



Stewardship

Extending the Community-Based Container Management Scheme in Mali to other Sahel countries

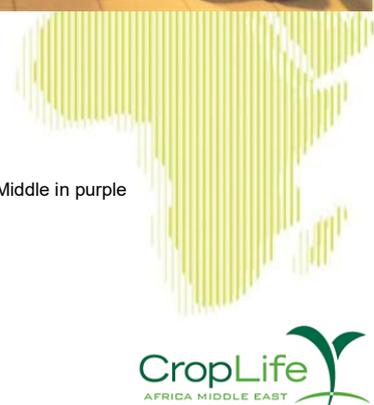
FAO and the “obsolete pesticides project of Mali” (PEPPO Mali) organized a 3-day workshop to assess the viability of the community-based pilot container management scheme (CMS) under the GEF-FAO/PPMS-WA project.

The pilot scheme has been running in 2 cotton growing areas, namely Kita and Koutiala. The objective of the assessment workshop was to consider the extension of the scheme to other cotton growing areas of Mali and other cotton growing countries such as Burkina Faso, Chad and Senegal.

The 40 participants were representatives of cotton companies, the Plant Protection Directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment, groups of consultants, organizations involved in container management and waste disposal in Mali, the toxicological laboratory in Mali (Laboratoire de Toxicologie et d’Evaluation de la Qualité Environnementale, LTCQE), the obsolete stocks project (PEPPO) Mali, FAO and the FAO Consultant, CropLife AME and CropLife Mali.



Group photo of the participants with the Interim Director, DNACPN Mrs. Niafo Niafatouma Ascofare (Middle in purple dress). Courtesy: PEPPO Mali



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Following the opening ceremony chaired by the interim Director, Mrs. Niafo Niafatouma Ascofare, participants were taken through the overall GEF-FAO/PPMS-WA project and the pilot scheme.

Detlef Döhnert, Consultant for FAO, presented the evaluation report of the pilot CMS with a focus on the legislative/regulatory environment. Also covered was the collection model, the cotton sector and the extension into other cropping sectors, sustainable funding mechanisms, recycling, sensitization and training of farmers, RACI, national and regional plans.

Bama Yao, Regional Director, enlightened the participants on the experience of CropLife International in container management. The presentation covered the vision on container management, a pillar of the stewardship program, the ongoing global collection activities especially in Africa with the mature scheme in South Africa and the pilot programs elsewhere. Time was spent on “Triple Rinsing” regarding the FAO guidelines followed by “Removal” and “Return”, the benefits of triple rinsing and of the recycling option, with the various options of end-products.

The subsequent discussions, and updates from the country reports from the group work led to the following recommendations:

- The setting-up of a working group of 5 members comprising representatives of the plant protection services (1), the cotton sector (2), wastes sector/environment (1) and (1) to be nominated according to the country priority sector.
- The organization of a feedback workshop to share the conclusions of the present validation workshop.
- Verification of the various countries regulatory frameworks
- Contacting the respective cotton companies for their contribution to the funding of the schemes.

The above recommendations are to cover the initiation of the country CMS.

Bama Yao



Above: Nonon Diarra and Kader Diakité, President and Secretary General, respectively CropLife Mali played an active part in the workshop together with B. Yao here explaining the benefits of the triple rinsing of the empty containers to the participants. Photos Courtesy: PEPP0 Mali



Above: Detlef Döhnert and Bama Yao (Far Left) addressing the participants during the closing ceremony chaired by Demba Sidibé (Left) the PEPP0 Mali Coordinator.

Photos Courtesy: PEPP0 Mali



Stewardship

CropLife Ghana commits to support the Ghana-EPA on IPM/RU

Members of CropLife Ghana and other pesticide importers met with J. Pwamang, Agriculture Executive Director at the Ghana-EPA on June 14 to discuss issues surrounding the recent misuse of aluminum phosphide products by untrained and unlicensed individuals in household application.

The meeting was to design ways to make sure that the product is used both safely and effectively applied for industrial use only. This will prevent poisoning cases as recently reported in the media.

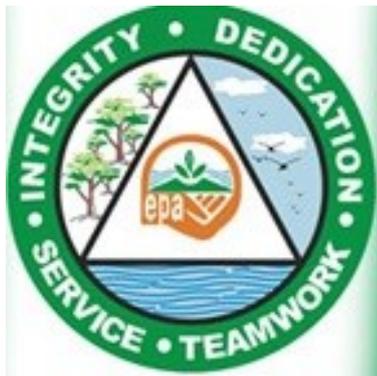
Fred Boampong, of CropLife Ghana, was nominated to be one of the five members of the committee, set-up to develop a comprehensive framework for training and advocacy programs, in the shortest possible time. The committee is chaired by Joseph Edmund, Deputy Registrar, Ghana-EPA while Lovelace Sarpong, Ghana-EPA is assigned as the Secretary. The two remaining members are John K. Tsimese and Ben Dwomoh.

The EPA had earlier enacted that all aluminum phosphide products be withdrawn from the market and current stocks reported to the Agency for proper control. Four member companies of CropLife Ghana have duly complied with the directive of the agency.

Frederick Boampong



Participants at the meeting (Above) chaired by J. Pwamang (Right)



Stewardship

Zambia kicks off Phase (2) of the Agro-dealer Certification Project

In 2015, Zambia launched Phase (1) of the, “Chemical Safety Capacity Building and Certification of Agrochemicals Dealers in Zambia” project. The project was managed by the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) in collaboration with CropLife Zambia and supported with funding from a SIDA NGO, Musika Development Initiative Limited.

The main aim of the project was to create a sustainable agro-dealer network system that could be easily monitored and regulated by ZEMA and the pesticide Industry. The project covered the introduction of the Responsible Use of pesticides concept to the agro-dealers as well as the legal requirement for pesticide handling in Zambia. Under the project, ZEMA conducted compliance inspections on the trained agro-dealers, members of CropLife Zambia will only supply pesticides to certified agro-dealers.

It was the hope of the project team that agro-dealers would adhere to the minimum responsible use requirements and would be able to advise farmers correctly.

Under Phase (1), 266 agro-dealers were certified from 4 districts. The certified agro-dealers were included in the database and licensed to sell pesticides by ZEMA. This was part of the requirement and compliance inspections by ZEMA which revealed that certified agro-dealers implemented the correct practices.

From the successful implementation of Phase (1), further funding was approved by Musika for Phase (2) which would target to certify a further 1,500 agro-dealers from 25 districts.

Under Phase (2), 15 trainers would be trained and certified by CropLife Zambia who would be charged with the responsibility to train agro-dealers. The Training of Trainers took place from 9 to 13 July and was attended by 19 participants. The participants were drawn from 12 districts and comprised of field officers from CropLife member companies, Government extension officers and field officers from an NGO, NutriAid which promotes agro-dealers in Zambia.

Topics covered during the training included the introduction to pesticides

- Legal and Institutional framework governing agrochemicals
- Introduction to pesticides
- Chemical Hazard Communication (pesticides SDS, Understanding a pesticide label)
- Pesticide hazard classification
- Pesticide formulations & Modes of Action
- Handling and Safety (Use of Personal Protective Equipment.
- Counterfeit pesticides
- How to manage empty pesticide containers
- How to deal with pesticide poisoning (First aid)
- Transport and Storage guidelines
- Record keeping
- Training and Facilitation Skills (Training principles, How adults learn, Qualities of a good trainer).

The next stage will include developing training dates for agro-dealers in various districts and conducting this training using the trained trainers. The target is to train and certify 1,500 agro-dealers in 25 districts by June 2019 when the project comes to an end.

Perry Ngoma



Group Photo



Stewardship

Business Forum between Vegpro (K) Ltd and CropLife Kenya SSPs in Kimana, Kajiado County

On Wednesday 27 June, in the Kimana - Kajiado South Sub-county in Kajiado County, Kenya, at the Friends of Kilimanjaro Farmers Community Hall, stakeholders, Vegpro (K) Ltd., FOKI officials, MoA, SNV, AAK (CropLife Kenya), got together to focus on Kenya's horticultural industry.

Kenya's horticultural industry has continued to grow since its infancy years in 1975 under FPEAK which is involved in the regulation and coordination of members involved in growing and/or exporting fresh cut flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Vegpro (K) Ltd. (VP) is the largest producer and exporter of fresh produce from Kenya and through its VP Food Division it is currently producing fresh produce on its six farms in Kenya and managing a portfolio of over 1700 smallholder farmers in Kenya's four major production zones.

Vegpro's crop production practices are based on GlobalGAP standards, which are recognised by fresh produce markets and growers worldwide as a measure for achieving sustainable production. In this regard, in collaboration with FOKI farmers of Kajiado South, it aims at adopting and engaging the existing pool of trained and certified CropLife Kenya Spray Service Providers (SSPs) in Kimana, Rombo and Kuku areas that have a combined farmer database of over 600 farmers. The key focus of the business linkage forum to VP and FOKI was to meet the CropLife Kenya SSPs in the region and establish their skill sets prior to engaging them in service provision in their out grower zones in the area. Adoption and utilization of the SSPs by Vegpro not only means this complies with the Certification Standards but also that its more than 600 farmers in the region are producing their crops in a responsible and sustainable manner while utilizing crop protection products. For the SSPs, this was a forum that enabled them to showcase their services, competencies and develop contact details with the VP Company and FOKI community farmers.

Key outputs and deliverables expected, include

- Vegpro (K) Ltd will utilize and adopt the SSPs for their over 600 out grower farms.
- Vegpro (K) Ltd will move to mobilize, train and sensitize their out grower farmers in collaboration with the SSPs in their adoption to boost GlobalGAP certification compliance, the responsible use of pesticides, management of pesticide resistance and tackle counterfeit products in the region through community meetings and barazas.

Andrew Kariuki, SSP Field Coordinator, CropLife Kenya



Vegpro (K) Ltd, Loitokitok, Production Manager, James Kamore addressing and introducing CropLife Kenya SSPs to Vegpro Exporter Farmers in Kajiado South



Stewardship

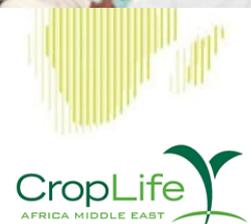


Left & Below: CropLife Kenya SSPs being addressed by Betty of SNV Kenya, Kajiado South MoA and Vegpro (K) Ltd officials



Left and Below

Fresh Produce Exporter Business Linkage Forum between CropLife Kenya SSPs, Vegpro (K) Ltd and Friends of Kilimanjaro (FOKI) Community Farmers in Kimana, Kajiado South, June 2018



Stewardship

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire a Key Partner of the Coffee-Cocoa PPPP

The 7th annual conference of the Public-Private Partnership Platform (PPPP) in the coffee-cocoa sector convened on June 19-22 at the Hotel President, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. CropLife d'Ivoire, as a member of the PPPP with 2 seats, was represented by its President, Guy J. Liabra and the Executive Director Koffi R. Yeboué.

More than 400 participants representing the public sector (ministries and national institutions), the private sector (cocoa industry, input suppliers, certification and training organizations), farmers and farmers' organizations, NGO's, etc. attended the conference.

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire made a valuable contribution and provided some innovative approaches during the discussions which followed the presentations and panels on:

- Innovations and Project component which focuses on the farmers' access to inputs, funding of the cooperatives, mobile payments, training tools for farmers and farmers' organizations and child labour.
- Initiative Cocoa-Forests through the commitment by the chocolate industry to assist Côte d'Ivoire (and Ghana per the London Declaration) to fight deforestation and forest degradation.
- Improving Producers' Incomes based on the studies conducted by the Royal Tropical Institute and by GIZ-CIRES
- Technologies to mitigate the impact of climate change through the experiences of SOLEA with its irrigation system in cocoa production.
- Panel sessions on "Contribution of the partners for forest protection and preservation", the "Contribution of the private sector for coffee-cocoa processing" and "Improving the efficiency of the PPPP".

Many organizations and institutions including the new management of the Coffee-Cocoa Council (CCC) expressed their desire to work more closely with CropLife Côte d'Ivoire. Meetings are planned to start in the next weeks to set up the specific cooperation frameworks.

Bama Yao



Koffi R. Yeboué (Above Left) provided valuable guidance during the presentations and the panel sessions (Above Right) of the PPPP conference.

Photos Courtesy: CropLife Côte d'Ivoire.



Stewardship

Minister Alan Winde releases new honeybee strategy - Western Cape, South Africa

The Department of Agriculture - working with bee associations in the Western Cape - has released a new strategy aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the bee population in the province.

The honeybee is as important to agriculture as water, land and air. According to the South African National Biodiversity Institute, more than 50 different crops in South Africa are reliant on insect pollination.

In the Western Cape, 50% of commercial bee keepers' revenue currently comes from pollination services with the remaining 50% coming from the production of honey and other bee related products. The National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries currently lists 130 000 managed colonies of bees and 1800 beekeepers on their records. About 70 000 of the colonies are based in the Western Cape. However, the numbers are thought to be much larger, because of unregistered colonies and bee keepers

According to Hortgro, the current pollination needs required by bee dependent deciduous fruit crops are 65 000 pollination units- a demand currently being met.

This is forecast to grow by at least another 30 000 units over the next decade due to new cultivars and growth in agriculture. The seed industry is also forecast to increase demand for pollination units by 30 000 over the next decade, and berry growers, by another 20 000 units. In effect, the demand for pollination services is expected to double in the next decade.

However, the bee industry has identified several problems affecting bees, among them insufficient forage, theft and vandalism, disease, environmental hazards such as pollution and exposure to external factors such as fires and drought.

The new strategy aims to ensure the continued sustainability of the bee population by focusing on five key areas:

- Ensuring sustainable bee forage
- Research and innovation
- Developing a regulatory framework
- Transformation in the industry
- Governance and stakeholders

The single largest concern is that there will not be enough forage for bees in the Western Cape. South Africa's honeybee species rely on both indigenous and exotic species, like eucalyptus, flowering crops and suburban plants to provide forage sources year-round. One major problem is that eucalyptus has been targeted by DAFF's Working for Water programme because they are an alien invasive species. This has seen six species of the tree being targeted for removal, even in contexts where they pose no water threat.

The strategy proposes that a Bee Forage Commission be established, which will be composed of players from various provincial and national government departments as well as universities, and representatives from the bee industry. Among the projects this commission will undertake will be the development of a plant book exploring bee friendly plants, a campaign with nurseries to mark plants as "bee friendly" in much the same way some species are being marketed and sold as "water friendly", and exploring the possibilities of a mass be forage planting project.

Minister of Economic Opportunities, Alan Winde welcomed the strategy and said, "we need to take this document with its implementation plans and ensure that each goal sits with somebody who is going to make sure that it becomes a reality."

Minister Winde said that a properly regulated and managed industry, had the potential to create jobs and expand the economy.

"The report shows that in South Africa, we import a lot of honey. South Africa has imported 2 000 tonnes of honey annually since 2010, and honey production has dropped to 40% of what it was in the 1980s. This is an agri-processing opportunity, to produce local honey, and honey-related products right here in the Western Cape," he said.

Chairman of the Western Cape Bee Industry Association, Dr Tlou Masehela said "this is a good opportunity for us. This is a detailed plan and we now have a line of communication with the various government departments. This will require resources, and we must explore ways of getting those. The industry at large should really pull together and make this work."

Bianca Capazorio, spokesperson for the Ministry of Economic Opportunities



Regulatory Advocacy

Training on Quality Control in Pesticides Registration 6 - 9 July 2018

A two-day training on the evaluation of the quality of a pesticide registration dossier took place at Gold Mark Hotel in Bishofstu/Debre Zeit in Ethiopia from July 6 to 9. The training brought together officials from Ethiopia's Plant Health Regulatory Directorate (PHRD) and members of CropLife Ethiopia.

This training, conducted by CropLife Africa Middle East was held as part of capacity building efforts within the Horti-LIFE project. This is a three-year project sponsored by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and implemented by SNV in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR)

The objectives of this training were to:

- Enhance capacity of PHRD regulatory officials in the evaluation of pesticide registration dossiers'
- Establish a checklist for rapid assessment of dossier quality
- Establish next steps for dossiers that fail to pass established quality checks.

The first day was dedicated to principles of regulation (POR) and Ethiopia's regulatory policy framework where a presentation of the provisions of Proclamation No. 674/2010 and the draft Pesticide Regulation was made and discussed as well as a gap analysis exercise based on the POR benchmark questionnaire. The second day's session was dedicated to dossier quality and development of a check list for the rapid assessment of dossiers. The third and fourth days were dedicated to review selected application dossiers by regulators and consultant Gerhard Gündermann taking into account the dossier quality checklist developed during the training. Gerhard is vice president of Julius Kühn-Institute being the regulatory authority in charge of pesticide registration in Germany.

It was recommended that further efforts in regulatory capacity building should be focused on implementation of GHS and equivalence

Stella Simiyu Wafukho



Participants at the training in Bishofstu/Debre Zeit, Ethiopia



Netherlands

Development

Organisation



Experts Tackle Importance of GM Crops Commercialization in Beijing

Section: News from Around the World

Over 150 stakeholders from government, universities, research institutions, local and international companies, and 13 traditional and online media practitioners participated in the *Crop Biological Breeding Industrialization Seminar 2018* co-organized by the Chinese Society of Biotechnology, Chinese Society of Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology, the Crop Science Society of China, China Society of Plant Protection, Chinese Society of Agri-biotechnology, and ISAAA at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) in Beijing, China on July 11, 2018.

Professor Zhu Zhen from the Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Professor Zhang Chunyi, Director of China Biotechnology Information Center (ChinaBIC) moderated the event. Professor Xu Zhihong, Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Former President of Beijing University served as the Chairman and gave a message during the Seminar. He stressed the importance of agri-biotechnology education in China and criticized rumors about GM crops.

Dr. Paul Teng, ISAAA Chair, presented the *Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops in 2017*. Dr. Rhodora Aldemita, Director of ISAAA Global Knowledge Center on Crop Biotechnology reviewed the Biotech Crop Adoption in Asia-Pacific. Prof. Liu Yaoguang, Academician of Chinese Academy of Science and Professor of South China Agricultural University gave a presentation entitled *Plant Genome Editing Technology and Its Application in Gene Function Research and Genetic Modification*. Ms. He Xiaodan, Vice director of the Sector of GMO Safety and Intellectual Property Rights, Science and Education Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs explained the *Safety Regulation Framework of Agri-biotechnology in China*.

For more information about agri-biotech development and biotech crops in China, contact ChinaBIC at zhangt@mail.las.ac.cn

ISAAA





Australian OGTR Issues License for GM Wheat Field Trials

Section: News from Around the World

Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) has issued a license to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) authorizing the field trials of wheat genetically modified (GM) for rust disease resistance.

The field trials for License Application DIR 162 will be carried out between September 2018 to September 2023 with the proposed locations at Ginninderra Experiment Station in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and Boorowa Agricultural Research Station, Shire of Boorowa in New South Wales for up to 1 hectare per year.

The final Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) concludes that this field trial poses negligible risks to people and the environment and does not require specific risk treatment measures.

The finalized RARMP, together with its summary, a set of Questions and Answers on this decision and a copy of the license are available online from the DIR 162 page in the OGTR website.

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