



Stewardship

CropLife Mauritius secures funding under the GEF SGP of UNDP for its Container Management Project

CropLife Mauritius secured partial funding for its Container Management Project amounting to US\$ 50,000 under the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program (GEF SGP) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The funding spans a period of 2 years, commencing June 2014.

The Container Management Project involves 3 key steps: the training of farmers focusing on “triple rinsing”, the collection of empty containers and disposal through recycling. This will involve the following 6 activities:

1. Good coordination amongst all stakeholders.
2. Training of farmers.
3. Construction, placement & management of collection cages / bins.
4. Collection and transportation to the recycling plant.
5. Outreach and sensitisation to the vast number of small-scale farmers.
6. Project monitoring & reporting.

The signing ceremony took place on Monday 12 May 2014 at the UNDP Offices in Port Louis. Mr Simon Springett, Resident Representative, UNDP Mauritius and the President of CropLife Mauritius, Mr Philippe Le Vieux, signed the documents. Members of CropLife Mauritius attended the ceremony, which was held in the presence of Ms Pamela Bapoo-Dundoo, Eco-counsellor, National Coordinator, GEF SGP-UNDP and Ms Kamini Beedasee, Programme Assistant, GEF SGP –UNDP.

Mukesh Rughoo & Philippe Le Vieux



Above: Mr. Philippe Le Vieux, President CropLife Mauritius and Mr. Simon Springett, Resident Representative, UNDP Mauritius signing the agreement



Left: Philippe Le Vieux, President of CropLife Mauritius receiving the signed documents from Mr. Simon Springett, Resident Representative, UNDP Mauritius



Right: Philippe Le Vieux being interviewed by the MBC TV. The story was broadcast on the news channel on Tuesday 13 May at 7:30 pm.

SSP Project Zambia: Training

A SSP Trainer-of-Trainer & Responsible Use Training took place in Lusaka 5 – 9 April at which 28 candidates participated with 27 receiving accreditation. Nine companies were represented at the intervention. Results of participant’s assessment were:

Certificate of Competence	Certificate of attendance	Highest Score for written examination	Average Score for written examination	Highest Score for group presentations	Average Score for individual presentations
27	1	94%	76.3%	75%	58.8%

Herman Louw facilitated the course. Perry Ngoma, Secretary of CropLife Zambia officially opened the program, whilst Chola Kamaki, Chairman of CropLife Zambia, undertook the closing ceremony and certificate awards.

On conclusion of the training a review of the SSP program in the country was undertaken;

Currently we have 28 trainers who are active in the field, training and monitoring the SSP Project activities and this represents about 25 % of the accredited trainers on the project database. Most of the existing trainers left to join Government and other institutions or have moved on to other companies in the last 2.5 years.

The Project has faced some challenges with monitoring which has negatively impacted on the re-certification process. The model has however now been revised and CropLife Zambia will take the lead in monitoring and managing both the certification and re-certification of SSPs. This will involve working with the current as well as the new trainers. The trainers will develop training plans in coordination with CropLife Zambia, and MUSIKA will, at a later stage provide basic training in business skills to help SSPs to market their services and earn meaningful returns. Later in the year, around November, a monitoring tour will be undertaken to assess the implementation process and assess areas that might require some fine-tuning.

The process will be fully managed by CropLife Zambia supported by member companies and other NGOs such as MUSIKA, who will provide additional funding and other added resources that may be deemed necessary to improve the project.

The SSP project will also be used as a framework for the Container Management Project implementation within the small scale farming areas that will commence shortly. Sensitisation and installation of container collection cages will start even before the container management project is fully operational.

Summary of the activities planned include Training of new trainers - Completed : Revision meeting with MUSIKA & companies — May-June 2014 : Development of training plans - May-June 2014 : Training and certification - June – November 2014 : Updating of database - June – December 2014 : Radio adverts - June – November 2014 : Monitoring tour - November 2014 : Impact assessment - March - April 2015 : Seasonal report - April 2015 : Training of additional trainers, “refresher” - May 2015

Between this, CropLife Zambia will work with MUSIKA to develop the business component with implementation planned for the 2015-2016 season. Planning will also go ahead to infuse the Container Management awareness campaign.

In his closing remarks, the Chairman CropLife Zambia stressed that a certificate means nothing if it is not put to practice. It was now time to go out there and make a difference for the small-scale farmers of Zambia

Herman Louw & Perry Ngoma



Group Photo

CropLife Mauritius participated at a training organised by the Mauritius Fairtrade Cooperative Federation Ltd.

The Mauritius Fairtrade Co-operative Federation Ltd, in collaboration with the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives, the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority and Fairtrade International organized a 2-day training session on Wednesday 7 and 8 May for the benefit of its members. The training took place at Boname Hall of the Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Research Institute of the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority.

The Mauritius Fairtrade Co-operative Federation groups 27 cooperative societies totaling some 5000 small sugar cane farmers, all involved in sugar production under Fairtrade and certified by FLO-CERT (Fairtrade's independent certification company) so as to benefit from the additional US\$ 60 per ton of sugar produced. In order to be part of the Fairtrade system, producers have to meet certain criteria, which are defined in the Fairtrade Standards set by Fairtrade International. FLO-CERT manages the process of auditing and certification to guarantee compliance with the Fairtrade principles. Some of the important topics in the Management of Production Practices are: Integrated Pest Management, Proper Use and Handling of Pesticides and other Hazardous Chemicals, Choice of Pesticides Used, Soil and Water, Waste Management, GMO's and Biodiversity, amongst others.

Mukesh Rughoo



Right: Mauritian farmers have become Fairtrade certified and have begun farming in a more environmentally sustainable way. Photo Credit: Nasseem Ackbarally/IPS

Above: Standing L-R: Mr. Jean-Philippe Zanavelo, Liaison Officer, Fairtrade International, Mr. Yash Ramdhary of MCI, Mr. Mukesh Rughoo, CropLife Mauritius and Ms. Anju Auckaloo Senior Cooperative Development Officer, Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Regulatory

The 34th Session of the CILSS-CSP

The 34th Session of the CILSS-CSP took place in Bamako, Mali, the week of 26 May.

Participants included the statutory country representatives, consultants and the Permanent and Scientific Secretaries of the CILSS-CSP. Partner organizations included CropLife AME and COLEACP-PIP, both attending the plenary session on May 27 to discuss specific issues, while the committee studied the registration dossiers during the remaining days of the conference.

Bama Yao, WCA Regional Coordinator attended the plenary session on May 27 together with the president of CropLife Mali, and presented on the following 2 key activities under the cooperation framework aiming to improve the registration process:

- The need to organize a joint workshop to deal with specific topics, following the new requirements for pesticide registrations and the side meeting discussion between CSP and CropLife AME during the WCA Hub meeting in April in Yaoundé. CropLife AME will officially confirm details of such a workshop during the coming weeks following the upcoming RRC meeting in July.
- The continuation of the training workshop on risk assessment to focus specifically on operator exposure and surface water, these being the next steps of the training plan and in line with the session held a year ago in Ouagadougou (July 2013). This session, together with the earlier one, will thus provide a full set of tools to help the committee to assess the eco-toxicological status of the products submitted for registration.

The date and venue of the workshop will be set taking into consideration the security issues and the need for full participation of the trainers and the CSP experts. To this end discussions will be held with CSP, CropLife AME and COLEACP as there maybe an opportunity of combining this training workshop with another one COLEACP is considering.

Bama Yao



Above: The Permanent Secretary, Sylvain Ouedraogo presenting the 2013 activity report and key issues and activities for 2014.

Right: Committee members



Representing the Plant Science Industry

The establishment of a Pollinator Forum – South Africa



Right: Mike Allsopp, Senior Researcher, ARC (Bee expert South Africa), Dirk Uys, Bayer, Dr. Christian Maus, Bayer.



On 22 May the Department Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) organized a workshop for the establishment of a Pollinator Forum in South Africa. The workshop was held under the Chairmanship of the Registrar of pesticides.

A total of 63 delegates registered for the event, which took place at the Bayer Auditorium in Isando, Johannesburg. Participants included a widespread of stakeholders, namely; regulators, the bee industry, academia, organized agriculture and the crop protection industry.

Dr. Christian Maus, Global Pollinator Safety Manager, Bayer Bee Care Center was the guest speaker at the workshop.

In his opening address the Registrar said that DAFF was proposing the establishment of the Pollinator Forum to evaluate whether:

- The use of insecticides in South Africa is presenting a higher risk to the health of pollinators;
- The current Act 36 of 1947 data requirements for the testing of insecticides are adequate to address scientific concerns about subtle effects on pollinators, and
- South Africa's regulatory framework needs to be revised in order to better protect pollinators?

A constructive debate followed leading to the formation of a Pollinator Forum, which will function under the offices of the Registrar of pesticides. Nominated representatives on the Forum are:

Dawid Smit – SABIO : Mike Allsopp – ARC : Christian Pirk – University of Pretoria: Corné Louw – Grain South Africa : Lindi Benić – HortGro: Lynette Cokayne – South Africa Pest Control Association : Janine Kelly – DAFF : Louwrens Ferreira - Department of Environmental Affairs :Tom Mabesa - CropLife SA.

Les Hillowitz



Dr Janine Kelly & Mike Allsopp



Mike Miles, Chairman of the South African Bee Industry Association

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Association Management

CropLife Mali holds General Assembly Meeting

CropLife Mali held their General Assembly meeting on 29 May in Bamako at which 12 member companies were represented.

This annual event was organized to discuss and adopt the following:

- The 2014 Budget and Action Plan with key activities focusing on:
- The agro-dealer training programs planned for 68 participants.
- The CropLife Mali “Open-Days” in 3 major production regions where pesticides are widely used.
- A “Roundtable” workshop on the management of pesticide imports with stakeholders including Customs, the Directorate of Agriculture, and the CILSS-CSP. The aim of the workshop is to prevent the importation of counterfeit and fake products.
- The training of officers and the cotton tender committee on pesticide development and registration procedures.
- Stewardship activities in the cotton sector by the member companies.
- Participation and funding of the upcoming meeting of the National Pesticides Management Committee. The General Assembly approved the funding for this meeting.
- The new board of the association that is made up of the President (Nonon Diarra), the Secretary General, the Treasurer, the Secretary of Training and the Secretary of Communications.
- The application for membership of 3 companies for which the Board has been mandated to decide on and report to the General Assembly.

Bama Yao



The President, Nonon Diarra (3rd L-R) together with members of the Board

Plant Biotechnology

Plant Biotech Industry & Regulators Dialogue on: “Insect Resistance Management & Emerging Regulatory Issues in South Africa”

AfricaBio arranged a workshop in Pretoria on 14 May. The format was similar to the CLI “cross-platform” initiative whereby the Plant Biotech group and IRAC got together to look at “insect resistance management” in a holistic manner.

As background, South Africa is currently ranked eighth in the world in planting genetically modified (GM) crops. GM crops include those with a gene derived from a soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) that controls specific insects including the maize stem borer, *Busseola fusca*. First commercial usage started in 1996 (<http://www.isaaa.org>). In 2013, it was recorded that more than 18 million farmers in 25 countries planted GM crops - making it the fastest adopted technology in the history of modern agriculture with a record of 175.2 million hectares of biotech crops planted. (Clive James, ISAAA - 2013).

Scientific studies have shown that insect-resistant biotech crops, which produce Bt proteins, provide more targeted pest control than most other alternatives. Resistance management techniques such as refuge and rotation of insect control developed by plant biotech companies have been successful — since the first commercial plantings of biotech crops, there are very few incidents of significant resistance evolving in relation to the hundreds of millions of hectares where the crops are grown.

The plant science industry is committed to helping farmers successfully manage pests, as well as any emerging resistance to pest control methods. With this in mind, an industry-wide Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) was established to develop effective insecticide resistance management strategies for the crop protection industry. The IRAC Network is made up of a series of inter-company committees dedicated to prolonging the effectiveness of insecticides and acaricides by countering the development of resistance. The committees operate at a global level (IRAC Executive) and at regional or country level. The IRAC working group in South Africa is well developed and internationally recognized.

The Excellence Through Stewardship (ETS) is another global industry-coordinated program that promotes the universal adoption of stewardship programs and quality management systems for the full lifecycle of biotechnology-derived plant products. Stewardship is an important aspect of ensuring the safe and responsible management of commercial GM crops and products. It defines how the regulators and technology developers implement and manage every GM product through each state of the product lifecycle. Insect resistant Management (IRM) as an integral component of product stewardship. IRM applies to all pest management tools but biotechnology has unique considerations, which require diverse tools, flexibility and must fit into local agricultural practices. The plant science industry believes that stewardship is an essential element in a partnership between government and the private sector.

Kulani Machaba of Pioneer Seed making a point



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Plant Biotech Industry & Regulators Dialogue on: “Insect Resistance Management & Emerging Regulatory Issues in South Africa” cont..

The aim of the workshop was to provide a neutral platform for the plant biotech industry to share views with policy makers and regulators on some of the emerging issues facing the sector, with a particular emphasis on insect resistance development and management. The workshops further aims are to strengthen and streamline the South African regulatory system and to adapt to the rapidly changing biotech environment.

The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- Introduce the IRAC South African team and their current activities;
- Share on industry initiatives developed globally on IRM, especially with regard to IRM in South Africa;
- Address the regulators' concerns with regard to insect resistance management (IRM) and the monitoring of the evolution of resistance in South Africa;
- Discussion on challenges experienced by industry with the current regulatory process (inconsistencies with data requirements for dossiers);
- Share the regulators feedback on industry' proposal for the regulation of stacked events.

The meeting provided an opportunity for industry to share with both regulators and policy makers on initiatives developed globally on IRM and in South Africa. It is hoped that the recommendations reached will promote a common understanding on IRM and the sharing of best practices in South Africa.



Group Photo

AFSTA / NISIR Biotechnology Awareness Workshop: Zambia

A workshop on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) was organized by the National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (NISIR) in conjunction with the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA). The workshop took place on the 15th May 2014, at Sandy's Creations in Lusaka, Zambia. This workshop came amidst the fact that a few African countries are inching closer to commercialization of a biotechnology crop. This implies, that focus will shift to the seed industry and the seed value chain in terms of knowledge, willingness and preparedness to deploy the innovative technologies to African farmers. It was hoped that through discussions at the workshop, seed companies and stakeholders would operate under an enabling environment within the seed industry with regard to informed debates, discussions and decisions based on science towards biotechnology crops in Africa.

The workshop was facilitated by scientists who are directly involved in the application of biotechnology in improving crops and breeding methods. The participants in the workshop comprised of Seed traders, out growers, university representatives, government representatives and representatives from civil society organizations.

The objectives of the Workshop were as follows:

- To inform participants on the current biotechnology initiatives in Zambia
- To sensitize participants on the national biosafety and biotechnology policy in Zambia
- To educate participants on the benefits of biotechnology, and envisaged challenges in adopting
- To create strong linkages between the seed the industry and seed / biotechnology outreach organizations

Prof Francis Tembo, Executive Director, NISIR undertook the opening of the workshop. In his opening remarks he mentioned that the workshop was organized as a collaborative effort between the National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research and the African Seed Trade Association with a view to maximizing synergy and avoiding duplication of effort.

The expected outputs of the meeting were:

- An informed set of seed companies able to articulate issues on biotechnology
- Increased debate from the seed sector in Zambia on issues of biotechnology and biosafety
- A forum where seed companies can participate in biotechnology issues in Zambia

The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Argent Chuula, Chief Executive Officer, ACTESA.



Mr. Argent Chuula, Chief Executive Officer, ACTESA



AFSTA / NISIR Biotechnology Awareness Workshop: Zambia

With regard to Zambia, Mr. Filipo Zulu, of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) mentioned that Zambia had ratified both the following international instruments:

- The Convention on Biological diversity
- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

He suggested that having rejected the GMO maize in 2002, Zambia had adopted a precautionary approach to GMOs in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Mr. Zulu then detailed the Regulatory Framework currently in place in Zambia. This consists of:

- A Biotechnology Policy of 2003
- A Biosafety Act of 2007
- A national Biosafety Authority which became operational in July 2013

The Authority has since developed the necessary draft regulations and statutory instruments to be submitted to the Ministry of Justice before they are deposited with the Biosafety Clearing House within the Secretariat of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Authority has also established the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), and is working through the relevant government institutions to fulfill its mandate.

Mr. Dominica Chanda, provided a farmers perspective of biotechnology in a food crop. This was basically on the potential of "loss of market" as Zambia's key trading partners have not accepted GMOs and non-GMO export markets are paying premiums, thereby providing growers with competitive marketing alternatives.

The Zambian cotton farming community, however, has a more positive view on GM cotton with the request that trials should start as soon as possible. The way forward, therefore, is that dialogue should continue in order to create a better understanding of issues of GMOs among interested parties. Dr. John Mukuka of COMESA stressed that GMO Seed is NOT part of COMESA Seed Trade Harmonization Regulations.

(Shortened Article)

Daniel Aghan - AFSTA



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Upcoming
EventsUpcoming
EventsUpcoming
Events

CLAME Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting, Brussels	June 10
Meeting of the CPSC, Brussels	June 11
Meeting of the Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee, Brussels	June 12
Joint Meeting of the Crop Protection and Plant Biotech Communications Steering Committees, Brussels	June 12
Meeting with COLEACP, Brussels	June 12
Launch of ISAAA activities, Côte d'Ivoire	June 12
Meeting of the Crop Protection Communication Steering Committee Brussels	June 12
Meeting of the Obsolete Stocks Project Team, Brussels	June 13
USAID-CLPD-IFDC-CropLife International anti-counterfeiting training workshop for administration agents and judiciary officers, Bamako, Mali	June 17-19
Regional Regulatory Committee meeting, Pau, France	July 8-10
E & SA Hub & Regulatory Workshop, Lusaka, Zambia	Aug 26-27



GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

Representing the Plant Science Industry



CropLife Africa Middle East
Avenue Louise 326, Box 35
1050 Brussels
Belgium

www.croplifeafrica.org

GROWING FOOD – CREATING RENEWABLES – SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

Contributors:
 Bama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa) bama@croplifeafrica.org
 Les Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa) les@croplifeafrica.org

Representing the Plant Science Industry