



Stewardship and Spray Service

Kick-off of a New SSP Project in Ethiopia

In early May, a new project was awarded to our CropLife team in Ethiopia. The project is a component to the multiyear Feed the Future Ethiopia Value Chain Activity (FtFE VCA) implemented by Fintrac and which primarily focuses on two crops, maize and chickpeas grown by smallholder farmers in Ethiopia.

As an additional challenge and training component, the control of Fall Army Worm (FAW) was built into the project proposal prepared and submitted by CropLife. Fall Army Worm have been present in Ethiopia since 2017 and its control continues to be a major challenge especially for smallholder farmers, and not only in Ethiopia, but in the whole of Sub Saharan Africa. As such a special effort has been made to develop specific training materials with which trained Spray Service Providers will need to familiarize with, to get their certificate of competence as professional spray-men.

A special Fall Army Worm handbook for use by trained SSPs is in the final stages of development and a special poster for the identification of this devastating pest has been designed and will be made available for SSPs and for smallholder farmers where needed. The pilot project has the target to train 240 SSPs in 16 different Woredas in the four regions of Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and SNNPR.



The CropLife and FtFE VCA teams in Addis at their kick-off meeting on May 26



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With the goal of catching-up with the advanced maize cropping season, CropLife Ethiopia decided to increase and strengthen their team of field coordinators and hired three additional Field Coordinators and trained 7 additional company employees as SSP trainers. This will allow the implementation of several training sessions in parallel during the months of June and July.

On Friday May 26, the kick-off meeting between FtFE VCA and the CropLife team took place. On Saturday May 27, the entire CropLife team prepared the updated workplan. From 28 May to 1 June our regional Master Trainer, Solomon Seruwo from Uganda conducted the SSP TOT workshop to prepare the additional SSP trainers for the tasks ahead.

By end June, the first 60 SSPs will have been trained and by mid July all newly trained SSPs for the Oromia region will celebrate their graduation and receive their sprayers and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). By August the training of all 240 SSPs will have been completed.

With the experience gained from this FAW pilot project in Ethiopia, the CropLife network will be in a position and well prepared to implement similar projects in other countries in East and Southern Africa in the upcoming maize growing season starting in October / November.

Rudolf Guyer



The CropLife team on May 27 having developed a revised work plan for the project



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IPM/RU Training Workshop in Ghana.

CropLife Ghana organized a one-day training workshop on May 30 in Sogakope, Volta Region, on the responsible handling of pesticides. The workshop took place at the MoFA District office targeting 55 farmers selected from vegetable and maize producers.

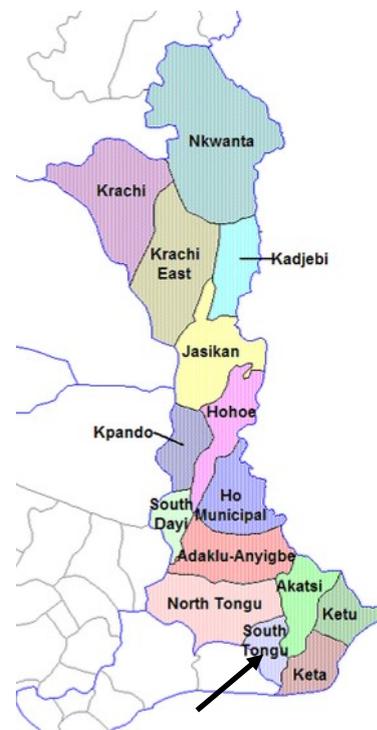
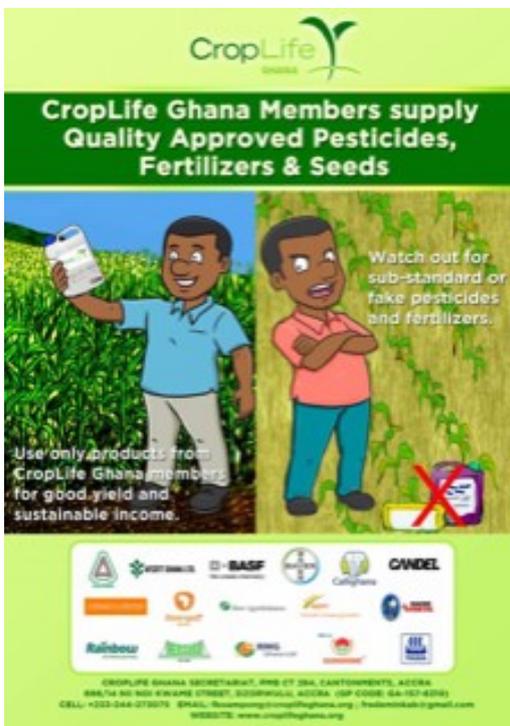
Participants were also provided with the knowhow on how to recognize counterfeit and illegal pesticides and to avoid using such products. They were advised to purchase their pesticides from a member company of CropLife Ghana or a legitimate source to ensure good quality products.

Other topics covered during the training included the triple rinsing and puncturing of the empty containers, and sending these to the district MoFA office for onward transportation to the CropLife Ghana collection & processing point in Pokuase.

The workshop was facilitated in Ewe, the local language, by Bob Adjakloe, a CropLife Ghana trainer, and is part of a four-workshop program planned for 2018.

The District Director of Agriculture praised CropLife Ghana’s continuous collaboration with the Ministry to sensitize farmers on the responsible use of pesticides and requested more such educative trainings to enable farmers to farm with joy.

Frederick Boampong



Sogakopa

The facilitator during the demo session with the participants - (below) and a poster covering the anti- counterfeiting campaign (above)



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During the plenary session led by Dr Wagate from the PCPB, participants were tasked with coming up with a pesticide label for a fictional PCP, whose toxicological and physical properties were given. The exercise seemed straight forward and all groups made good headway in identifying the hazards associated with the dummy pesticide. This went a long way in demystifying GHS for the participants. This exercise is available by downloading the GHS manual:

http://agrochem.co.ke/download/2016-kenya-ghs-manual_15_07_2016/#

or

http://www.pcpb.or.ke/publicparticipation/2016%20KENYA%20GHS%20MANUAL_15_07_2016-2.pdf .

The GHS was set in place in 2002, and the directives are continually revised with the latest being in July, 2017. Ms. Stella Wafukho from CLAME gave the African Experience for countries on the continent who have signed to the agreement. The use of hazard-based risk analysis as opposed to risk-based analysis was mentioned as one of the downsides of the system especially in the African context where this could have some trade repercussions. The Kenyan document has been highly instrumental in enabling other African countries in benchmarking and implementation of their own national frameworks. Few signatory countries have attained full harmonization but a sizeable number are on the way to achieving this target.

The implementation of the GHS is expected to gain steam once the proposed amendment to the Kenyan Pest Control products act are put in effect.

Benson Ngigi



Proceedings at the plenary and group exercises

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IPM/RU Sensitization Workshop of the CDLPI in Cote d'Ivoire

With the support of AMEPHCI, the association of generic pesticide companies in Côte d'Ivoire, the Plant Protection Directorate (DPVCQ) organized a sensitization workshop on May 29 for the 27 members of the local committees against illegal pesticides (CDLPI) of Séguéla and Kani. Aside from these members, the Secretary General of the Prefecture of Séguéla, 3 officers of the Regional Directorate of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), the communications team of the MINADER and local rural radio stations, also participated.

The workshop was facilitated by 2 officers of the DPVCQ and 2 trainers of AMEPHCI. The delegation of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire comprised of the President, the Executive Director and the Counsellor.

The workshop was organized for capacity strengthening of the CDLPI for the responsible handling of pesticides, and particularly the identification and avoidance of counterfeit and illegal pesticides.

Participants were taken through the pesticide regulatory system in Côte d'Ivoire and the need for the responsible use of pesticides. Focus was placed on the proliferation of illegal pesticides on the markets and the associated risks to the health of farmers, farm workers and their families, crop losses, risks to consumers, the environment, the financial and economic losses due to rejections and/or bans of agricultural produce as a result of using illegal pesticides

The delegations of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire, AMEPHCI and the DPVCQ then gave a live radio talk on one of the rural radio stations in Séguéla

Bama Yao



Group photo (Right)

Participants listening to the explanations of the facilitator of the DPVCQ (Below)

Photos Courtesy: DCPA MINADER



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CropLife Zambia Certifies 129 SSPs under the iDE “SHARED” Project

Following the success of the SSP program that was initiated in 2015 under the iDE Zambia SHARED project in which 128 SSPs were certified and went on to service over 3,500 farmers, an additional 129 SSPs were recently certified in 8 Districts.

iDE Zambia is implementing a 3-year Smallholder Agricultural Reform through Enterprise Development (SHARED) extension project whose main objective is to reduce rural poverty and promote sustainable livelihoods for about 70,000 farmers in Zambia by strengthening the role of private sector service provision to farmers through a network of 400 Farm Business Advisors (FBA's).

As part of the process for creating the enabling commercial environment for farmers to operate, iDE is using a value chain approach to develop the supply chains for both inputs and extension advice and marketing links for production. At the centre of all interventions are Farm Business Advisors who are carefully selected and strategically located in various sites closer to the farmers.

FBA's are lead farmers with entrepreneurial potential who provide inputs and extension advice to farmers along with linkages to credit providers, output markets and who are rewarded entirely on a commission basis for their services.

The FBA's are best placed to provide spray services to the farmers and therefore the participants for the training, were all FBA's.

The trainings for the 2018 phase were conducted by CropLife certified trainers between 22 May and 14 June 2018. The Districts covered in this phase were Chongwe, Mumbwa, Masaiti, Mufulira, Monze, Solwezi, Mazabuka and Kabwe.

The purpose of the training was to equip the FBA's with the knowledge, skills and competence in the responsible use of plant protection products.

As a long-term goal, this intervention will reduce the risks and impact of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promote the use of an integrated pest management approach and alternative approaches or techniques.

A future outcome would be that FBA's commercialize the provision of spraying services to smallholder farmers and provide advice to this sector who will exhibit a culture of sustainable use of pesticides and IPM practices.

Perry Ngoma



Above : Demonstrating on how to calibrate a knapsack sprayer

Below: Demonstrating PPE



iDE

CropLife
AFRICA MIDDLE EAST

Regulatory Advocacy

Statement on Neonicotinoids

Executive Summary

Neonicotinoids (NNIs) are undergoing registration reviews in the EU as well as in other countries, e.g. USA, Canada and Brazil, China and India. On April 27, 2018, a majority of EU Member States endorsed a Commission proposal to restrict the use of imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam to use in greenhouses only. This decision is based on an alleged risk to bees identified by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) using a singularly conservative risk assessment approach. The pollinator reviews in other countries and regions are still ongoing. While restrictions that aim at reducing exposure to bees are likely, restrictions as severe as in the EU are not expected in the rest of the world.

The impact for AME countries is limited. NNIs will fall under the EU PIC Regulation. Trade of agricultural commodities treated with NNIs will not be impacted by the recent restrictions since existing EU MRLs will remain in place.

Situation in EU

On April 27, 2018, a majority of Member States endorsed a proposal by the European Commission to ban nearly all agricultural uses of Imidacloprid (IMD), Clothianidin (CTD), and Thiamethoxam (TMX) in the European Union. The decision significantly enlarges the scope of the first set of restrictions dating back to 2013, as now only use in permanent greenhouses may be authorized. The new restrictions enter into force on June 19, 2018, and should be fully implemented across the EU by the end of 2018. Member States are required to amend or withdraw existing authorizations by September 2019 at the latest. They may grant a grace period for the disposal, storage, placing on the market and use of existing stocks. This period should expire on December 2019 at the latest. Whether and for how long a grace period is granted is at the full discretion of each Member State. The exact application dates may therefore differ across Member States in the time frame provided.

The results of EFSA's recent pollinator risk assessments were announced as "Neonicotinoids: risks to bees confirmed", and "Most uses of neonicotinoid pesticides represent a risk to wild bees and honey bees, according to assessments published today by EFSA". However, a closer look **reveals that a conclusion of high risk was reached for only 5 % of more than 500 scenarios taken through EFSA's tiered risk assessment process, and none of these cases involved risk to honey bees**, making EFSA's message highly misleading.

In fact, where EFSA could draw a definitive risk conclusion, only low risks were found for honey bees; additionally, while a high risk was found in 19 % of the scenarios assessed for bumble bees and in 1 % of those assessed for solitary bees, risk was found to be low in the majority of cases. One risk scenario that is repeatedly highlighted as a potential risk by EFSA is risk from succeeding crops, however, simple mitigation measures could be applied (e.g. only allowing bee unattractive crops to be sown in rotation) that would avoid exposure and remove this risk. So, what EFSA's risk assessment's conclusion really suggest is that relatively few use patterns pose a clear high risk to bees even under the extremely conservative evaluation criteria of EFSA and in these cases mitigation, a common practice in the use of crop protection products, can avoid exposure. At least most agricultural uses of these products should therefore be eligible for continued registration.

Take Home Message:

- Even when applying its extremely conservative evaluation criteria, **EFSA concluded high risk in only 5 % of the 513 scenarios taken through the tiered risk assessment process**. A low risk was found in 70 % of cases, uncertain risk in 25 %
- **A closer look at the report suggests that relatively few use patterns pose a clear high risk to bees**. No high or uncertain risks were found for honey bees. A high risk was only found in 1 % of cases for solitary bees and 19 % for bumble bees.
- EFSA's approach is **not in line with Risk Assessment Approaches from other countries**

¹ New restrictions: Commission Implementing Regulations for imidacloprid (EU 2018/783), clothianidin (EU 2018/784) and thiamethoxam (EU 2018/785).
Bee risk assessment for the three neonicotinoids IMD, CTD, and TMX: CTD: EFSA Journal 2018;16(2):5177; IMD: EFSA Journal 2018;16(2):5178



Regulatory Advocacy

EFSA's assessment follows the "Bee Guidance Document", which lays down a singularly conservative approach for carrying out a pollinator risk assessment. Several of its study requirements are not possible to fulfill due to a lack of validated study methods, which in turn, impact the outcome of an assessment: in the absence of data or without clear confirmation of low risk, EFSA's conclusion will always be that there is a risk; this is the inherent flaw of the document. Applied consistently, this could result in a denial of registration for most crop protection products, including those used in organic agriculture. Considering this, the neonicotinoids stood up to the assessment fairly well – which is more in line with the outcomes of risk assessments from other highly regarded authorities.

Conclusions:

- The EU restrictions are based on a **singularly conservative risk assessment approach**.
- The recent risk assessment by EFSA found a high risk in only very few scenarios where a final risk conclusion was possible. Introduction of simple mitigation measures, a common practice in the use of crop protection products, could have addressed these.
- The European restrictions are not in line with the recommendations of other authorities such as the US EPA or the Canadian PMRA.
- MRLs/Import Tolerances in the EU are currently not at threat and will remain unchanged until the EU-re-registration process will be finalized for each of the substances.

Situation in the Rest of the World

In the US, Brazil, China and India the review processes are still ongoing, mainly restrictions that aim at reducing exposure to pollinators are expected. Canada may move to restrict certain uses to address potential risks to pollinators as well as aquatic invertebrates. Most countries in LATAM and APAC remain close observers but have not yet shown any intention to restrict neonicotinoid use.

Potential consequences in Africa and Middle East countries:

The partial ban of NNIs in the EU is based on **an alleged risk to bees and pollinators**. It is **not based on any alleged risk to human health**. There is no risk for human health if NNIs are applied according to GAP and label instructions.

- **A direct regulatory consequence is not expected for AME countries** as the countries in AME have their regulatory frameworks which will allow for science-based decisions which will be taking into account the risks and benefits of NNIs. The alleged risk to pollinators is actually limited to certain scenarios and can be managed with appropriate mitigation and good stewardship measures.
- Private Standards listing of pesticides are not a regulatory decision or action.
- The restriction **limits use of NNIs only in the EU** and it is not a withdrawal of approval NNIs. Neonicotinoids are **still currently authorized to be used in the EU**.
- As such, and as indicated by the EU Commission in response to comments on the notification to World Trade Organization (WTO), **this decision does not impact MRLs at this time**. Therefore, **imports that comply with the current MRLs will continue to be allowed**.
- **Trade with agricultural commodities treated with Neonicotinoids** is currently **not affected**
- From 2019 onwards, NNIs will probably fall under the EU PIC Regulation according to Regulation (EU) 649/2012 and will be subject to reporting and notification requirements.

Hans-Werner Raeuen - Regional Regulatory Committee



Regulatory Advocacy

CropLife Kenya Members Prepare for Global Harmonized System Implementation

CropLife Kenya recently convened a training seminar for its members to bring them up to speed on the Global Harmonized System for pesticide classification and labeling of pest control products, otherwise referred to as GHS.

The event, held on 13 June at the Eka Hotel in Nairobi was attended by facilitators from the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) and CropLife Africa Middle East (CLAME).

MS Evelyn Lusena, Chief Executive of CLK and Chair of the proceedings, recalled the dedicated input that reviewers from CLK, CLAME, PCPB and specialists from member companies went through in 2016 to condense the 527-page "purple book" into a 39-page manual that is customized to Kenya. Since then, the association secretariat has been continuously giving important updates to members, so as to bridge the gap.

Dr. Ngaruiya from PCPB gave the opening remarks on behalf of the Managing Director of PCPB. He appreciated the synergy between CLK and PCPB in finding proactive solutions to enable a prosperous agrochemical sector. He then took the mantle of the first speaker by introducing GHS.

Here is a snapshot of GHS as was presented by the first speaker of the day. GHS is basically a voluntary standard overseen by the United Nations, where signatories declare conformity to a unitary system for the labeling of chemicals and in this case pest control products (biological products are not affected). The system is flexible with some clauses changeable to suit the interests of the respective country that is signatory. Some binding clauses on the use of hazard symbols, hazard statements and signal words are however dictated by the system.

The system classifies Pest Control Products (PCP) according to their toxicological, Eco toxicological and physical properties hazards as opposed to Risk based analysis which considers the ultimate end-use patterns of a pesticide when determining the final hazard classification of a chemical.

The abridged manual describes in detail the 16 physical hazards, 10 health hazards, 2 environmental hazards and their resultant pictograms and cautionary statements. The physical hazards are; Explosives, flammable gases, flammable aerosols, oxidizing gases, gases under pressure, flammable liquids, flammable solids, self-reactive substances, pyrophoric liquids, pyrophoric solids, self-heating substances, substance emitting flammable gases when in contact with water, oxidizing liquids, oxidizing solids, organic peroxides and corrosive metals.

The health hazards examine the skin corrosion/irritation, eye irritation, respiratory and skin sensitization, Acute toxicity, carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, reproductive toxicology (C.M.R), organ systemic toxicity under single and repeated exposure and aspiration toxicity of a pesticide.

Environment hazards considered are the effect of the PCP to the ozone layer and to aquatic environments. The system has glaringly left out the potential effects to bees and terrestrials but the national regulations currently in force are still at hand to protect this important component of the environment. All the above hazards are important in determining if a PCP shall be



Group Photo



Anti-Counterfeiting Activities

CropLife addresses the issue of illegal pesticides in Africa during the WB-ICABR Conference at the World Bank in Washington

The 22nd annual Conference of the ICABR on June 12 – 15 organized in cooperation with the World Bank, provided another opportunity for CropLife to address the issue of counterfeit and illegal pesticides on the markets in Africa and the related risks to human health and to the environment. The conference was organized under the theme of “Disruptive innovations, Value Chains and Rural Development” and attracted more than 500 participants from various academia (US and EU universities), development organizations and institutions (WB, IFPRI, USAID, USDA, AGRA, IFDC, IFAD, BMGF, CGIAR-IITA, ILO, OCP...) at the World Bank in Washington.

The efforts of CropLife to combat counterfeit and illegal pesticides were shared with more than 50 participants during the parallel panel session dedicated to the “Africa Emerging Herbicide Revolution: Causes and Consequences”. The participants were enlightened on the approach of our industry during the presentation that focused on:

- The disruption of the market environment with the increasing number of pesticide actors and suppliers in the countries as a consequence of the liberalization plans and the growing pesticide production and supply from China and India. This disruption environment has favored the proliferation of illegal pesticides on the markets.
- The vision of “Addressing the issue of anti-counterfeiting as a collective responsibility”.
- The strategy and supportive activities through sensitization and capacity building for key stakeholders involved in pesticide management and supply. The 3 “project flagships” were presented as “Alleviating CFT and illegal pesticides through awareness creation and law enforcement” in North Africa and Middle East (Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia), “Cleaning the supply chain” in East and Southern Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) and “Combating illegal pesticides regionally” in West and Central Africa (Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Mali).
- The future perspective in which to challenge illegal pesticides should involve the leadership by government authorities such as the institutionalization in Côte d’Ivoire with the creation of the CDLPI, a strong involvement of the key actors and the setting-up of a coalition and supportive funding mechanisms.

Subsequent discussions that followed recognized and encouraged CropLife to pursue these efforts to intensify the fight to ensure the supply of quality pesticides to contribute to sustainable agricultural production and productivity in Africa.

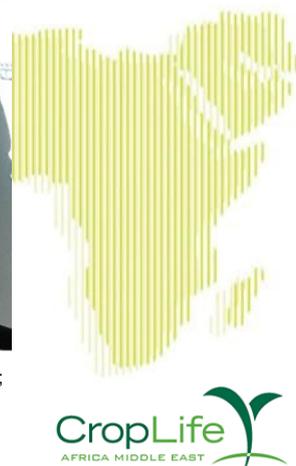
Other topics presented during the session chaired by Prof. Steven Haggblade of Michigan State University (MSU) were:

- Africa Emerging Herbicide Revolution: Sources of Disruption, by Prof. Steven Haggblade, Michigan State University (MSU)
- Farm Level Impacts of the Rapid Adoption, by Melinda Smale MSU
- Environmental and Health Implications of Growing Pesticide Use in Africa, by Megan Sheahan, Precision Agriculture for Development
- Regional Regulatory Challenges in W. Africa, by S. Haggblade on behalf of A. Diarra ex-Permanent Secretary of the CILSS-CSP

Bama Yao



Group photo of the panelists (L-R): J. Sandahl, USDA-FAS; M. Smale, MSU; Walter Knäusenberger, USAID-FAS; B. Yao, CropLife AME; M. Sheahan, Precision Agriculture for Development and S. Haggblade, MSU, Chairman



Anti-Counterfeiting Activities



Partial view of the participants to the conference with B. Yao CropLife AME (micro), and Carl Pray, President of ICABR (next right to B. Yao)
Photo Courtesy: ICABR.



Panelists of the closing ceremony comprising representatives of IOs for development such as the WB, IFPRI, IFAD, USDA, USAID



ISAAA Reports New Record-High Adoption of GM Crops

The International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) launched the annual report on the *Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2017* (ISAAA Brief 53) through a media conference held on June 26, 2018 at Acacia Hotel, Manila, Philippines.

The report is the 22nd of the ISAAA series of global status reports documenting the latest information on the adoption and benefits of biotech crops. The event, which was co-organized by the SEARCA Biotechnology Information Center (SEARCA BIC), presented an opportunity for media partners to connect with scientists and experts, representatives from the national government, and partners in the biotech community.

ISAAA Board Chair, Dr. Paul Teng, presented the report, including the global impact, economic benefits, and future prospects of biotech crops. He reported that biotech crop land area reached a new record-high adoption at 189.8 million hectares worldwide in 2017. Also notable was the increase in biotech crop area in developing countries, continuously surpassing those in industrial countries in terms of total land area, with 100.6 M ha and 89.2 M ha, respectively.

Dr. Teng added that the global GM crop area is expected to expand in the coming years and that new biotech crops and traits in different parts of the globe are now in the pipeline. Highlighting the importance of regulations, Dr. Teng stated, "Science-based regulations are very important. If we cannot use science, we have no ground to stand on. It cannot be based on perceptions alone as these are often proven wrong. Science is what we have in the moment as a tool to show that something is credible." He also shared that the global farm income gains contributed by biotech crops in the last 21 years (1996 -2016) have amounted to US\$186.1 billion, benefitting more than 17 million farmers, 95% of whom come from developing countries.

Download the ISAAA Brief 53 Full Report, Executive Summary, Press Release, Infographics, and Presentation Slides from the ISAAA website.

ISAAA



ISAAA Board Chair, Dr. Paul Teng



Kenya Starts Planting Biotech Cotton Under National Performance Trials

Kenya is one step away from commercializing Bt cotton following the commencement of National Performance Trials (NPTs) to identify suitable varieties for different agro-ecological zones. This comes after the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) granted an Environmental Impact Assessment license to Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Fisheries Organization (KALRO) to undertake the trials.

The planting began on June 11, 2018 in Kisumu, western Kenya, with KALRO's Bt cotton Principal Investigator, Dr. Charles Waturu, presiding over the event. The NPTs will be carried out in seven sites spread across six counties. GM cotton planting is a significant move in the revitalization of textiles and apparel industry, which the Kenyan government has identified as key in upscaling manufacturing and realizing the 'Big Four' agenda, a five-year ambitious economic recovery plan. More than 200,000 hectares are earmarked for Bt cotton.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Waturu said he is optimistic that the data obtained from the trials will be adequate to allow Bt cotton varieties to be registered in Kenya, "I believe the NPTs will give way for commercialization of the GM crop," Dr. Waturu remarked. "If well-managed, farmers will be able to get up to five tons of cotton from one acre. This is a big boost and we want to move fast to ensure Kenya regains her cotton growing glory," he added.

The beginning of the NPTs is a relief for thousands of cotton farmers in the country who are excited that they will reap big from Bt cotton once it is commercialized. "We are excited that today marks the beginning of an end to our woes as Bt cotton will significantly reduce exposure to harmful pesticides, boost our cotton harvests, reduce cost of production and increase our income so that we can afford quality education for our children," said James Midega, a local cotton farmer.

If the trials yield favorable data, farmers are likely to access the Bt cotton hybrid seeds in April 2019. This will be a culmination of a process that started in 2001 when the first application to introduce Bt cotton was made. The first transgenic cotton confined field trials were planted in 2004 and completed in 2010. An environmental release approval by the National Biosafety Authority followed in 2016, subject to meeting some conditions among them, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) clearance certificate. NEMA issued the license for implementations of the NPTs on May 30, 2018.

ISAAA



For more on biotech cotton in Kenya, contact Dr. Charles Waturu at :

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