



Year End Message from the Director General



Rudolf Guyer—Director General

During 2014 our association continued to focus its resources and efforts in line with our long-term strategic goals addressing product stewardship, improvement of the regulatory framework and the fight against counterfeit and illegal products. We made further progress in positioning ourselves as a professional partner for activities and partnership projects jointly with other stakeholders who are interested and engaged in improving agricultural productivity in Africa and in particular in Sub Saharan countries. As regards our stewardship activities, our network continued to be actively engaged in the disposal of the obsolete stocks as identified under the Africa Stockpiles Programme.

Most country projects that were initiated under this initiative have by now completed the final removal of previously held safe guarded stocks. New projects have been initiated and will be pursued together with the FAO in the foreseeable future. Stewardship at farm and field level has been implemented and pursued mostly through the Spray Service Provider (SSP) projects. These projects in almost all cases are conducted with third party stakeholders and/or with the active contribution of our member companies. Without a doubt, the most prominent project in this regard is the SSP project with the World Cocoa Foundation where in the second year we reached over 40'000 smallholder cocoa farmers in Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon with these well trained professional spray men. This concept has become a real flagship activity across Africa but especially in Sub Saharan Africa and a series of follow-up programs have already started. Using the cocoa project, our colleagues from CropLife International have supported the regional association and produced some **top class videos** featuring various dimensions of the concept and its benefits to the cocoa value chain. This includes small holder cocoa farmers and the spray men themselves who have been trained and supported to make a sustainable business as independent SSP entrepreneurs. I invite all readers of this newsletter to take the needed 15 minutes over the coming holiday season and to visit www.croplife.org where on the top page you will find the respective cocoa info-graphic and when scrolling down a bit you will be able to download the 6 different videos of 1 to 3 minutes each both in English and in French, enjoy viewing.

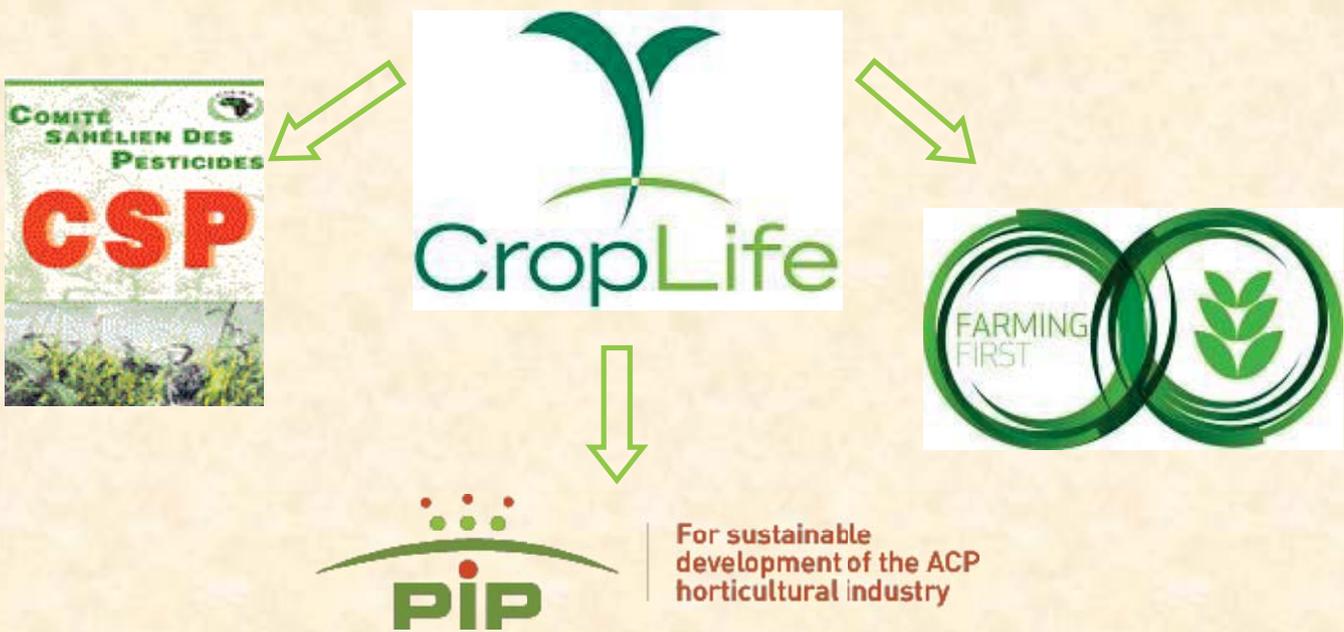
In the area of regulatory matters we have strengthened our resources, and effective June 2014 were pleased to have Stella Wafukho, Director Regulatory Affairs and Stakeholder Relations come on board and join the team. Stella is based in Nairobi and works closely with the global regulatory network and respective issue teams. The current two most important topics and issues to cope with are the EU legislation related to endocrine disruptors and also the global issue of pollinator health. Respective regional activities in both these areas have been initiated. In addition to these particular issues, our team continues to promote the Principles of Regulations (POR) and has again met with most of the regulatory functions in all key territories on these related principles and concepts. Jointly with the support from COLAIECP PIP a special workshop was conducted in Ougadougou with the key members of the CSP (Comité Sahélien de Pesticides) to present and introduce appropriate risk assessment tools. In previous meetings with regulatory authorities where a special gap analysis was conducted it was found that appropriate and country specific risk assessment exercises are very rarely conducted and that the respective tools needed to complete this were much appreciated.

The third long term strategic priority is the fight against fake and illegal pesticides. In Egypt an outstanding campaign has been implemented as our flagship project in this field which got underway in April and will be continued into 2015. Also in Kenya a somewhat different project started in the second half of the year and will also continue into 2015. In addition to these two flagship projects our regional and national associations continue to work very closely together with a large number of external stakeholders who have also identified illegal and fake agro inputs as a major obstacle to improve agricultural productivity in Africa and who decided to invest significant resources and funds in the fight against these fake inputs.

Going a bit beyond the three priorities and strategic imperatives covered above, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you another highly interesting and attractive webpage that has been prepared by Farming First which is a larger network and coalition and of which our industry is only a part of. The site is highly informative and invites one to explore and discover AFRICA'S AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL. You will discover a lot of highly interesting facts about agriculture in Africa. Hopefully you can find some time over the festive season and visit: www.farmingfirst.org/africanag

With these thoughts I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable festive season with your family and friends. I would like to thank you for your interest and support of our association's work over the past year and I look forward to working with you in 2015

Rudolf Guyer



Stewardship

CropLife Kenya implements a Spray Service Provider program to ensure compliance of agricultural produce exports to the EU

In December 2012, the European Commission took the decision to increase to 10% the frequency of pesticide residues border checks on French beans and peas imported from Kenya. Since early January 2013, this decision has impacted directly on the lives of thousands of farmers and workers in a country where agriculture is by far the major contributor to socio-economic welfare.

Resulting from this, Kenya was given until 30 September 2014 to ensure that horticultural produce meet the stringent safety standards set by the EU. The exceedences of MRL's were noted as the key issue that led to the respective notifications and interceptions by the EU.

To ensure compliance especially where pesticides are concerned, CropLife Kenya (CLK) set up a Spray Service Provider Program (SSP) in the Kirinyaga region, which is the highest producing area of French Beans, and snow peas in the country. The SSP program targeted 2 clusters, which had been banned from exporting to the EU. As a result, 20 SSP supervisors were trained and who later trained 36 SSP implementers. The SSP supervisors monitor the implementers who undertake the actual spraying. The supervisors undertake the scouting, and recommend the pest management option to the farmer.

The program implementation was successful and through this, CLK was able to service over 600 farmers who grow French beans and snow peas for export. Through the initiative, the clusters were able to win back the confidence of a selected exporter who has been engaged to export their produce.

In October 2014, the farmers planted their first crop of French beans and for which they contracted the services of the SSP's for the necessary pest management, which involved scouting and spraying.

CropLife Kenya, through Evelyn Lusena carried out a supervision tour to inspect the work of the SSP's and noted that; usage of pesticides had gone down by more than 60% as farmers only sprayed when necessary by adopting IPM principles; that the SSP's keep records of all activities relating to pest management on behalf of the farmers; that CLK was able to link the SSP's to company members.

The SSP's took the initiative to form an association to ensure self-regulation and correct practices in the field. CLK is helping to build their capacity through proper training, provision of personal protective equipment and access to input suppliers. The program has been extremely successful and many requests are being received from other

Evelyn Lusena



SSP record of spray activity



A SSP Supervisor undertaking a supervision visit

CropLife Kenya Container Management Project

The Container Management project in Kenya, which commenced in February 2014, targeted 6 counties in the Mt. Kenya region. The region is a major producer of horticultural crops for export in the country.

A survey undertaken by CropLife Kenya (CLK) showed that the use of pest control products in the country was split-out regionally as follows;

- Nairobi and environment-15%
- South Rift-20%
- North Rift-15%
- Mt. Kenya region-40%
- Lower Eastern/Coast-5%
- Nyanza/Western-5%

Based on these findings, CLK decided to implement a project in the Mt. Kenya region, which has the highest usage of crop protection products in the country. The overall objective was to establish an environmentally sustainable container management system which could later be rolled-out countrywide. The pilot project aimed at collecting empty pesticide containers from farmers by using two key routes:

Through agro-vet outlets where farmers return the empty containers at time of new purchases.

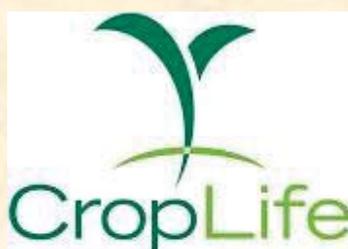
Through farmer societies and cooperatives where farmers, in organized groups return the empty containers to the society's factory sites.

CLK has built the capacity of both the agro-vet distributors and the societies by providing training, provision of "collection bins" as well as awareness materials to facilitate the return of empty containers. CLK has also created awareness in the 6 counties on the need to return empty containers and the dangers of poor disposal. "Triple Rinsing" formed the key message in farmer field days to ensure that the growers only return properly rinsed containers. CLK has partnered with the company, ECCL to collect and incinerate the containers while looking for possibilities for recycling. Awareness has been created in all the 6 counties but on-going efforts must continue.

Added to this success, CLK recently received support from the Kenya Agricultural Productivity and Agribusiness Project (KAPAP) which is a World Bank sponsored project to roll-out the project to a further 10 counties. This is scheduled to start in January 2015.

The MOU was signed by CropLife Kenya and Kenya Agricultural Productivity and Agribusiness Project on 18 November and will run for 18 months and include funding of around USD 100,000. The project will be known as "Sustainable Empty Pesticide Containers Initiatives" (SEPCI).

KAPAP, which is funded by the World Bank, is one of the government's initiatives to implement the Agricultural Sector Development Strategy, (ASDS) and is designed around key pillars of the ASDS. KAPAP aims to consolidate and up-scale the achievements in the sector and in addition support agribusiness development. The project's development objective is to increase agricultural productivity and incomes of participating smallholder farmers in the project area.



**Kenya Agricultural
Productivity Programme**

The program's design envisages integrated and synchronized research, extension and farmer empowerment together with other stakeholder initiatives. Also, the implementation of the National Agricultural Extension Policy (NASEP) to deliver advisory extension and agribusiness services that are, cost effective and efficient to build the capacity of farmers to engage in farming as a viable economic activity. NASEP provides a framework that allows other players such as NGO's, CBO's, civil society, private companies and individuals to provide services. The end result paradigm is where the policy and institutional environment will be conducive to agricultural productivity.

The Agrochemicals Association of Kenya/CropLife Kenya, with a mandate on product stewardship has considerable knowledge and expertise in the management of agricultural waste and the mechanisms needed to enhance a cleaner environment. To realize it's Project Development Objectives (PDO), KAPAP sought partnerships with various stakeholders, and collaborators and service providers in the agricultural sector that included AAK/CropLife Kenya.

The proposed project by AAK/CropLife Kenya will be implemented in 10 counties out of the 47 counties in the country. The project counties have been selected on the basis of pesticide usage and the concentration of small farmers. The identified counties are Makueni, Nakuru, Nyandarua, Kakamega, Taita Taveta, Trans-Nzoia, Homabay, Meru, Nyeri and Embu.

The project is aimed at the establishment of environmentally sustainable and commercially viable, empty pesticide container management systems in Kenya.

The projects will therefore address the following objectives in its life cycle.

Establish an environmentally sustainable and viable Empty Pesticide Containers (EPC) management system.

Establish partnerships on EPC management with key stakeholders including the recycler, Environmental and Combustion Consultants Ltd (ECCL), Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries, county and sub-county agricultural officers and the Pest Control Products Board, donors and non-governmental organizations.

Generate data on EPC's from farmers in the 10 counties to enable the setting up of a commercially viable EPC recycling enterprise.

Richard Sikuku & Evelyn Lusenaka



The Signing of the agreement between CropLife Kenya and the Kenya Agricultural Productivity Project. From L-R Susan Njoroge, Kuria Gatonye of CropLife Kenya, K. Kilaka and Francis Muthami of KAPAP, Richard Sikuku of CropLife Kenya



L-R Susan Njoroge, Francis Muthami, K. Kilaka, Kuria Gatonye and Richard Sikuku



Distribution of collection bags for empty containers to agro-vet outlets

SSP Training: BASF Zambia



Reading and understanding the label



Correct PPE for application



BASF Zambia in partnership with Musika runs a project called Lima Chuma (Grow Wealth), which is aimed at the development of small-scale farmers in the Southern Province of Zambia. The company has been promoting the use of their maize herbicide as part of the project. The project has engaged 12 field supervisors and 50 farmer advisors.

BASF embraced the SSP Concept and is developing the Lima Chuma project around this. 12 Field Supervisors, the Key Account Manager and an intern from Musika underwent a Training of Trainers Workshop in Choma 25 – 29 November.

A Pre- and Post-test was carried out and those candidates that obtained 70% and higher will be accredited as SSP trainers.

The project plans to establish an SSP system, which will work on a ratio of 1 SSP per 25 farmers. The project will provide an initial 200 sets of PPE from Germany to help kick-start the program for this season.

Both BASF and CropLife Zambia will keep a database for the program.

CropLife Zambia has been invited to the official Launch of the Lima Chuma Program and will be accorded a slot to explain the SSP concept during the launch proceedings. The project plans to target around 25,000 small-scale farmers within the Southern Province and these will be the target of the SSP

Perry Ngoma



Local & International Insect Resistance Action Committee (LIRAC) meeting with South African Regulators

AfricaBio in partnership with the local and the international Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) co-hosted an insect resistance management meeting between the industry and the South Africa regulators.

The meeting was held at the CSIR International Convention Centre on 07 November 2014. There were approximately 30 participants, including representative from the industry and regulators from the departments of Agriculture, Environment and Science and Technology. This was a follow-up meeting to the one held in May 2014.

The aim of this workshop was to provide an open forum for key stakeholders to discuss Insect Resistance Management (IRM) in South Africa, share knowledge and experience on IRM from other countries growing GM crops and share on the global efforts on stewardship and communication.

Guests included Dr. Julian Jaftha, Chairman of the Executive Committee on GMOs and Dr. Graham Head of IRAC International, who also delivered the keynote address. His presentation covered refuge compliance at a global level and development trends in insect resistance as well as other topics related to insect resistance management. The meeting provided the industry with an opportunity to share with the regulators, the international efforts to address the development of insect resistance and on the various initiatives developed globally to address the problem. It is envisaged that the information shared will promote a common understanding between the regulators and the industry

AfricaBio



Group photo of participants at the LIRAC meeting

World Cocoa Foundation-Africa Cocoa Initiative, Steering Committee Meeting

The WCF management team met in Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire on 4 November. The objective of the meeting was to update participants on the progress of activities and prepare needed actions. Sona Ebai, Chief of Party (COP) of the WCF-ACI, undertook the keynote message.

Following the introduction and expectations of the workshop, participants were taken through participative presentations on:

- Component 1: strong national public-private partnership platforms (PPPP). The platform is operational in Côte d'Ivoire; WCF-ACI co-funded a plenary session and the harmonization of training materials. In Ghana the ongoing establishment of the platform is strongly supported by WCF-ACI. The establishment of the platform is effective in Cameroon while discussions are ongoing for Nigeria. .
- Component 2: Farm productivity through improved planting materials: genetic fingerprinting has been completed for 10,000 samples from seed gardens and breeders' stock in the region. The result is being used to correct the mis-labelling of the present seed gardens and the germplasm collections, and for the establishment of 113 hectares, the target being 130 hectares. The 130 ha seed garden at maturity will provide planting materials to replant 195,000 hectares of cocoa farms per annum from 2020.
- Component 3: Enhanced public and private sector extension and farmer training. In Ghana, 39,496 farmers including 10,846 women received extension training from 257 community extension agents of the Ghana Cocoa Board. These agents were trained by WCF/ACI in 2013. In Côte d'Ivoire, the training for 240 extension staff of ANADER started in September 2014. The ongoing recruitment of a consultant will enable the training of extension officers in Nigeria, a similar exercise is being considered for Cameroon in 2015.
- Component 4: Foster market-driven farm inputs supply services to address key issues such as soil fertility, strong inputs distribution networks, implementing a SSP network and put in place a micro-credit system to support the inputs supply. The program delivered the following outputs:
 - Introduction of the Spray Service Provider concept in the 4 countries with more than 3,108 SSPs trained and providing spray services to more than 30,000 farmers.
 - The difficulties in the supply of full PPE kits to all the SSP's. While CropLife Cote d'Ivoire has teamed up with the Council of Coffee-Cocoa to supply 10,000 sets of PPE and mistblowers, CropLife Ghana and CropLife Nigeria are printing logos of participating companies on the PPE for publicity purposes and thus attracting funds to provide additional equipment.
 - CropLife AME will conduct an impact assessment including the benefits of the "SSP business model" to get a measure on the sustainability of the SSP concept.
 - More than \$100,000 worth of input's credit was facilitated for 781 farmers in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria with a repayment rate of 99%.

Bama Yao



Sona Ebai, Chief of Party (COP) of the WCF-ACI

Representing the Plant Science Industry

SSP Concept in Uganda



Training of Trainers—Left and Above



SSP Training—Above, Left & Below



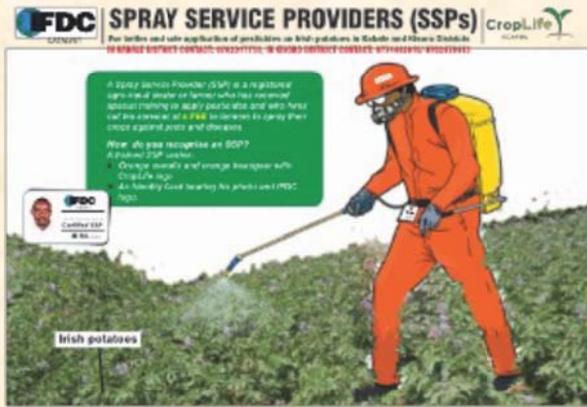
CropLife Uganda has introduced the Spray Service Provider (SSP) concept in the Northern region of Uganda with a focus on maize, soybean, sunflower and rice. In collaboration with the CATALIST project of the International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) 45 farmers were trained as SSPs and who are now ready to start selling their services to fellow farmers.

Project activities started in June 2014 with a Training-of-Trainers program in which CropLife Uganda staff was trained by regional trainer Perry Ngoma in the SSP concept. Two months later, after a difficult selection process, the first 45 farmers were trained to become SSPs. The reason as to why it was so difficult to select suitable candidates is that pesticides are not widely used in the Northern region, except among cotton producers. Due to this it was difficult to find people with the required knowledge on pesticides.

In addition to the technical training, all SSPs followed a 1-day business training in which they learned about calculating fees for their services and how to see their activities as a business.

Each SSP was given a full set of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including gloves, boots, overall, goggles, mask, and hat, and a knapsack sprayer. Each SSP had to sign an agreement with IFDC and CropLife Uganda stating that the equipment should only be used for the application of pesticides and fertilizers and that products should only be purchased from members of the Uganda National Agro Dealers Association (UNADA). Also, that the products would be stored in a separate lockable storage box.

SSPs are not the only focus in the project: 15 agro dealers, that are all members of UNADA, were trained on the SSP concept. This covered the relationship between SSP's and agro dealers, counterfeit pesticides and container management. On completion of the training programs, the agro dealers were linked to the SSPs during an organized one-day event. In the early stages, agro dealers were a bit reluctant to get closer to the SSP's as they initially thought that SSPs would be their competitors. When the SSP concept was explained, they became quite excited at the prospects as they, the dealers are mainly based in the trading centers and see the SSP's as a vehicle to promote and even distribute their products directly to the rural areas.



The list of agro dealers was shared with all CropLife member companies to improve the access of good quality agro inputs. In addition, CropLife Uganda plans to organize an open day for SSPs and member companies in order to build on the concept and promote links with this group.

To promote the services of the SSPs, radio jingles in the local language, Ruo, were developed and posters printed. The jingles will be aired in December via rural radio stations and the posters distributed to agro dealers, farmer organizations, and other partners.

When SSPs start applying their services, the project will monitor their activities. CropLife has developed a SSP database in which all data on the SSPs are stored, including location, telephone number, and the number of farmers serviced. Special monitoring forms will be developed that will be used in the field. All information will be sent to the CropLife office in Kampala and added to the database of SSPs.

Next year, CropLife Uganda will, together with IFDC, introduce the SSP concept in the South West region. 45 farmers have already been selected to be trained as SSP's. The focus crop in South West will be Irish potato.

Les Hillowitz & Manon Dohmen



SSP Training



Denis O. Ocaya, CropLife Uganda Trainer & Site Coordinator for the Lango Sub Region with the group of newly trained SSP's



Regulatory

Launch of the African reference Laboratory for Bee health at the International Centre of Insect

Deputy President;
William Ruto (centre);
Dr. Segenet, Director
General & CEO, ICIPE
(in red)



The inauguration of the African Reference Laboratory by the Deputy President of Kenya, William Ruto, took place on 3 November. The ceremony was graced by ambassadors from Switzerland, Belgium, Uganda, the European Union, delegates from international organizations based in Nairobi including UNEP; WWF, AATF, ILRI, OIE, AU and FAO, also representatives from African countries including; Madagascar, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso and Cameroon.

Participants were taken through the various sections of the lab to understand the key services and research that will be undertaken at the facility. The lab will provide Africa with a mechanism to address current and future threats on bee populations and help the economic development of regional communities establish sustainable bee keeping industries.

The Deputy President urged scientists to expand their scope and come out boldly to deal with perceptions and myths that cloud science, as only scientists can help overcome the challenges of food production.

The reference lab (with Satellite Stations) will be key in the management of pollinator diseases, which impact on food security. The program for bees is to understand their physiology, ecology and genetic make-up, using continent-wide monitoring and assess the status of bee diseases and pests, and their impact on pollination services.

This is a 3 year EU funded program being implemented by the African Union Inter – African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and ICIPE with a focus on research into bee health, mitigating threats to bee populations and food security. The approach is aimed to allow for the incorporation of strategies, harmonized procedures and legislation on Beehealth into national development agendas.

Stella Wafukho



Tour of the laboratory by
the Deputy President

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Harmonization of Registration Guidelines for Biopesticides



A meeting took place hosted by IITA's Commercial Products Phase II (COMPRO II) project that brought together pesticide and fertilizer regulatory authorities from 6 African countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Ghana) to discuss options for the harmonization of regulatory frameworks for biopesticides. Other participants included ECOWAS, COMESA, IITA and AATF.

The meeting agreed that it is possible to harmonize registration guidelines, as this does not require the usual parliamentary and stakeholder processes. The meeting agreed to carry out a comparative analysis of respective countries registration guidelines for biopesticides and biofertilizers and to develop a consensus document respectively for both by September 2015.

Stella Wafukho

L-R, Dr. Idayat Mudashir (NAFDAC); Pauline Mundia (Biovision); Dr. Bukar Usman (Director, NAFDAC); Stella Wafukho (CLAME); Dr. Cargele Masso (COMPRO II Project Manager); Isah Adamu; (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Nigeria)

Mini hub Meeting, Regulatory Workshop for Gulf Cooperation Council Countries,



Participants at the meeting: Regulatory officials from KSA and UAE; Industry and CropLife representatives

As part of the Mini-Hub Meeting, which was held in Dubai, a Regulatory Workshop involving the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was run in parallel. The meeting provided a platform for discussions on various regulatory issues and emerging developments. Deliberations took the form of presentations, exercises and face-to-face discussions between regulatory officials and industry representatives. The regulatory meeting made particular emphasis on the following:

- The results of the IFPRI study, specifically the relevance of the findings to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries often experiencing water scarcity and other severities arising from climate change.
- The need for refresher training on Principles of Regulation (PoR); hazard versus risk-based approaches to regulatory decision-making.

- This was combined with guidance on how to implement the protection of regulatory data and the handling of Confidential Business Information (CBI)
- Although a gap analysis had been undertaken in 2013 for the GCC countries, it was necessary to conduct something more specific for both countries to compare with the average scores provided.
- A recommendation was made for the use of the respective official databases of relevant and respected country authorities where all information can be consulted which is currently requested by GCC countries through legalised documents.
- On harmonisation, an update was given on efforts towards harmonization of regulatory frameworks for GCC countries. A technical group that meets annually with the secretariat under the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia led this discussion. Joint decisions have been taken on registration requirements, fees and the restriction of pesticide uses. The framework is under implementation for a 2-year period ending next year. This timeframe will allow all countries to have reached the same level of harmonisation. An agreement was reached to involve CropLife in the harmonization processes especially on registration processes including harmonised application forms; data requirements and efficacy trials.
- Further future discussions are planned on multiple formulation sites, sources of active ingredients, and the implementation of CBI/PRD

Stella Wafukho

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Anti-Counterfeiting

Anti-Counterfeiting Cross-Platform Initiative: Ghana

The third of the “cross-platform” series for the year took place on 6 November. Again this was aimed at sensitizing the agro-inputs supply chain, primarily crop protection chemicals and seeds, on the dangers of counterfeit products and the risks associated. The venue was the University of Development Studies in Tamale with over 40 participants representing all sectors of the industry and interested stakeholders.

The session covering “Application of Plant Biotechnology in Ghana, Prospects and Public Concerns” was facilitated by Prof. Kenneth. E. Danso, Associate Professor, Plant Biotechnologies of the Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission. He provided clear views on the need to double food and agricultural production to meet the challenges of a growing population. Plant biotechnology was just one of the tools needed for higher yields with less pressure on the environment. He allayed fears that plant biotechnology and GMO’s are nothing mysterious and that a number of people discussing the subject on public airwaves lack the required knowledge of this technology.

The Regional PPRSD Officer from Tamale covered the topic “Characteristics of Quality Seeds” and provided an outline on the level of counterfeiting in the seed industry. This includes packaging materials, labels, logos and the seed itself. He further showcased sample designs of the packaging materials used since 1972 up to the current designs as per the Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010 (Act 803). In concluding, he touched on the punitive measures put in place for anyone caught counterfeiting, either the packing materials or the seeds itself.

Strategies to eradicate the counterfeiting of agrochemicals were covered by J. Pwamang, Deputy Executive Director, Ghana EPA. He elaborated on the EPA Act 490 to register pesticides for use in Ghana, the issue of licenses to pesticide dealers as well as the enforcement activities needed on the handling pesticides in the country. He highlighted on the following:

That counterfeiting of pesticides continues and has become one of the major challenges facing the regulatory authorities in the country.

That the EPA has now established a modern laboratory capable of verifying the conformity of active substances. That a high percentage of counterfeiting occurs at the retail level of the pesticide industry. Samples of seized of counterfeit products obtained during their field inspections were displayed for the audience.

Bama Yao



Professor K Danso (Photo Courtesy Ghana News Agency)



Partial view of the participants (Above), with Professor K. Danso presenting on Biosafety (Below Right)



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Association Management

Launch of CropLife Kenya Flagship Projects - Kirinyaga County

On 14 November, CropLife Kenya launched its “flagship projects” which were successfully implemented in the Mt Kenya region. The projects launched were:

- The Spray Service Provider program
- The Container Management pilot project
- The Anti-counterfeiting - Quality Mark

These initiatives were officially launched by the Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Agriculture, Mr. Felix Koskey and his Principal Secretary, Ms. Sicily Kariuki, in Kirinyaga County. Also present were the governor, senator and local administration of the region. Kirinyaga is significant as it is among the highest horticultural producing areas in Kenya especially for French beans and tomatoes. The county has been severely affected by the ban and interception of produce in the EU due to exceedences of MRL's. CropLife Kenya (CLK) therefore held its pilot covering the above 3 projects in the county to help farmers regain their market in the EU. During the launch members of the industry and other stakeholders exhibited their products and held farmer-training sessions. This was significant as it helped link the SSP's to agro-input suppliers.

The CS noted that under the SSP project; farmers who had abandoned production of French Beans for export were now back in business owing to the project. The CS applauded CLK for setting up the SSP project as this has made tremendous progress towards ensuring that farmers are not directly involved in the spraying of pesticides and that these needs are now managed by trained applicators. He noted that under the anti-counterfeiting project, farmers will be sensitized through the mass media on the importance of using only genuine pesticides and urged growers to watch the program in March next year when this kicks-off. The CS urged CLK to continue collaboration with the government and other agencies to find a solution to “Tuta absoluta” (tomato disease) and Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease, which require new innovative products and approaches to manage. Finally, the CS urged the Pest Control Products Board to hasten full implementation of the quality mark so that users of pesticides can realize the full benefits of the technology.

Evelyn Lusenaka



The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Mr. Felix Koskey giving his keynote address



The Principal Secretary, Ms. Sicily Kariuki addressing the audience



SSP's and farmers during the launch

General Assembly Meeting: CropLife Cote d'Ivoire



The General Assembly of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire took place on 7 November 2014.

The meeting was organized to update members on the activities of the Association and to elect a new ExCo. Emmanuel Fillon, President of the Board and Mariame Dosso, President of the ExCo handled the activity reports, and F. Traore, Vice President reported on the financials. Recommendations that required approval were adopted. Of particular attention were the Anti-counterfeiting activities with the cooperation of the customs services and the Crop Protection Directorate, and the WCF-ACI SSP project.

The new ExCo was confirmed as follows:

- President of the Board: Bruno Bernos, MD AFCHEM-SOFACO.
- President: Guy Liabra, Regional R-D Manager, Bayer CropScience.
- Vice President: Mamadou Diallo, BASF
- The handover ceremony between the former ExCo and the newly elected team, took place on 24 November in the presence of Eric Bureau, President of the Board of CropLife AME.

Bama Yao



G. Liabra (Top) newly elected President of CropLife CI (Right)
G. Liabra with participants at the meeting. B. Bernos President of the Board



Above: Presented with the files as the President of the association in presence of E. Bureau the President of CropLife AME (Left).



Plant Biotechnology

Boeing aircraft makes world's first "green diesel"-powered flight

Almost a year ago, Boeing announced that it was looking into running airliners on a mixture of jet fuel and "green diesel" – the latter of which is made from vegetable oils, waste cooking oil and waste animal fats. Yesterday in Seattle the corporation followed through on that plan, flying its ecoDemonstrator 787 flight test airplane on the fuel blend.

Boeing and other companies have already test-flown airliners that were running on a blend of jet fuel and biodiesel. Although both green diesel and biodiesel start with the same feedstock's, and both create a much lower amount of harmful emissions than regular petro-diesel, they're not processed in the same manner and have different chemical makeup's.

Biodiesel is simpler to produce, and requires less capital investment – that is, it's cheaper to build its production facilities from scratch. Additionally, it can be used in diesel-powered vehicles in a pure, unblended form. Green diesel typically must be blended with other fuels and has a higher capital cost, although it can be made in existing petro-diesel refineries. Its synthesis also results in the production of propane as a by-product, which is considerably more valuable than the glycerin created in the production of biodiesel



The ecoDemonstrator 787 lifts off at Boeing Field in Seattle (Photo: Boeing)



During the flight, the plane's left engine was run on a blend of 15 percent green diesel and 85 percent petroleum jet fuel. "The airplane performed as designed with the green diesel blend, just as it does with conventional jet fuel," said Boeing's Capt. Mike Carriker. "This is exactly what we want to see in flight tests with a new type of fuel."

The green diesel was supplied by Finland's Neste Oil, which claims that on a lifecycle basis, sustainably produced green diesel should produce 50 to 90 percent less carbon emissions than petro-diesel. In order to provide a sustainable feedstock source for either bio- or green diesel, Boeing has recently opened a cooking-oil-to-biofuel plant in China and has begun growing an oil-rich type of tobacco in South Africa, on existing tobacco-growing lands.

By Ben Coxworth—3 December 2014

SA Airways to Test Tobacco Biofuel in 2015

South African farmers would soon harvest their first crop of energy-rich tobacco plants, an important step towards using the plants to make sustainable aviation biofuel, South African Airways (SAA) and American aeroplane maker Boeing announced yesterday.

SAA and Boeing, along with partners SkyNRG and Sunchem SA, also officially launched Project Solaris, their collaborative effort to develop an aviation biofuel supply chain using a nicotine-free, GMO-free tobacco plant called Solaris.

Company representatives and industry stakeholders visited commercial and community farms in Marble Hall, Limpopo Province, where 50 hectares of Solaris have been planted.

The test crop will be harvested for the first time in December.

Oil from the plant's seeds may be converted into bio-jet fuel as early as 2015, with a test flight by SAA as soon as practicable.

Sustainable

"SAA continues to work towards becoming the most environmentally sustainable airline in the world and is committed to a better way of conducting business," said Ian Cruickshank, the airline's environmental affairs specialist.

It planned to scale up its use of biofuels for its flights to 20-million litres in 2017, before reaching 400-million litres by 2023.

"The impact that the biofuel programme will have on South Africans is astounding: thousands of jobs, mostly in rural areas; new skills and technology; energy security and stability; and macro-economic benefits to South Africa; and, of course, a massive reduction in the amount of CO₂ that is emitted into our atmosphere."

Lower costs

It would also lower the fuel costs of SAA, which contributed between 39% and 41% of the state-owned airline's total operating costs.

"It is very exciting to see early progress in South Africa towards developing sustainable aviation biofuel from energy-producing tobacco plants," said J Miguel Santos, the Boeing International managing director for Africa.

"Boeing strongly believes that our aviation biofuel collaboration with South African Airways will benefit the environment and public health while providing new economic opportunities for South Africa's small farmers.

"This project also positions our valued airline customer to gain a long-term, viable domestic fuel supply and improve South Africa's national balance of payments."

Collaboration

The farm visits followed the announcement in August that SAA, Boeing and SkyNRG, an international market leader for bio-jet fuel, based in the Netherlands, were collaborating to make aviation biofuel from the Solaris plant, which was developed and patented by Sunchem Holding, a research and development company based in Italy.

If the test farming in Limpopo is successful, the project will be expanded in South Africa and potentially to other countries. In coming years, emerging technologies are expected to increase aviation biofuel production from the plant's leaves and stems.

Sustainable aviation biofuel made from Solaris plants can reduce lifecycle carbon emissions by 50% to 75%, ensuring it meets the sustainability threshold set by the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB).

Test flights

Airlines have conducted more than 1 600 passenger flights using aviation biofuel since the fuel was approved for commercial use in 2011.

Boeing is an industry leader in global efforts to develop and commercialize sustainable aviation biofuel.

Project Solaris began in 2012 with two hectares of crop, rising to 11 hectares in 2013, before expanding to the current 50 hectares. The partners aim to expand the project to 30 000 hectares by 2020, leading to the production of 140 000 t of jet fuel, the creation of 50 000 direct jobs and a reduction of 267 kt of CO₂ emissions.

They envisage 250 000 hectares by 2025, according to SkyNRG chief technology officer Maarten van Dijk.

Tanzania to relax law on GMOs

IN SUMMARY

Tanzania is in the process of reviewing the genetically modified organisms (GMOs) liability clause with the aim of relaxing the regulations.

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Minister of State for Environment Binilith Mahenge said that the government put the strict liability clause in the Environment Management Biosafety Regulations to protect against adverse effects of biological diversity.

The Environmental Management Biosafety Regulations states that all approvals for introduction of GMOs or their products shall be subject to a condition that the applicant is strictly liable for any damage caused to any person or entity.

Mr. Mahenge stressed that the biosafety policy does not prohibit any person from importing, researching or carrying out confined field trials in the country.

Mr. Mahenge explained that the procedure demands that the person seeking to conduct such activities first seek permission from the National Biosafety Committee consisting of officers from Ministry of Agriculture and Environment to ensure there are no repercussions.

"The government has allowed them to conduct their research and they are currently doing contained trials in their laboratories. They are also not limited from performing field trials, although they fear the strict liability clause and are currently waiting for it to be lifted," he said.

Joseph Nduguru, the officer in charge of Mikocheni Agricultural Research Institute, said that they have been pushing for the government to replace the strict liability clause with fault-based liability, which would mean that anyone claiming compensation for damage would have to prove that whoever introduced the GMOs was at fault.

He said that researchers have been conducting research on GMO in laboratories due to the strict liability clause that ties their hands.

"We are all wary of the strict liability clause because any damage that may occur during and after research with GMOs, we the researchers, and donors or partners funding the research will be held accountable," he said.

However, he added, once the review process is complete and the strict liability clause is changed to fault-based liability then donors and partners will be ready to fund the field trials.

Tanzania is one of the 20 most bio diverse countries on earth. In a world facing environmental meltdown Tanzania is fiercely protective of its rich environment.

By Rosemary Mirondo, TEA Special Correspondent



Left: Joseph Nduguru, the officer in charge of Mikocheni Agricultural Research Institute



Right: Minister of State for Environment Binilith Mahenge

GMOs Already In Motion: Ministers And MPs Visit CSIR-SARI GMO Cotton Site In Tamale

It appears efforts to make room for GMO Crops in Ghana is receiving the needed interest as Mr. Akwasi Opong-Fosu, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, led a team of ministers of state and members of parliament to inspect the CSIR-SARI Genetically Modified Cotton site in Tamale.

The team also included Dr. Ahmed Yakubu Alhassan, Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) in-charge of Crops among other members of parliament from the Select Committee on Food and Agriculture who inspected the amazing Biotechnology cotton confined experimental field site at Nyankpala.

The program, which was organized by Biosafety System, an advocacy group on Genetically Modified Organism was to educate the committee and the general public the essence of embracing scientific Technology to reduce cotton farmers struggle and enhance their production.

Dr. Yakubu Alhassan said, modern technology has transformed the way of farming and also increase the farmer's production.

Dr. Alhassan said GMOs would not replace the conventional ways of agricultural production, explaining that farmers would still have the choice to either adopt the new system (GMOs) or rely on the conventional system.

Farmers have the choice to make, either to adopt the GMO or still practice the conventional way of farming, he added.

Dr. Emmanuel Chamba, Principal Investigator at CSIR – Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) ARI, urged the government to establish an effective body to regulate the cotton industry.

Dr. Stephen Nutsugah, Director of CSIR – SARI, promised to keep on undertaking research to come out with varieties that would help to improve agricultural productivity to ensure food security in the country.

By Geoffrey Buta—Modern Ghana



Upcoming
EventsUpcoming
EventsUpcoming
Events

Meeting of the Training Group to finalize the CLAME training materials, Johannesburg	Dec 1-5
Global Meeting of the RSC (Regulatory Steering Committee), Brussels	Dec 4-5
Global Meeting of the PRD SC, Brussels	Dec 9
ToT workshop, Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire	Dec 8-12
Meeting with DEA and Registrar of pesticides on obstocks, Pretoria	Dec 9
Container Management Planning Meeting, South Africa	Dec 11
Launch of the continental multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) for honey production, pollination services and bee health, Kampala Uganda	Dec 9 - 11
EU Public Consultation on Defining Criteria for Identifying Endocrine Disruptors, SA	Dec 15
Follow-up Public Consultation on Defining Criteria for Identifying Endocrine Disruptors SA	Jan 12
Meeting of the Crop Protection Strategy Council, Washington	Feb 10
Communications Steering Committee, Washington	11 - 12 Feb
Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee, Washington	12 Feb
Container Management Project Team, Brussels	18 March
IPM/RU Project Team, Brussels	22 April
Stewardship Steering Committee	23 April



Photo: Africa Top
Success

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