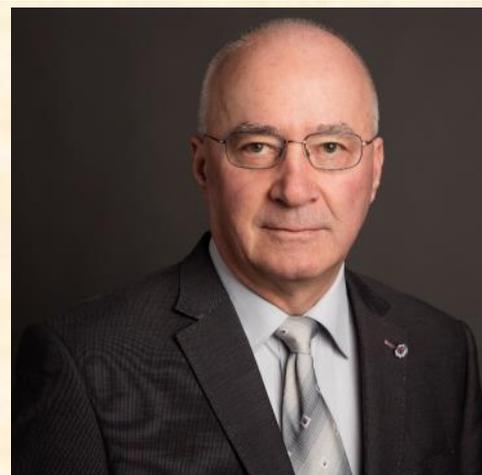


Year End Message

Dear Reader

As announced in the November edition of this newsletter I have taken the decision to reduce my workload and to resign as Director General / CEO of CropLife Africa Middle East by the end of 2017. The Board of Directors at its meeting on October 26 in Cairo confirmed the appointment of Samira Amellal as the new Director General / CEO as of 1 January 2018.

I would like to congratulate Samira on her appointment to this role and to thank her for her willingness to accept the challenge of this position. We are confident that Samira will continue to grow and strengthen our regional association and deal successfully with the diverse issues and challenges that our industry is confronted with in Africa Middle East. I wish Samira all the success and satisfaction in leading the association in the years to come. For me personally, I am pleased to continue to be part of this team with a new role in primarily managing projects with third parties.



After almost 20 years leading CropLife Africa Middle East I would like to look back for a moment, to review some major milestones and share some thoughts with the readers of this newsletter.

I think I have been privileged to join the African industry team – at the time called the Africa Middle East Working Group (AMEWG) – at a time when our global industry association GCPF (Global Crop Protection Federation) decided to embark on a global restructuring and created the brand, **CropLife®** a new corporate identity aiming at creating a more positive image for our industry. The decision to move away from a reactive and defensive communication approach and to engage and interact much more proactively with the civil society was taken at the change of the millennium. It was the result of a growing industry challenge and critique by global civil society representatives following some major industry crisis events that had taken place previously. The fire in Bhopal in India, Seveso in Italy and later the Sandoz fire in Schweizerhalle in Switzerland plus the growing public opposition against the introduction of transgenic crops, yet another “unwanted technology” developed by our member companies, led to the conclusion and decision that such a change was imperative. It was at this time when the global leadership of CropLife asked and encouraged me to establish CropLife Africa Middle East as a new regional industry association and by doing so, give the African continent and the many African national industry associations, their own and stronger voice on the various global platforms where pesticide issues were and continue to be debated, challenged and increasingly regulated. On 23 May 2002 the founding General Assembly took place in Amman, Jordan and with the publication of the Articles of the Association in the *Moniteur belge* on 31 October 2002 the association was formally created.

During the first 6 years our newly created regional association made a major effort to convince national associations to change from their old country specific name to the new global brand CropLife and to adopt the new corporate identity. With a few exceptions this effort was successful. Particularly important in my view, is the fact and reality that in Africa today the name CropLife represents the entire Plant Science Industry, especially at the level of national and regional authorities. This has been of great help in our various advocacy efforts in recent years.

National associations were linked to the regional association with a free license agreement giving the national association the right to use the new global brand CropLife but at the same time these national associations had to subscribe and commit to a number of standards, especially to respect Intellectual Property Rights and also to abide by the FAO Code of Conduct for the Distribution of Pesticides. The newly created regional association continued to offer stewardship support primarily delivered as “Safe Use Training” and targeting small holder farmers but also engaging increasingly on the issue of obsolete stocks under the Africa Stock Piles (ASP) Project.

Until 2010 almost all of our most contributing member companies, namely the global leaders and research based multinational companies, reduced their own presence on the African continent significantly. As a consequence, the interest and possibilities of these member companies’ staff to engage and contribute to association matters was reduced.

This made it increasingly difficult for our regional and national associations to perform our activities and to achieve our goals. It was this development that made us look out for support and allies especially in the area of stewardship activities. We realized that with our own limited industry resources and staffing we never ever would be in a position to train the millions of small holder farmers on the African continent in the correct and responsible use of the needed herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. For this reason, and increasingly successfully, we started to position our association as a partner for the cooperation with development organizations and also as a partner for public private partnership projects.

Another consequence of this reduced presence and engagement by multinational companies was that many markets were left unattended and poorly served with much needed pesticides. This increasingly attracted many new players to these markets. Players, who were not member of the national CropLife association and in many cases also engaged in illegal trade and offering poor quality and fake products. As a consequence, the activities of our association had to be expanded. We no longer could concentrate on stewardship activities only, but we had to deploy significant resources to fight illegal and fake pesticides and also to engage much more on the strengthening and enforcement of the legal framework for pesticide registration at the country level.

Since about 2010 a renewed interest and “the comeback of most multinationals” to the most important countries and markets in Africa Middle East has been observed. This was the beginning of the most successful period for our regional association. Our small regional team was strengthened and also in more and more national associations we now had at least one or even more full-time association professionals. Our overall strategy was developed and continues to be based on three main strategic imperatives and components:

- Stewardship support for a responsible use of pesticides following the global cradle to grave life cycle stewardship strategy.
- Advocacy and support for the improvement of the regulatory framework for pesticides at the national level.
- Advocacy and especially communication to small holder farmers to combat the still growing use of illegal and fake products in our region.

There is not sufficient space here to review in detail the progress made in recent years. Highlights in stewardship were without doubt the obsolete stock removal and more recently our flagship activity with the Spray Service Provider concept being implemented with other stakeholders. Also, as regards the regulatory imperative we have made significant progress since we started to promote the “Principles of Regulations” as a good governance framework for pesticide management at national level. It has indeed been encouraging to observe how in recent global events increasingly self-confident and vocal African country delegations presented their own case against the global anti pesticide network or also against politically motivated European legislative developments related to pesticides, developments that potentially would have a negative impact on the competitiveness of African export countries.

In conclusion I think that our current regional CropLife network is well equipped to cope with ongoing and future challenges of our industry. We are particularly satisfied and proud to be treated as a trusted and respected partner both in the area of product stewardship and responsible pesticide use when we cooperate with external organizations with the shared goal to improve income and livelihood of small holder farmers but equally when discussing and engaging with national and regional authorities on global policy issues such as Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), Pollinator Health, Endocrine Disruptors, MRLs as potential trade barriers, and others. I am confident that our rejuvenated leadership team will continue to build on these achievements and further strengthen the CropLife network in Africa Middle East for the benefit of all stakeholders, for farmers, for the national economies, for the consumers and of course also for our CropLife member companies.

At this point I would like to thank first of all my regional team with the three Regional Directors, Ali Mohamed Ali, Les Hillowitz and Yao Bama who were part of the above journey described from its inception. In 2010 this team was strengthened with the part time support by our Professional Trainer, Manon Dohmen who contributed decisively to the development and implementation of the Spray Service Provider concept in recent years. Another decisive resource was added when Stella Simiyu Wafukho joined the team as Director Regulatory Affaires and Stakeholder Relations in 2014. Without the committed and tireless support by all colleagues the achievements of the described results would not have been possible.

Finally I also would like to thank all readers of this newsletter for their interest and great support that I personally and CropLife Africa Middle East could enjoy over so many years. I am confident that you will continue to offer the same support to our association in the future.

I wish all our readers a relaxing and enjoyable Festive Season together with your family and friends.

Rudolf Guyer

Director General CropLife Africa Middle East

Stewardship

CropLife Kenya Trainer of Trainers (ToT) Course

In an effort to boost the stewardship of pest control products in Kenya, CropLife Kenya held a 5 day training course at the KALRO (Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization) headquarters from 20 - 24 November. The course was aimed at member with the objective to enhance the technical competence of participants in the delivery of messages around responsible use.

The 23 participants were drawn from various departments such as pesticide registration, sales and marketing, pest control operations, product development and logistics. These are key personnel in the product life-cycle and have a role to play in enhancing the responsible handling and use of pesticides.

During the opening session, Patrick Amuyunzu, Chairperson of the Product Stewardship Committee, supported the training as one where participants transform the way in which pest control products are handled within their various spheres. He urged all to be ambassadors for CropLife Kenya/AAK in their day to day activities and interactions. He emphasized the need for information dissemination to change the attitudes of as many people as possible and to achieve responsible pesticide use as envisioned in the Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management.

Facilitators were drawn from CropLife Kenya, Pest Control Products Board, CLAME and Mr. Ngano a consultant on Spraying Skills. The topics covered embodied both the technical aspects of pesticide use as well as the enhancement of facilitation skills that would assist in their content delivery to the users and handlers of pesticides. The 3-day technical sessions covered the:

- Understanding of pests; their behavior, life cycles, damage caused and symptoms associated with the pests
- Concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and its application in various crop production systems as well as having scouting and monitoring as a pillar to this pest management approach
- Regulatory environment in Kenya which includes the process of registering pest control products, licenses in the supply chain as well as the identification of illegal and counterfeit products. This was tied into the accreditation scheme currently being run by CropLife Kenya/AAK.
- Responsible handling of pest control products from manufacture to disposal of empty containers and obsolete stocks



Patrick Amuyunzu, Chairperson of the Product Stewardship Committee



Patrick Amuyunzu gives the opening address at the KALRO HQ boardroom

The participants were taken through a 2-day session on how to enhance their subject matter delivery as well as their facilitation skills and content delivery to various audiences - this session, facilitated by Stella Wafukho from CropLife AME. Participants were alerted to the emerging issues facing the pesticide industry. She covered the weighty issues of "hazard versus risk" based assessment, regulation and classification of endocrine disruptors, highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), pollinator health, neonicotinoids and the renewal of glyphosate licenses in Europe. It is important to note that participants were asked to look out for an impending ruling on 27th November 2018 on Glyphosate in Europe, which was delivered in favor of a 5-year license extension.

In her closing speech at the training, Grace Muchemi from the analytics department of PCPB asked participants to be more vigilant with respect to counterfeit products in the market. She encouraged the upholding of standards and ethics to see the industry scale to new heights in these challenging times of invasive pests and climate change.

In the medium term, the trainees shall be tasked with the dissemination of responsible use of pesticide messages among their various demographics. This shall go a long way in improving the coverage of AAK/CropLife Kenya in fighting counterfeit products, ensuring compliance to industry standards on responsible use as well as professional development of the individual trainers.

Benson Ngigi



Participants of the 5-day ToT course on responsible pesticide use at KALRO Nairobi



CropLife Egypt participation in the GLOBAL.G.A.P. Tour Stop in Luxor, Egypt

The GLOBAL.G.A.P. "Tour Stop" to Luxor, Egypt from 4 - 6 December 2017 was concluded with great success; thanks to the great number of participants, the valued sponsors for funding this event, and Blue Moon's organizational efforts.

Around 140 stakeholders in the fruit and vegetable value chain travelled from 7 countries to the Jolie Ville Kings Island hotel in Luxor, to participate and hear from an influential global panel of speakers. This included representatives of small producer organizations, farming and exporting companies, GLOBAL.G.A.P. certification bodies, international sustainable development organizations, as well as representatives of the Egyptian government (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education and Technical Education, Ministry of Social Solidarity and the Ministry of Supply and internal trade).

Participants shared their insights regarding the implementation of good agricultural practices around the world in view of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the challenges faced and success stories.

Sessions were facilitated by Manal Saleh, General Manager of Blue Moon LLC., and the panel was joined by Elmé Coetzer, GLOBAL.G.A.P. Vice President-Chief Standards Officer, and Andras Fekete GLOBAL.G.A.P. Vice President-Chief Integrity Officer.

CropLife Africa Middle East and CropLife Egypt sponsored the Tour and Said Abdella, CropLife Egypt Board Member, delivered a presentation showing the activities of the national association with Blue Moon. This focused on good agricultural practices including the Responsible Use of pesticides training programs which covered around 1,200 farmers at end December 2017 as well as the SSP training programs in addition to anti-counterfeiting awareness programs.

Said Abdella



Top Right: Field visit to a sun-drying and packing facility in Luxor

Centre: Elmé Coetzer delivering her presentation

Right: Said Abdella delivering his presentation

Below: Group Photo



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Inventory of obsolete pesticides under the GEF-WB Obstocks Project, Cote d'Ivoire

The Technical Committee of the GEF-World Bank project under the Director of the DPVCQ called a meeting on 23 November for the 20 representatives of the key institutions and organizations involved in the implementation of the project.

The key topic covered was the upcoming inventory activities to commence in December 2017. Prior to start-up, the enumerators will undergo a training session for the appropriate use of PPE and for safety measures. The training was planned for the week of November 27 in Korhogo for the first group and for the week of December 04 simultaneously, in Yamoussoukro and Daloa for the two other groups. Inventory taking will follow immediately after the training and is expected to be completed by end January 2018.

Bama Yao



Scaling-up of the SSP Program with member companies of CropLife Malawi

As a way of scaling-up the SSP program with member companies of CropLife Malawi, one of the leading member companies, Farmers Organisation Limited, is collaborating with agro-dealers to train more SSPs in the country. Plans are in place for 300 lead farmers to be identified by agro-dealers and trained by CropLife Malawi to become SSPs in the cotton growing areas of Shire Valley, Balaka and Salima. Meetings with agro-dealers are underway to sensitize them on the SSP program and assess their capacity and commitment to be part of the SSP value network.

The meetings are focusing on the importance of the SSP program to the agro-dealers' business and the selection criteria for identifying potential SSPs. The agro-dealers are also being assessed on their willingness to contribute towards the SSP program. The agro-dealers are key in the process of identifying lead farmers to be trained as SSPs.

The first meeting held in Balaka was overwhelmingly successful as agro-dealers expressed high interest in participating in the process of scaling-up the SSP program. Their impetus to participate is being driven from the demand for pesticides created by the SSPs who in turn will ensure the responsible use at farmer level. Farmers, particularly women, will benefit from accessing certified spraying services and genuine crop protection products supplied by Farmers Organisation Ltd. The agro-dealers are committed to work closely with the SSPs to ensure the sustainability of their businesses.

The SSP program is being implemented by CropLife Malawi with financial support from DFID through Malawi Oilseeds Sector Transformation (MOST). The program commenced in 2015 and has so to-date trained 500 SSPs and so far, serviced more than 6,000 farmers.

Daniel Kalobekamo



Discussions under way at the Balaka agro-dealers meeting

The Responsible Use Awareness Program concludes for 2017, for Smallholder Farmers

CropLife Egypt works in close collaboration with Blue Moon in activities involving professional spray teams with the intention of serving participants of the **USAID funded premium project for Egyptian small growers** which also includes small producer organizations.

Blue Moon staff continued with the “one-day awareness program” to promote the responsible use of pesticides and the usage of personal protection equipment under supervision of CropLife Egypt trainers. Also, the importance of first-aid and how to manage empty pesticide containers were covered. The awareness program was developed to include pictograms for illiterate farmers.

The last round of the 2017 program took place from 9 to 13 December at 4 “small producer organization’s” (Asfoun, Adayma, Ghareira and Namasa) in Luxor, Egypt.

By end 2017 around 1200 farmers were reached by the program from the General Assembly members which is a Fair Trade registered operation.

Said Abdella



Farmers reviewing and studying the pictograms printouts



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Fall Army Worm Fight Receives a Boost from FAO-UN and CropLife Kenya

The fight against *Spodoptera frugiperda* received a big boost this month when the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations- FAO-UN launched a 1-year project aimed at bringing together researchers and extension agents in a tag team to fight the Fall Armyworm.

In a ceremony held on 9th November 2017, the one year project TCP/KEN/3606 was launched in the presence of Top Management from CropLife Kenya, Plant Protection Services Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Pest Control Products Board, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate services, Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization, University of Nairobi, International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology and the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International. The project has two components which shall focus on:

- Funding selected research studies to improve knowledge on the characteristics of the pest as related to local climatic conditions. This shall focus on determining parameters such as host range, developmental biology of the pest, feeding habits and vulnerabilities that can be used to control the Fall Army Worm as well as weaknesses in its main host, maize. This shall be coordinated by KALRO. ICIPE shall headline the inquiry into possible “push pull” technologies.
- Training of extension staff in the ministry of Agriculture on proper identification of the pest as well as IPM approaches that farmers can use. This will include the updating of literature on management options as well as the responsible use of pesticides. This section shall be spearheaded by CropLife Kenya and the Plant Protection Services Department in collaboration with and PCPB.



Evelyn Lusena CEO of CropLife Kenya, leads the plenary session

It is widely accepted that the first line of defense for most farmers has been the use of pesticides. There have been varied results reported by farmers in the areas currently affected which have been because of poor knowledge on the bio-ecology of the pest, its feeding habits, its life cycle, choice of pesticide application time and type of equipment among other factors. CropLife Kenya shall play a major role in training the extension officers and farmers on how to achieve the most from the recommended pesticides while reducing the risk to themselves and the environment.

The Multi Institutional Technical Team on FAW noted that over 100,000 Litres of pesticides had been distributed by the government of which 40,000 Litres were donations from CropLife Kenya member companies. This quantity doesn't account for individual purchases by farmers. It is therefore important that the pesticides be used in the proper manner to avoid negative outcomes which include resistance development.

The project shall cover 40 out of 47 counties in Kenya where the pest has been positively identified and shall end in September 2018. The methodology used shall incorporate Farmer Field Schools, plant clinics radio messages and farmer "barazas" (informal meetings).

Benson Ngigi



Dr. Kinyua from MoA discussing the way forward.



Regulatory

41st Session of CILSS-CSP

The 41st Session of CILSS-CSP took place in Bamako, Mali on 14 November

More than 50 representatives of the nine CILSS member states of the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (Comité Sahélien des Pesticides, CSP), of the eight countries of the humid coastal zone of W. Africa, of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), and of CILSS Secretariat participated at the event. The opening ceremony normally organized as part of the CSP sessions for pesticide dossier studies for registration served as a platform to brief participants on the ongoing key issues on pesticides management in the CILSS-CSP member states. Special topics related to the West African Pesticides Registration Committee (WAPRC) normally are covered since the CSP has been mandated by ECOWAS to implement the WAPRC.

The key message delivered during the opening ceremony was the signing of the Tripartite Convention ECOWAS-WAEMU-CILSS needed for the implementation of the WAPRC in the 15 ECOWAS member states and also in Chad and Mauritania which are not members of ECOWAS. This will allow the setting-up of the WAPRC in 2018 following a workshop for the 17 countries to plan for the effective implementation of the WAPRC. Also, an evaluation of quality control laboratories and of regional research services for bio-efficacy studies will be conducted under such an implementation plan.

Other topics covered relate to pursuing for the effectiveness of SIGEP-AO the online dossier application system and the development of the sections for the National Committees for Pesticides Management (CNGP) for the public and for laboratories under SIGEP-AO.

Sylvain Ouedraogo, Permanent Secretary CSP, & Bama Yao



Above: Partial view of the participants at the opening ceremony chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Mali (Below) 2nd R-L).

Photo Courtesy CILSS-CSP.



Group photo of the participants at the 41st session of CILSS-CSP



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Businesses #BeatPollution at the 3rd UNEA



From left to right; Stella Simiyu Wafukho on the podium, H.E. Dr. Edgar Gutiérrez, President of the UN Environment Assembly, H.E. Miroslav Lajčák; President of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly and Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Program during the Opening of the Business for the Environment

Under the coordination of the Global Business Alliance for Environment (GBA4A) the very first Business Symposium in the history of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) was held on 3rd December 2017. The event marked the growing recognition for business' role and responsibility in achieving the sustainable development goals, and the renewed commitment the business community has made to engage with UN Environment and its member states.

The focus of the symposium was on business' contribution to achieving a pollution-free planet. The event was graced by H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Dr. Edgar Gutiérrez, President of the UN Environment Assembly and Erik Solheim, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Program who gave respective remarks focusing on the important role of businesses in tackling pollution.

15 companies gave presentations in a rapid-fire format on their respective contributions to alleviating pollution.

CAMPO LIMPO SYSTEM - REVERSE LOGISTICS FOR EMPTY CONTAINERS OF CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS IN BRAZIL By João Cesar Meneghel Rando, InpEV

"The Campo Limpo system, performs the environmentally correct disposal of post-consumption agrochemical containers, established over 15 years ago. It is one of the largest reverse logistics programs for solid waste in Brazil

The efficiency of the system can be verified in numeric terms:

- 94% of all the primary plastic containers for agrochemical products sold in Brazil, are properly disposed of after being returned by growers
- from 2002 to 2017, more than 450,000 tons of empty agrochemical containers were collected
- 572,000 tons of CO2 equivalent emissions were avoided
- 1.3 million barrels of oil were spared

Campo Limpo System operates under four principles or pillars:

- The existence of a law which shared responsibilities among all the connections in the agricultural chain (farmers, distribution channels, manufacturing industries and government), regarding the destination of these empty containers
- The integration of all the chain links since the very beginning of the system
- Huge efforts on education and awareness of each linked responsibility and an information management system that guides the decision-making process towards cost reduction and efficiency increase



**"Campo Limpo System:
reverse logistics for
agrochemical post-
consumption empty
containers in Brazil"**

Joao Rando
Inpev

João Cesar Meneghel Rando, President of InpEV presented on post consumption management of agrochemical containers during the GBA4E Business Symposium

BEES AND POLLINATORS, ESSENTIAL TO AGRICULTURE, CRUCIAL TO BAYER - Eric Bureau, Bayer East Africa Limited

“Bees and other pollinators are essential for global ecosystems as well as for agriculture. Therefore, bee health is a topic of key importance for Bayer. To account for this, the Bayer Bee Care Program has been established in 2012, which is being implemented by two Bayer Bee Care Centers in Germany and in the USA, and which integrates all the activities of the company related to pollinator protection and research, as well as to the stakeholder dialogue on pollinator health.

There are three focal areas of the Bee Care Programme, pollinator biodiversity and bee nutrition, honey bee health and apiculture, and the interface between pollinators and agriculture. More than thirty scientific projects on these areas with 2-6 years of duration have been launched in collaboration with research partners in 27 countries across five continents. In these research projects, Bayer collaborates with 28 institutions, including universities, research centers, NGOs and museums and supports six MSc students (two each in Colombia, Kenya and Thailand) and four PhD students (one each in Chile, France, Germany and Kenya). Besides research activities, projects to improve foraging habitats for bees are ongoing.



Eric Bureau, Managing Director East Africa & Head of Bayer CropScience during the GBA4E Business Symposium



Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) UNEA 3 took place from 4TH - 6TH December 2017 at UNEP's headquarters in Nairobi, under the overarching theme of **“Towards a Pollution Free Planet”**

The assembly was structured around plenary sessions, contact groups, informal discussions, multi-stakeholder dialogue, leadership dialogues, and side events among others. Altogether, there were 4,300 delegates comprised of 1,197 delegates from more than 170 Member States, 711 representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders, and 94 inter-governmental organizations involved in the respective dialogues. Members of the business community under the banner Global Business Alliance for Environment (GBA4E) participated in different meetings leading to, on the side-lines and during the UNEA assembly including:

- Participation in the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum
- Participation in open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
- Participation in contact groups negotiating various resolutions, addressing specific dimensions of pollution
- Participation in Leadership dialogues, multi-stakeholder dialogue and side events among others, as discussants, respondents and speakers.
- Delivering statements on behalf of Business and Industry Major Group during UNEA opening and closing plenaries as well as the Multi-Stakeholders Dialogue.

Outcomes of the UNEA assembly include adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, Adoption of 11 resolutions and Ministerial Declaration, election of UNEA-4 President and Bureau and adoption of decisions relating to organizational matters. Additionally agreement on the date and venue of UNEA-4, and extension of the publication of the 6th edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6), and the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions. More details can be retrieved at : <http://web.unep.org/environment/assembly/assembly>. The next UNEA will be held on 11th – 15th March 2019, in Nairobi.

Stella Simiyu Wafukho

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Association Management

Pesticides (Ag-Inputs) at the International Agricultural Fair of Cote d'Ivoire

The fourth annual event of the International Agricultural and Animal Resources Fair of Cote d'Ivoire (SARA 2017) took place on November 17-26 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

The objective of SARA 2017 was to pursue the promotion of the sustained growing agricultural sector driven by the national plan for agricultural investment (PNIA), and to address the global issue of climate change, hence the theme: "Structural Changes of the Agricultural Economy in the context of Climate Change". During the four focus days, the 17 panel discussions provided an opportunity to stress on key issues such as the importance of agricultural inputs and essential resilience tools for responding to the climate change challenges.

SARA attracted more than 700 exhibitors from more than 20 countries, South Africa being the special guest country. The event was extensively covered by the media.

The Director of the Crop Protection Directorate, a guest of a live TV program on Monday November 20, highlighted the contribution of pesticides to improved benefits from these tools as experienced by Cote d'Ivoire in various sectors such as cocoa, cashew, palm oil, bananas, coffee and cotton. He stressed on the importance for the responsible use of pesticides to ensure yields and quality, and to benefit for these tools there is need for users to refer to the professional suppliers, thereby avoiding illegal pesticides with the potential risks. A meeting was called between the ministerial delegation of Ghana and of Cote d'Ivoire to discuss the illegal trade of pesticides and cocoa beans. The two delegations agreed to pursue discussions and to put in place a bilateral committee to strengthen the fight against such criminal activity in order to supply the market with sound pesticides and quality cocoa beans.

More than 650 visitors were recorded at the CropLife Cote d'Ivoire stand during the 10 days, and many more at the stands of the member companies of CropLife CI.

Follow-up meetings are planned with interested stakeholders to discuss cooperation with CropLife Cote d'Ivoire leading to specific activities for the future

Bama Yao



The Regional Director of CropLife AME speaking about CropLife AME and CropLife CI to officers of cooperatives and of projects
Photo Courtesy CropLife CI.



The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Above - in green shirt), and the Director of Cabinet and the Director of DPVCQ (Right 2nd and 3rd L-R, respectively) were among the many visitors at the stand of CropLife CI.

Photo: Courtesy CropLife CI.



The Director of Crop Protection Directorate (DPVCQ) during the live TV programme on pesticides and agricultural productivity

Plant Biotechnology

AU and FAO Ask African Gov'ts to Promote Agri-Biotech to Help Combat Food Insecurity

African governments need to exert more effort to put in place viable legislation and investments that promote agricultural biotechnologies and address food insecurity. This was one of the recommendations put forward during the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) *Regional Meeting on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa* held from November 22 to 24, 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The African Union Commission (AUC) and FAO urged African governments to proactively employ Science, Technologies and Innovations (STI) especially biotechnologies to address food insecurity and malnutrition challenges faced by the continent. AUC Commissioner for Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa noted that the application of STI in the agricultural sector is a priority in combating food insecurity and malnutrition in Africa.

"African governments should create a favorable policy environment and invest more resources in order for the region to benefit from the safe applications of proven biotechnologies so as to lift vulnerable communities out of extreme food insecurity," she said.

Her sentiments were echoed by FAO Assistant Director-General for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection Ren Wang, who remarked that it is imperative for Africa to make biotechnologies, knowledge and innovation available, accessible and applicable to smallholder farmers to help them maximize their agricultural productivity while keeping the environment healthy and sustainable.

Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources Eyasu Abraha revealed that Ethiopia is building a capacity to extensively use biotechnologies to enhance the production of crops and animals to support the country's efforts towards food self-sufficiency. He noted that 80 percent of the country's population depends on subsistence agriculture to provide food and income for their families.

The meeting was attended by over 200 representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, private sector entities, academia and research institutions in the region. It built upon FAO's international symposium, *The Role of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition*, which took place from February 15 to 17, 2016 in FAO Headquarters, Rome.

ISAAA



AUC Commissioner for Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Upcoming Events

UPCOMING
EVENTSUPCOMING
EVENTSUPCOMING
EVENTS

Pesticide Management Days - Obstocks Project Cote d'Ivoire	Dec 13-15
Preparation CM Stakeholders Workshop – Malawi,	Mid Jan
CM Stakeholders Workshop – Malawi,	Mid Feb
SAICM Africa Regional Conference, Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire	Feb 6 - 8
CPSC Meeting, Brussels	Feb 13
Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee Meeting, Brussels	Feb 14
Maghreb Regulatory Meeting, Rabat, Morocco	Feb 20-21
Pollinator Issue Project Team Meeting, Brussels	Mar 6
Regulatory Steering Committee Meeting, Brussels	Mar 7 - 9
CP Communications Steering Committee Meeting, Brussels	Mar 20-21
CLAME Board Meeting and AGM	Apr 9-10
Resistance Management Project Team Meeting	Apr 10
IPM & Responsible Use Project Team Meeting	Apr 11
Stewardship Steering Committee Meeting	Apr 12
Container Management Project Team Meeting	Apr 13



AFDB



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GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

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