



CropLife Africa Middle East holds Board Meeting and AGM in Milan

On April 9 and 10 the Board of CropLife Africa Middle East met in Milan for its first meeting in 2018 and to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the election of a new Board for the term 2018 to 2020. The meeting was kindly hosted by the member company Sipcam Oxon and by the long-term Board Member and Vice President Michel Chartouni.

Meeting of the outgoing Board held prior the AGM 2018

The meeting dealt with the usual statutory matters and reviewed the Annual Report 2017, the Annual Accounts 2017 and the Audit Report for 2017. The operations for the year 2017 ended with a new record result both in terms of income and in terms of expenditures, both exceeding the 2 Mio US\$ level. The operating result for 2017 was almost exactly on target with the levels planned. Compared to the budget 2017, a significantly increased level of project income and project expenses was noted primarily because of increased project work during the past year. The Board thanked the executives for their commitment and great work performed during the past year.

The outgoing Board then took note and accepted the resignation of the following Board Members whose term ended at the close of the AGM 2018 held later that same day:

- Michel Chartouni, Sipcam Oxon, Member of the Board and Vice President since 2002
- Andrew Budd, ex DuPont and Member of the Board since 2015
- Rod Foran, ex Dow and Member of the Board since 2015
- Virginia Gil-Albert, Cheminova /FMC and Member of the Board since 2015
- Susan Njoroje, CropLife Kenya and Member of the Board since 2015

The meeting thanked the outgoing members of the Board for their valuable contribution over the past years

The dinner that evening was generously sponsored by Sipcam Oxon and Nadia Gagliardini.

Rudolf Guyer describing some memorable moments and key achievements reached with the unfailing support of Michel Chartouni in building the regional association from 1998 until 2018.



Eric Bureau, President of CropLife AME presenting a token of appreciation to Michel Chartouni, Member of the Board and Vice President from 2002 to 2018.



AGM 2018

The AGM dealt with the statutory matters in approving the Annual Report and the Accounts for 2017, took note of the Audit Report and gave formal discharge to the directors and executives for the year 2017.

The AGM then elected the following individuals as Members of the Board for the term 2018 – 2020:

- Marcel Dreyer, Arysta LifeScience
- Dirk Hartmann, BASF
- Eric Bureau, Bayer CropScience
- Prabdeep Bajwa, DowDuPont / Corteva
- Philippe Cattan, FMC
- Gyanendra Shukla, Monsanto
- Diego Tomassone, Sipcam Oxon
- Denis Troalen, Sumitomo Chemicals
- Pierre Cohadon, Syngenta
- Guy Liabra, CropLife Côte d'Ivoire
- Sarwat Sakr, CropLife Egypt
- Patrick Amuyunzu, CropLife Kenya
- Karim BenBrahim, CropLife Morocco
- Tom Mabesa, CropLife South Africa

Meeting of the newly elected Board for the term 2018 - 2020

As its first duty, the newly elected Board elected its president for the new term. Eric Bureau from Bayer and President of CropLife Africa Middle East since 2009 tendered his resignation as President but confirmed his interest and willingness to continue to serve the association as a Vice President and Hub Chair.

The following candidates were proposed and elected unanimously by acclamation as President and Vice Presidents respectively for the term 2018 – 2020:

Dirk Hartmann, BASF	President
Eric Bureau, Bayer CropScience	Vice President and Hub Chair ESA
Diego Tomassone, Sipcam Oxon	Vice President and Hub Chair NAME
Pierre Cohadon, Syngenta	Vice President and Hub Chair WCA

The Director General, Samira Amellal then presented an update of the Strategy for 2018 and 2019. She emphasized as the main challenge the fact that significantly increased project work and engagement with third parties resulted in a very high work load for the existing team. The new Board therefore agreed to her proposal to set up a Project Team to discuss and explore this issue in greater detail and to present needed changes, decisions and actions at the next meeting of the Board in November.

The CropLife AME team and the entire Board expressed gratitude and the highest appreciation for the organization and great hospitality offered by Sipcam Oxon and Nadia Gagliardini and Michel Chartouni over the three days in Milan.



Outgoing President, Eric Bureau, left, and incoming President, Dirk Hartmann



Stewardship and Spray Service

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire Provides Certification Training

Participants in dealerships and applicators seeking certification by the Plant Protection Directorate (DPVCQ) are required to be trained by CropLife Côte d'Ivoire.

The training during the week of 12 March was facilitated by staff of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire companies together with a medical doctor from the occupational health sector.

A total of 76 participants underwent the training. CropLife Côte d'Ivoire has been mandated by the DPVCQ to train applicants for this purpose.

At the end of the program and during the closing ceremony, the Director of DPVCQ committed all participants to fully comply with the regulations to fight the illegal trade in pesticides in the country.

The closing ceremony was attended by the Executive Committee of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire comprising Guy Liabra, President, Mamadou Diallo, Vice-President, and Roger Yeboué, Executive Director

Bama Yao

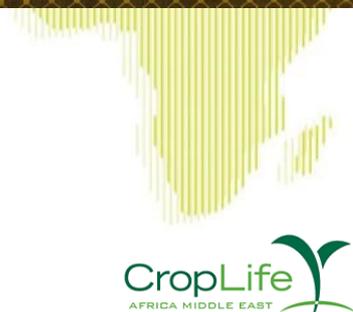


President G. Liabra and B. Yao (Left & Top) addressed participants

Participants (Above) listening cautiously to the presentations

Demo of PPE (Bottom Left)

Officials comprising the Director of DPVCQ (Below) Photos Courtesy CropLife Côte d'Ivoire



Pesticide Application to Control Fall Armyworm: Facts and Fables

For the past year, one of the main newsworthy topics covering the agricultural sector in Africa, was without any doubt, the invasion of the Fall Armyworm (FAW). Meetings were organized, action plans prepared, pesticides distributed among affected farmers, but the FAW continued to chew its way through maize, sorghum, rice and a long list of other crops. Stories about pesticide resistance entered the news and several organizations began recommending alternative control methods, often without positive results. So, is it true? Is FAW resistant to pesticides? Or is it just a matter of correct application or even the selection of the right product?

It is mainly mature larvae that do most damage to plants because of their insatiable appetite. Added to this FAW spreads very quickly: moths can fly large distances and young larvae use ballooning (spreading by wind on a thread of silk) to reach other plants in the field. In addition, FAW do not have diapause and feed on both the vegetative and reproductive stages of the plant. And there you have an unstoppable pest that eats away almost entire yields. To understand why certain pesticides can or cannot work against FAW, it is necessary to know a bit more about the pest.

Identifying FAW

Firstly, Fall Armyworm is not the same as an African Armyworm or a maize stem borer or an African bollworm, although moths, larvae and pupae might look similar, it is easy to confuse them, and this is the first challenge: to correctly identify Fall Armyworm. Often the pest is detected too late due to limited info and/or an untrained eye.



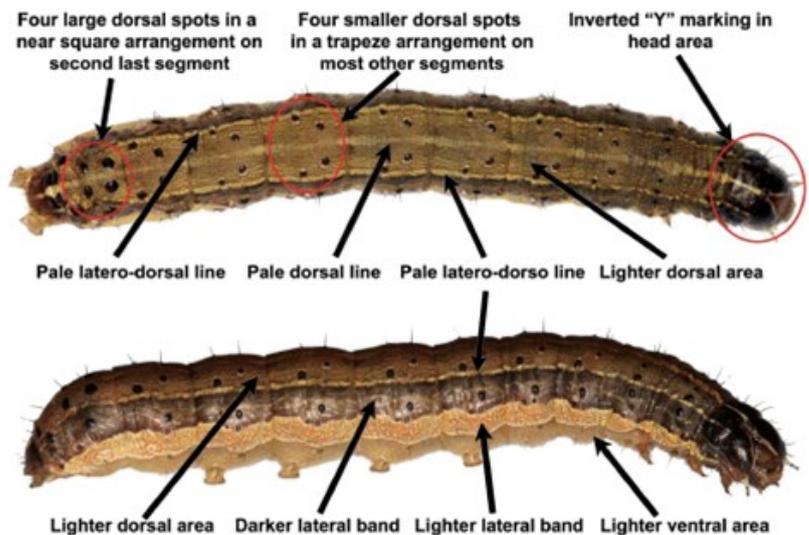
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FAW goes through a full life-cycle, meaning you will be seeing moths, eggs, larvae and pupae in the field. Because the mature larvae cause the most damage, let's start with these. The first distinctive mark of FAW larvae you will find, is on the forehead, in the form of an upside-down Y mark. But be aware, because the African armyworm has the same marking and with very young FAW larvae, this marking is not always easy to see. The second marking of the older larvae are 4 dark dots in the form of a square on the second last segment. On the other segments, you will also find 4 dots in the form of a trapezoid. The tomato moth caterpillar also has distinctive black spots, but the pattern is slightly different. Other outstanding markings are a pale line running over the back and lighter bands on the lower side, just as the African bollworm and False armyworm.



Above: Fall Army Worm Characteristic Marks : D Visser -ARC-VOP

Right: Fall army worm characteristic spots, bands and lines. D Visser ARC-VOP Roodeplaat



Young FAW larvae are more difficult to identify, as they are so small, not even 1 mm long. Their bodies can be transparent, green or yellow, which makes them difficult to spot on leaves. The heads are black

Stewardship and Spray Service

Hiding and protection spot

Larvae hide deep in the whorl or funnel of maize plants, and that poses the second challenge. The whorl is not only an excellent hiding spot, it also provides very good protection because pesticides or natural enemies will seldom reach there.

Young larvae leave the whorl at night to feed on leaves. However, older larvae stay put and won't leave the whorl. That means that if you apply pesticides during this stage, it is very likely that your product won't reach the FAW larvae.

If you combine the challenge of difficult identification and the hiding of larvae, it is easy to understand why many farmers claim that pesticides are not working. So, what can be done?



Scouting, scouting and scouting

The key word is scouting. When you identify FAW correctly and detect it early enough, pesticides can work (given that you apply the correct product in the correct way). Some organizations recommend scouting every 2-3 days throughout the entire season, while others say at least once a week. But we have just read that identifying and detecting FAW is not easy. The simple conclusion might be that we should focus our efforts on this. Of course, scouting will not solve all problems, because the selection of the correct product, the proper application, taking cognizance of resistance and other challenges are still valid. But if scouting is done well and the application of pesticides by someone who has been trained, at least farmers stand a good chance against FAW.

CropLife Africa Middle East has developed special training materials to train Spray Service Providers (SSPs) for the control of FAW using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. Please contact your national CropLife association should you require further information on this.

Manon Mireille Dohmen



Photos: Grain SA



Stewardship and Spray Service

CropLife Mali Conducts IPM/RU Training Workshop for Agro-dealers

In late February, 18 dealerships in Kita, were trained in the responsible use of pesticides. Trainers from member companies of CropLife Mali facilitated the sessions focusing on:

- Pesticides composition, formulation, pesticide families
- Toxicity, labels/labeling of pesticides;
- Safe transportation and storage of pesticides;
- Pesticide regulations in Mali;
- Responsible Use focusing on the identification of pests and disease and the selection of the right pesticide
- Proper use of PPE
- Illegal pesticides and the associated risks to users, and consumers

Bama Yao



Left: Participants at the workshop with the facilitator

Above: Proudly showing their certificates of participation at the end of the workshop

(Photos Courtesy: CropLife Mali).

IPM TRAINING INCLUDES:

 IDENTIFYING beneficial insects	 WHEN AND HOW to manage pests	 RESPONSIBLE USE of crop protection products	 PROPER DISPOSAL of empty containers or unused products
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Anti-Counterfeiting Activities

CropLife - OECD - INSAH Workshop, Dakar, Senegal

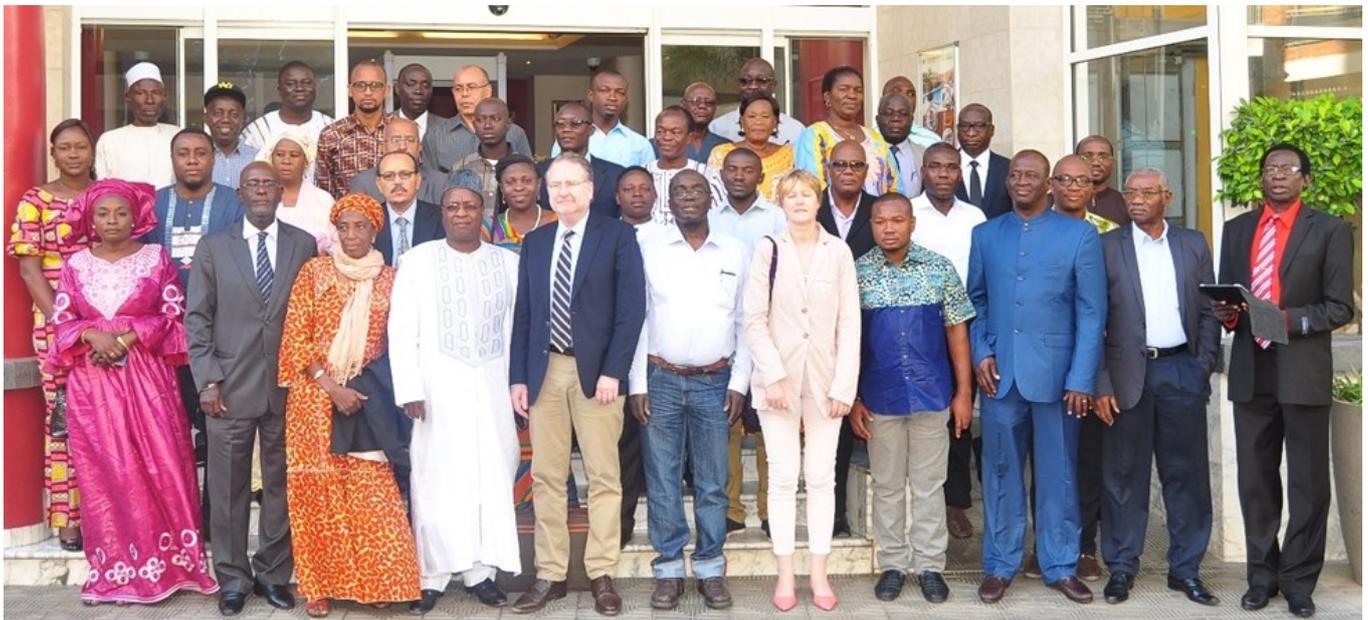
Approximately 60 representatives from 15 member states of ECOWAS, plus Chad and Mauritania both being members of the interstate committee to fight drought in Sahel (CILSS), attended the conference in early March, which was co-sponsored by OECD and CropLife International.

The workshop was organized to bring both knowledge and skills to pesticide inspectors for border control. The key concerns are compliance with regulations and the fight against counterfeit and other illegal pesticides.

Following the opening chaired by the Director of Plant Protection (DPV) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment (MAER), participants were taken through the presentations covering:

- Pesticides and Sustainable Agriculture (FAO and PAN-Africa). The two presentations focused on the importance of agriculture in Sahel and the status of pesticide use in the fragile agroecosystem of Sahel with reference to the existence of some “highly hazardous pesticides” on markets and the associated risks to man and the environment. The call was for less dependence on pesticides but to ratchet up on agroecology and biopesticides”.
- The impact of counterfeits and other illegal pesticides covered by OECD and CropLife. Both presentations provided definitions and focused on associated risks include. The CLAME anti-counterfeiting program was well received by participants who requested that similar capacity building programs be conducted in their respective countries.
- Pesticide Inspection and Control, Guidance for Inspection and Sources of Information were covered by the OECD, the CSP and the Canadian agency for regulations and pest control (Agence de Réglementations et de Lutte Antiparasitaire, ARLA).
- This was to provide an overview of the foundation of the regulatory knowledge and frameworks, an effective pesticide compliance programme, and steps for the inspection for the importation and exportation of pesticides.

Bama Yao



Group Photo



Anti-Counterfeiting Activities



Officials during the opening ceremony



Above Left: B. Yao addressing participants on the issue of counterfeits and illegal pesticides



Above Right : Exchanging words with A. Somé the CTA FAO in Bamako



Association Management

CropLife Kenya Appoints New Chairman

CropLife Kenya is pleased to announce the appointment of Patrick Ambuga Amuyunzu as the Chairman of Agrochemicals Association of Kenya/CropLife Kenya effective 6 April 2018. Patrick replaces Susan Njoroge who retired after serving the industry for three years.

Patrick has over 25 years' experience in the field of agriculture in Kenya, having started his career in 1993. He first worked at the University of Nairobi in research where he was involved in several research projects in agronomy, plant breeding, biosafety and conservation of biodiversity for a period of five years.

During this period, he collaborated with both public and private institutions such as the National Council for Science and Technology, Centre for Indigenous Knowledge Systems and By-Products, International Plant Genetic Resources, UNDP and USAID. He later joined the agrochemicals industry in 1998 where he has worked for a number of companies which include; Farmchem Limited as Development manager; Twiga Chemical Industries Limited for fourteen years where he rose to the rank of Business Development Manager in charge of their crop protection and animal health business; Kenya Highland Seed Company Limited as the Technical manager; and in 2014 joined Arysta LifeScience Kenya Limited as Commercial manager, a position that he still currently holds. Patrick is also a Director of Arysta LifeScience Kenya Limited.

Patrick joined the Board of CropLife Kenya in 2013 where he has been Vice-Chairman for the past three years. During his tenure on the Board, he was the Chairman of the Stewardship Committee, a member of the Partnership and Liaison Committee, Anti-counterfeit Committee and took leadership in corporate social responsibility of the association.

Patrick has several accomplishments to his credit including being a board member of a professional body for agriculturists, Society of Crop Agribusiness advisors of Kenya (SOCAA) and has a number of publications and reports in scientific journals such as The African Crop Science Journal, Acta Horticulture and ODA publication.

Patrick holds a Master's degree in Horticulture and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, both from the University of Nairobi.

Evelyn Lusenaka



Patrick Ambuga Amuyunzu

CropLife Zimbabwe holds 2018 AGM

All but three of the 25 member companies of CropLife Zimbabwe attended the organisation's 58th Annual General Meeting on March 23rd.

There was lively discussion about the advantages vs the cost to Members of setting up a secretariat with a permanent secretary. A final decision was, once again, postponed to a later date.

Members also expressed concern about the influx of Chinese companies which are keen to set up in Zimbabwe in opposition to local agrochemical companies, many of which are struggling to stay afloat in the current difficult climate in the country.

The new Chairperson for the 2018 / 19 year is Bongayi Gokoma, Sales Manager of Agricura (Pvt) Ltd. His deputy is Sabinah Chitehwe, Chief Operating Officer of Curechem Overseas (Pvt) Ltd. The other three members of the Executive Committee for the coming year include Caroline Charumbira of Windmill, who has been a stalwart member of the Technical Sub Committee for many years and has now transferred to the Executive Committee. The last two – Tawanda Mangisi of Syngenta and James Chinyahara of ZFC – are both new to CropLife Zimbabwe work.

The AGM ended with the usual lunch which gave members an opportunity to catch up with each other on the last year and to discuss the just-finished AGM.

Carol Smith



Bongayi Gokoma



Association Management

ECOWAS Consultative Meeting for Agri-Inputs Strategy for West Africa

The Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development of the ECOWAS Commission organized as a multi-stakeholder consultation on agri-inputs. This to validate the concept note and the terms of reference (ToR) for the study on the formulation of a strategy, and to define a roadmap and steering mechanisms. Specifically, this was aimed at:

- Considering the concept note of the agri-inputs strategy
- Validating the ToR for the study
- Considering the ToR for the study with funding from the World Bank on agri-inputs in West Africa
- Proposing the Task Force for the supervision of the study
- Defining the work plan for the study and the formulation of the strategy

Participants included the Director of Agriculture and Rural development of ECOWAS Commission, the Executive Director of the CORAF/WECARD the Executive Director of Hub Rural, representatives of USAID, IFDC, AGRA, CropLife AME, AfricaRice and INSAH-CSP.

The Task Force to lead and supervise the process and will be key stakeholders in agri-inputs comprising CropLife AME together with WAEMU, ADB, USAID, World Bank, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Hub Rural, AGRA, IFDC, CORAF/ WECRAD, AfricaRice, EU, CILSS/INSAH, ROPPA (apex producers' organization), AFSTA, WAFA. The member states will be represented by 5 delegates. The process will be led ECOWAS and WAEMU, and be facilitated by the Hub Rural, and the secretariat assigned to the CORAF/WECARD.

The closing ceremony was marked by three statements from the Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD, the USAID and the ECOWAS Director of Agriculture and Rural Development. All three expressed their satisfaction on the outcome of the consultation. Each made the commitment to fully play their role to ensure a successful initiative.

Bama Yao

CropLife Egypt elects new Chairman

CropLife Egypt held their Board Meeting on 23 April 2018 at the CLE offices. Sarwat Sakr tendered his resignation as Chairman and Hisham Mebed (BASF) was unanimously elected as Chairman to replace him.

The Board plans on holding a suitable farewell for Sarwat Sakr, and he will receive an honorary membership to serve on future boards of the national association.

The Board appointed Aly El Neanaee to the newly created position of Deputy Chairman. The new board will be as follows: Hisham Mebed BASF (Chairman), Aly El Neanaee, Nufarm (Deputy Chairman), Abdelfattah Saad, Syngenta (Secretary), Said Abdella (Treasury), Sarwat Sakr, Sherif Ayoub and Essam Eldabe (Board members).

Said Abdella



L/R Said Abdella, Hisham Mebed, Sarwat Sakr, Hamed El Naggar, Sherif Ayoub, Ali Neanae, Abdelfattah Saad



High Hopes as Uganda's Biotech Bill Gets 'Second Chance'

Optimism is high within Uganda's pro-biotech community as they eagerly await outcomes of the March 28, 2018 tabling of a report on the National Biosafety bill in Parliament. The bill originally passed in October 2017 was referred back to the August body by President Yoweri Museveni citing concerns that needed to be addressed. Speaking at the official opening of the 3rd Biennial National Agricultural Biosciences Conference (NABIO) 2018, Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation, assured guests that the report on the bill would be tabled for debate before Parliament broke off for the Easter holiday.

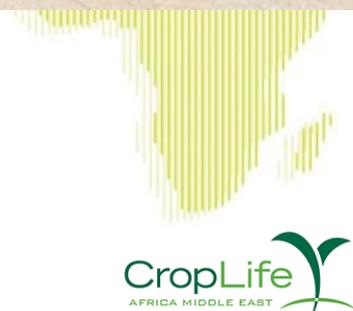
Farmers attending the conference bemoaned crop devastation from various environmental stresses and pleaded with the government to pass the law that will give them the opportunity to choose better performing GM crops and other products of genetic engineering.

"Last season alone, I lost 7 acres to Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD). Please fast track the enactment of the Biosafety law so farmers like me can access virus resistant GM cassava," lamented Sarah Nabirye Kiirya, a farmer from Kiryandongo district in Western Uganda. CBSD costs the country an estimated \$24.2 million in annual losses. "The president's issues with the Biosafety bill have been addressed. So, the bill will pass," Hon. Christopher Kibazanga, State Minister for Agriculture, reassured guests while officially closing the conference.

The two-day NABIO conference attracted national and international scientists, policy makers, journalists, politicians, farmers and university students to deliberate on how to harness biosciences for economic transformation.

NABIO conference is organized biennially by Science Foundation for Livelihoods and Development (SCIFODE) together with local and international biotech and biosafety partners. This biennial event provides a platform for dialogue among biosciences stakeholders to chart the most strategic next steps for biosciences for national and regional transformation.

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Kenyan Government Banks on Bt Cotton to Revive Textile Industry

The Kenyan government is banking on adoption of Bt cotton to revive the textiles and apparel industry and increase the contribution of the manufacturing sector to the country's GDP from the current 9.5 percent to 15 percent by 2022. Speaking during a national biotechnology stakeholders' luncheon, adviser on textile value chain at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives Mr. Rajeev Arora said the industry provides a great opportunity for realizing the Big Four Agenda, a government's action plan aimed at accelerating the country's economic growth in the next five years. A cotton taskforce formed in July 2017 was mandated to implement an ambitious roadmap for the introduction of Bt cotton and high-yielding hybrids between 2017-2022.

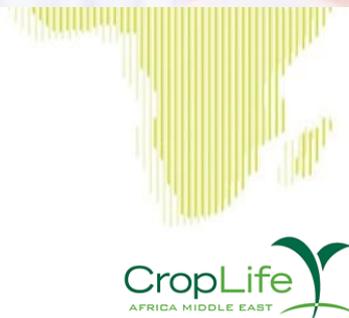
Arora, who is also a member of the taskforce, remarked that reviving the cotton industry will see an increase in production from the current 5,500 tons to 50,000 tons in the next five years. The government aims at creating 680,000 direct jobs through cotton farming, 210 jobs at ginning level, 6,000 at integrated mills and 25,000 at garments manufacturing. "The revitalization will further create an import substitution of Ksh1.2 billion (\$11.87 million) and enhance self-sufficiency of lint," he noted, adding that lint exports will bring Kenya Sh8.75 billion (\$86 million) in foreign exchange.

The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) has already received an environmental impact assessment (EIA) report for the proposed National Performance Trials (NPTs) on biotech cotton. Addressing the stakeholders, NEMA's Chief Compliance Officer Margaret Njuki said that the public's input into the EIA process is critical in arriving at the final decision on the project. "Giving an opportunity to the public to give their comments on the report is a legal requirement. This also allows them to participate in the conservation and management of the environment," she explained.

The trials will be conducted in nine sites to select best performing varieties for distribution to farmers. Previous research in the country showed Bt cotton yielded three times more than the conventional varieties, providing evidence of its vital role in revitalizing the subsector.

The luncheon, hosted by OFAB Kenya on April 5, 2018, in Nairobi provided insight into the Kenyan government's strategy to revitalize the textile subsector and an update on the status of proposed Bt cotton National Performance Trials (NPTs) in the country.

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