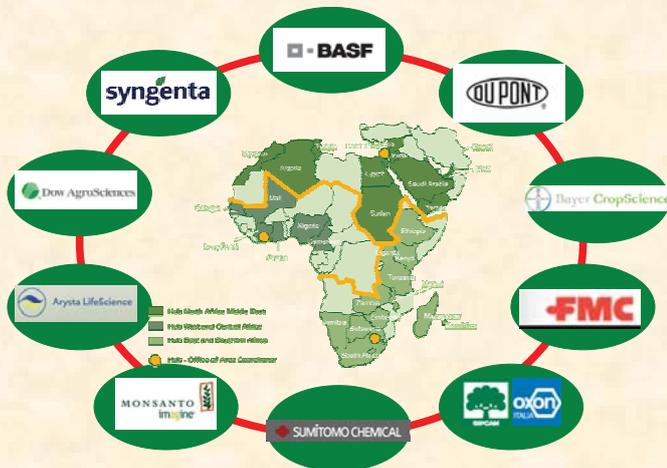
APEP is a partner sharing CropLife's objectives and aspirations in Uganda. APEP was in need of "Safe Use" training. It was agreed that following the departure of Peter Mills, the training direction within CropLife Africa Middle East would change and hence the decision to build "training capacity" in the Region has been implemented. Trainer Herman Louw, current President of CropLife Namibia, who is a trainer in his own right, conducted the training session in Uganda which proved to be a great success.

Herman Louw

hermanlouw@iway.na



Above: Hardworking participants at the Uganda workshop



Contributors:

Ali Mohamed Ali (North Africa Middle East)

ali-croplife@nets.com.jo

Bama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa)

bama-croplife@aviso.ci

Les Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa)

les.hillowitz@icon.co.za

Representing the Plant Science Industry