



## Stewardship

### SSP Project West Africa: WCF-ACI Stakeholders Meetings

On July 08 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and on July 11 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, stakeholders involved in the project, mainly the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, the research and extensions services, input suppliers, and other implementing organizations and institutions including CropLife AME, CropLife Cameroon and CropLife CI, TechnoServe, got together.

The purpose of these meetings was to update the various stakeholders on the progress of the project and on the challenges during implementation. An overview of the different components was presented and recommendations made. The success of the SSP program was noted. Farmers are seeing the benefits of SSPs and are ready to use their services. The weakness at this stage relates to the low supply of PPE, the availability of mistblowers and the limited number of SSP's, leading to a shortage of services in some areas.

The issue on the supply of PPE is more critical in Cameroon; CropLife Cameroon needs to take a lead on this, while CropLife Côte d'Ivoire should find a way forward with the support of the Conseil Café-Cacao (CCC)

**Bama Yao**



**TECHNO SERVE**  
Business Solutions to Rural Poverty

### SSP Côte d'Ivoire: Equipping the SSPs under the WCF-ACI Project

On 22 July more than 100 participants representing the administrative, political and traditional authorities, officers of the Conseil Café-Cacao (CCC), farmers and farmers' cooperatives and CropLife CI, met in Aboisso, South-Eastern Côte d'Ivoire.

This meeting was organized under the quantity, quality and growth (Quantité-Qualité-Croissance, 2QC) support program of the CCC, which aims to improve productivity by strictly coordinating various initiatives in cocoa production. One such initiative is the supply of pesticides to farmers to spray their farms. The recent agreement between the CCC and CropLife CI stipulates the need for the CCC to provide mistblowers and PPE to the SSP's as part of their support and contribution to the WCF-ACI project.

Arising from this, the cooperatives in the Aboisso region received 145 mistblowers and PPE sets to be used by the SSP's that were trained on behalf of the cooperatives. Among the SSPs trained in Aboisso, 120 who attended the ceremony received their certificates and badges and are now ready to service framers.

**Bama Yao**



Local administrative, political and traditional authorities (Right) attended the ceremony for the distribution of mistblowers and PPE to SSP's (Left)



## BEECON 2014 Convention

The South African Bee Industry (SABIO) held its BEECON 2014 Convention on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th July.

The workshop on Friday comprised a three-phase approach looking at three critical issues facing the bee industry in South Africa and was facilitated by three experts well known to the Southern African Bee Industry. This covered disease management and “pollination crises”.

Prior to the start of BEECON 2014 on the 25th, a follow-up meeting of the Pollinator Forum took place. This involved the Regulator, Industry and the Bee industry.

Outcomes of the discussions included:

- That a clear need has been identified to establish the platform to discuss bee related issues

That key players must include:

- The Registrar of Act 36 of 1947 (Dr Janine Kelly)
- SABIO representing the bee industry
- CropLife representing the crop protection industry
- The SA Pest Control Association.
- Farmers represented by Grain SA, and Fruit SA (Hortgro, CRI etc.)
- Janine Kelly from the Office of the Registrar will facilitate this platform

Issues that must be resolved are:

- Funding. This largely includes ad hoc travel costs. On request CropLife can be approached to support this.
- How will transgressions be dealt with?
- A SOP should be developed to manage bee incidents and identify causes of bee incidents and a report of these incidents made to the registrar. The Registrar's office should maintain a record of incidents related to poisoning. Guidance is required on where residues can be tested.
- Mike Allsopp's concern is that the ARC cannot allocate time to the Bee Forum unless they are funded for this. This needs to be addressed with DAFF



Members of the Pollinator Forum

**BEECON 2014 Convention– cont.**

The following must be achieved from the Forum:

- Develop and review guidelines related to the registration of products and their impact on bees. This can be based on guidelines developed by the OECD or the Australian guidelines. A guideline is currently being developed by the Registrar's office. This draft document will be circulated for comment to the Forum members. CropLife can support access to global experts in developing this document if necessary.
- All comments to the guideline will be dealt with by the Forum
- The Forum should include Fruit SA, Grain SA and the Pest Control Association
- The next meeting will be scheduled once the draft guidelines have been finalized.
- Dr. Janine Kelly will be the key facilitator of this platform

On Saturday 26th, Dirk Uys, Marketing Manager, Bayer South Africa gave a presentation: "Bee Health Issues and Neonicotinoids – Background and Recent Developments". This was well received.

Les Hillowitz



L – R Prof Robin Crewe, Dr. Hannelie Human and Mike Allsopp



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## Regulatory

### Principles of Regulation (PoR) GAP Analysis Workshop, Nairobi, 8 July

As a follow-up to the regulatory workshop, which took place in Umhlanga last year, the need was identified to hold a workshop with the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) in Nairobi. This took place on 8 July and was participated by 3 executives from the PCPB and 6 members of CropLife Kenya. Marilza Kieck, representing CLAME, facilitated the discussions.

The five priority areas identified for "Improvement" at the Umhlanga meeting were addressed as well the three remaining from the GAP Analysis 2013.

Minutes were developed and circulated for the necessary actions to be taken.

**Marilza Kieck**



Participants at the GAP Analysis workshop

### Minor Crop Vegetables Pesticides Registration and Residues Meeting, 30 July



Above L – R Dr. Wilna Jansen van Rijssen and Professor Mary Gulumian. Below Professor Lisa Korsten



Under the auspices of the Registrar the meeting took place at the ARC Vegetable and Ornamental Institute, Roodeplaat

Four presentations were given with the aim of addressing the bullet points below:

- The process of pesticide risk assessment: Professor Mary Gulumian (NIOH)
- Registration of agricultural remedies: Mr. Thilivhali Nephumbada (DAFF)
- The risk associated with microbial contamination of food and feed: Professor Lisa Korsten
- Consumer Food Safety Perspectives: Dr Wilna Jansen van Rijssen
  - Registration process and requirements of conventional pesticides /biopesticides.
  - Challenges associated with minor crops particularly vegetables and animal feed crops/pastures.
  - Pesticide residues impact on trade both locally and internationally.
  - Management of residues on animal feed commodities (pastures) and grain crops e.g. maize, soya and sunflower.
  - The use of SA MRLs, CODEX and default MRLs
  - Determine the way forward to get the vegetable sector organized according to CODEX crop groups for efficacy/residue data extrapolation as a means to expedite registration of pesticides in the sector.
  - Importation of vegetable seed treated with unregistered pesticides.
  - This was the first of ongoing meetings with specific smaller groups by the pesticide regulatory authority.

**Les Hillowitz**

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## Regional Regulatory Committee (RRC) Meeting - Pau, France

On July 8-10 the Regulatory Committee held its second meeting for 2014 in Pau, at the offices of Arysta LifeScience who kindly hosted the event. Participating for the first time at this event were Marija Horvat, the new representative of Bayer CropScience and Stella Simiju Wafukho, the newly appointed Director for Regulatory Affairs and Stakeholder Relations in CropLife AME.

The meeting discussed ongoing regulatory matters and in particular, the changing regulatory requirements in selected countries and the resulting consequences for the CropLife member companies. On specific cases the team discussed and agreed on follow-up actions to be pursued by the respective national CropLife association and/or the regional CropLife team. A capacity building workshop to strengthen appropriate local risk assessment was discussed and will be organized in collaboration with COLEACP for selected members of the CSP (Comité Sahélien de Pesticides). The agenda and concept for the upcoming hub regulatory meetings were discussed and finalized. For the Eastern and Southern hub, a classical hub meeting will take place in August in Lusaka, Zambia, the planned meeting in Cairo in October for North Africa Middle East will be the testing of a new approach and more direct and specific country discussions are envisaged.

The meeting was briefed about the result and decisions of various meetings of Project Teams and Steering Committees at the global level held in Brussels in early June. Of particular relevance were topics covering the pollinator issue, the endocrine disruption issue and the issue around Highly Hazardous Pesticides. All these topics are on the agenda of the hub meetings and will be discussed in more details at these venues. Finally, the RRC updated the Strategic Blueprint and brainstormed on ways how to improve the performance of the committee as an entity and to get better engagement from individual members of the committee.

**Rudolf Guyer**



Stella Simiju Wafukho Director Regulatory Affairs Stakeholder Relations



Marija Horvat Representing BayerCropScience in the Regional Regulatory Committee



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## Anti-Counterfeiting

### Anti-Counterfeiting training of Customs Officers and Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture in Northern Côte d'Ivoire

This training took place on 25 July, in Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire and comprised of 18 officers from Customs Services and 12 officers from the Ministry of Agriculture (MinAgri) in Northern Côte d'Ivoire together with the Directors of the Crop protection Dept. of the MinAgri.

The training was organized as part of the capacity building program of CropLife AME to sensitize and provide the necessary tools to the enforcement bodies in the country to combat the illegal trade in pesticides.

The opening ceremony was co-chaired by the Regional Director of Customs in Northern Côte d'Ivoire and the Director of Crop Protection of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The discussions and exchanges focused on the following topics:

- Importance of pesticides in agriculture and safe and responsible use.
- Pesticide regulations in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Labelling and labels, and the risks associated with the misuse of pesticides.
- Counterfeit and illegal pesticides.
- Health, environment and socio-economic risks associated with illegal pesticides.
- Combating counterfeit and other illegal pesticides.

Participants voiced their appreciation of the intervention and requested regular meetings of the major stakeholders (customs, pesticides inspectors, police and judiciary officers) to strengthen the ongoing cooperation between the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Customs services with the aim of conducting coordinated antifraud actions.

In closing, participants were presented with certificates of attendance **Bama Yao**





## Plant Biotechnology

**Prior to adopting and commercializing Bt Cotton, Burkina Faso's cotton production had fallen sharply.**

According to INERA (the country's lead agricultural research body) in 2007 cotton production had gone down by almost 50% or just about half. This prompted the country to speed up the process of commercializing biotech cotton, which had been in trials since 2003. The commercialization of Bt cotton in 2008 brought the much-needed relief to the farmers who had started deserting cotton farming due to high cost of production as a result of insect pests pressure that required over six sprays



Dr Oumar Traore, INERA Director of Crops Research

According to Dr Oumar Traore (INERA's director of Crops Research), adoption of Bt cotton was 'a wise move' by the government. For example, last year 2013, cotton production increased sharply by 57.5 per cent, he says, citing the Burkina National Cotton Producers' Union (UNPCB) monitoring reports.

The booming harvests fetched the country US\$1.2 billion from the sale of 630,000 tons of cotton produced last year. If this cannot persuade those opposed to biotech crops, then I doubt if anything will ever persuade them otherwise.

What is more, according to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) Survey report, the country's share of world cotton exports tripled over the past few years, thanks to adoption of Bt cotton. This is unprecedented for an African agricultural product; "What makes it more remarkable is the fact that these successes were achieved despite a slump in world prices," the report says.

The president of the giant UNPCB, Mr. Karim Traore, fondly talks of GM cotton: "Bt cotton production is experiencing growth every year. Burkina Faso's top cotton producer, SOFITEX, collected 500,000 tons, 55 per cent of which came from GM cotton, while the Gourma Cotton Company collected 100,000 tons." This means that in less than 8 years of commercialization of Bt cotton, it has overtaken the conventional varieties as the first choice of farmers.

Burkina Faso is one of the few countries that have commercialized biotech crops in Africa. The others are South Africa and Sudan. Kenya could easily become the third country in Africa to commercialize GM cotton but it is likely to be overtaken by Ghana because of the current GM import ban imposed in 2012 by the cabinet. The task force established to advise the state on way the forward seems to have been infiltrated by anti-biotech groups if their public utterances are anything to go by.

But as the Kenyan government wavers on its commitment to modern biotechnology its cotton industry, and indeed the general agriculture sector, remains in the doldrums waiting to be rescued. It is incredible that the Kenya government prefers to listen to propaganda peddled by anti-GM lobby groups instead of heeding the voices of scientists and regulators.

OFAB: Daniel Otunge—12 July 2014

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## Ethiopia Expands Jatropha Plantation to Produce Biodiesel

The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Ethiopian and Norwegian governments at a cost of over \$2.8 million.

Ethiopia is expanding Jatropha plantation to produce 500 million litres of biodiesel from the inedible plant, which can yield 600 litres of biodiesel from a single ton of seeds, an Ethiopian official said on Monday.

"The country has designed a five-year Jatropha development project aimed at transplanting 700 million Jatropha seedlings and produce 500 million litres biodiesel," Bizuneh Tolcha, spokesperson for the Ministry of Water, Energy and Irrigation, told Anadolu Agency.

He said the project is being implemented in collaboration with the Ethiopian and Norwegian governments at a cost of over \$2.8 million.

"Production of biodiesel from Jatropha will help the country save foreign currency, which is spent on the import of petroleum," he added.

According to government estimates, Ethiopia spends close to \$2 billion a year to import petroleum from Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

"There is an area of 2.5 million hectares suitable for Jatropha plantation in different parts of the country," Tolcha said.

He noted that so far, 90,000 hectares of land is covered with Jatropha plants.

The spokesperson said that his ministry is working to modernize the Jatropha plantation and encourage investors engage in the activity.

"So far six investors and some three domestic NGOs have given prime attention to Jatropha plantation. The investors and NGOs are transplanting 250 million Jatropha seedlings," he said.

Tolcha said that efforts were also underway to produce Jatropha seed pulping and squashing machines, noting that pulping and squashing machines are being installed in Tigray and South Ethiopia Peoples' States, which will have the capacity to produce a total of 5000 litres biodiesel.

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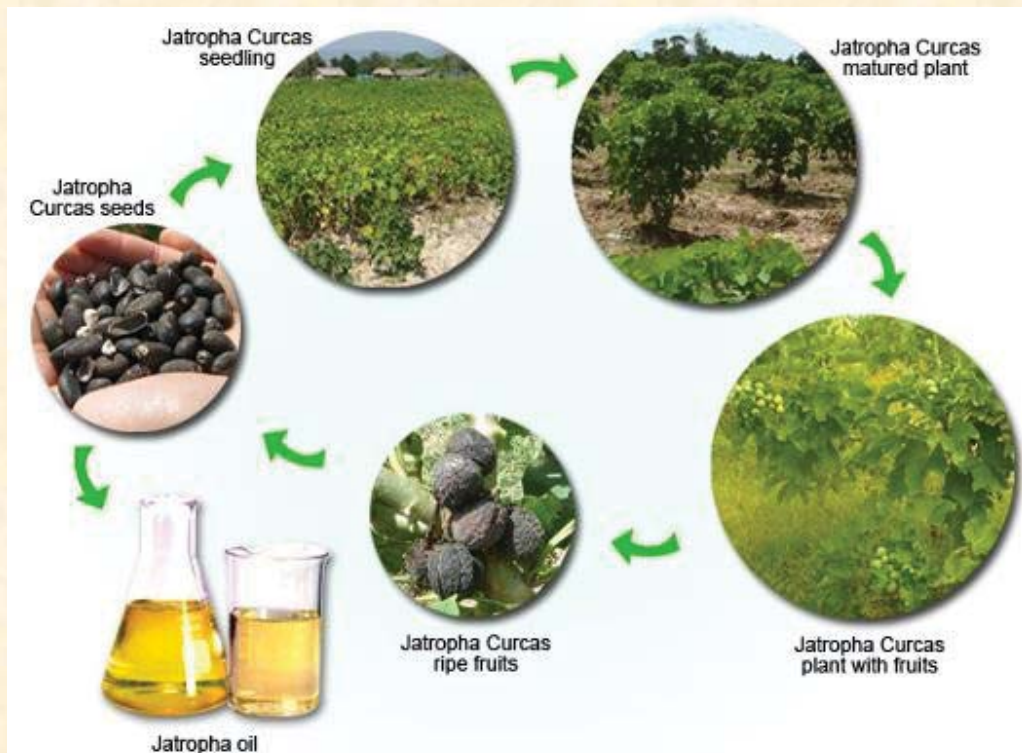


Photo: Courtesy of NED  
University of Engineering &  
Technology, Pakistan



Upcoming  
EventsUpcoming  
EventsUpcoming  
Events

Training on PRD-CBI for regulators of Côte d'Ivoire	Aug 12
Anti-Counterfeiting training workshop for Customs in Western Ghana	Aug 25
Training of Trainers workshop in Côte d'Ivoire	Aug 25
E & SA Hub + Regulatory Workshop, Lusaka, Zambia	Aug 26, 27
Bee policy meeting, Naivasha, Kenya	Sept
SAICM regional focal point, CropLife Tanzania	Sept
CropLife Kenya ExCo Introduction meeting	Sept 12
8th CmiA/ COMPACI Stakeholder Conference, Cologne	Sept 24-26
CMPT Meeting, Frankfurt	Oct 7-10
WCF Stakeholder Meeting, Copenhagen	Oct 15-16
Risk assessment capacity building workshop for CILSS-CSP	Oct
Pollinator Issue Team Meeting, Washington	Oct 20
Stewardship Steering Committee, Washington	Oct 21
IPM / RU Project Team Meeting, Washington	Oct 22
Endocrine Disruptors Issue Team meeting, Washington	Oct 23
NAME Regulatory Meetings in Cairo	Oct 28-29
NAME mini-hub meeting, Cairo	Oct 28-29
Meeting of the Regional Regulatory committee	Oct 30
WCF Cocoa Symposium Ibadan, Nigeria	Nov 11-14



Photo: Bob Freling

**GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY**

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