



## West and Central Africa Hub & Regulatory Workshop

The West and Central Africa Hub & Regulatory Workshop took place in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 23 and 24 April.

More than 70 participants representing member companies, national associations and regulatory authorities attended the workshop.

The main goal of this year's event was to focus on topical issues, namely; the contribution of agricultural technologies to improve production, the revision of EU regulations related to the endocrine disruptors (ED's) and the potential impact on African agriculture and related trade issues, regarding highly hazardous pesticides (HHP's) and the need to engage in advocacy towards these issues.

Deliberations focused on:

- The report of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) highlighting global challenges (climate change and water scarcity, growing population and food demand, etc.) and the Plant Science Industry being able to contribute to solutions to these challenges with today's technologies. These include the use of CPPs, IPM, Plant Biotechnology, No-Till Agriculture, and Drought Resistant Varieties and future technologies, through Nitrogen-Use Efficiency and Drought and Heat Tolerance. Early assessment has proven significant improvement in productivity impacting positively on the overall food available at reduced prices. Sub-Saharan Africa should be a great beneficiary of these technologies by increasing productivity and providing better nutrition to the fast growing population of the region and also contributing to the global market and improving the economy.
- The findings and recommendations therefore call for the promotion of these technologies in the face of the climate change. Revision of the EU Regulations stressing the possible impact on the availability of very key CPP's for African agriculture and the related trade aspects. The revision targeting the registration requirements under Regulation 1107/2009 aims to replace risk assessment criteria with hazard based cut-off criteria. The cut-off criteria referred to are carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, reproductive toxicity, with a greater focus on endocrine disruption (ED); however pesticide regulations already addresses the ED issue. The criteria used would lead to the removal of 13 active substances and a possible 25 additional active ingredients. The measure of impact is assessed on the € 65 billion that the EU imports annually of which a substantial amount sourced from Africa, with all crops affected. The production of cocoa will be heavily affected and the key producing countries will be the greatest losers; other crops are fruits, coffee, tea, vegetables and sugar, making the need for sensitization and advocacy aimed at decision makers and major stakeholders a priority.



Group Participants

## West and Central Africa Hub & Regulatory Workshop

These two presentations were followed by three others, namely;

The specific impact on the cocoa economy : Advocacy and Outreach activities of the Plant Science Industry : The promotion of Resistance Management

These presentations served as guidance to the four working groups. The four topics covered during the group work were:

- Highly hazardous pesticides (HHP's), ED's and other restrictive measures, their potential impact on agriculture in Africa
- HHP's, ED's and other restrictive measures, their specific impacts on the cocoa value chain
- Advocacy for the IFPRI findings to support agriculture in W. Africa
- Proposed advocacy activities to promote Resistance Management in W. Africa

The outcome of the session will be provided to all participants.

Other topics discussed aimed at improving the regional (ECOWAS and CPAC) and national regulatory frameworks to attract investment and innovation with a focus on "Pesticide Specifications and Equivalence Assessment" and "Protection of Regulatory Data and Confidential Business information".

The issue of counterfeiting and the illegal trade of pesticides, an update on the implementation of the WCF-ACI project in the four targets countries and ways to promote the SSP concept for sustainability were also discussed.

Bama Yao



Above: Participants at the WCA annual workshop in Yaoundé



The media interviewing the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Left) and the President of the Board of CropLife AME (Right).

## Stewardship

### Stewardship Meetings, Brussels – 9, 10, 11 April

The IPM/RU Project Team, Stewardship Steering Committee and Container Management Project Team met in Brussels week commencing 7 April

Key points covered:

- On communications details were provided on the most recent developments on IPM&RU communications, including aspects such as Training Through Local Partnerships—Adoni; IPM Communications; Case Study Development, Promotion of Vision 2020 and Activities (Newsletter, Global GAP). Also, that a new edition of the newsletter *Leading the Vision* will be published in April featuring successful stories on container management.
- A new toolkit on the Sprayer Service Provider project funded by the World Cocoa Foundation in Ghana is underway, including a visit to Ghana where video footage and interviews will be taken. These materials will be completed by June 2014. A slide deck will also be developed as part of the deliverables.

On training materials, all the newly produced posters were reviewed and a decision taken to develop one on “First Aid and hygiene”. The poster on “Storage” will be circulated for comment shortly as will the draft on mist blowers. All posters are in English and in an editable format. These will shortly be made available in a section of the CropLife Multimedia Library for easy access.

The voice-over versions of the videos ‘prevention of over exposure’ and ‘personal protective equipment’ are now available on [www.croplife.org](http://www.croplife.org). Also, three videos on “triple rinsing” made by ECPA are available on the CropLife website. The three videos on triple rinsing will be translated into 28 different languages by end May.

The Retailer Manual (Agro-dealer) should be made available by end 2014. A newer version of AgLearn <http://aglearn.constructdigital.net/> was presented. This contains 6 on-line courses on various crops. Some appendixes still need to be reformatted. The Wheat IPM Manual will be completed and added to the AgLearn platform by the end of 2014. Poisoning guidelines will be developed and circulated within the next few months for comment.

On Secondary Standards, the next Global GAP Summit would take place in Abu Dhabi in October. Eva Erisgen will attend the Summit and will participate in the Global GAP Stakeholder Committee on Sustainability Meeting in Germany to explore further ways of cooperation. CropLife International will be sponsoring the GAP Awards and a CLI representative will be at the meeting in Abu Dhabi to give a presentation focusing on IPM.

Les Hillowitz



On outreach programs, mention was made that the results achieved with the Adoni Project and other regional efforts on Stewardship were well appreciated. A future project could focus on post-harvest losses, which would be partnered with Africa.

It was agreed that the external version of "Vision 2020" needs to be updated as some of the goals have already been achieved and some additions need be included i.e. Resistance Management. It was suggested that the best approach would be for each Project Team to update their respective section and then organize a half-day meeting to share results and draft the new version.

On "Pollinator Stewardship" the pre-read document developed by the Pollinator Issue Team was reviewed. This is a living document and all members were requested to send references showing how good practices could prevent bee mortality and improve their livelihood. The document is intended to be a global reference of good stewardship practices when handling bees, so references to studies or successful stories by non-industry organizations are also most welcome. The Pollinator Issue Team will consider the idea of adding a pollinator section within the IPM Manual and featuring this subject in the new edition of Leading the Vision.

On the issue of "Highly Hazardous Pesticides" Industry will combine efforts with local authorities to improve capacity in developing countries to ensure that the risk assessment process is effectively carried out. Also, stewardship efforts will play a critical role in preventing products falling into this category, or mitigating risks once the product has been categorized as a HHP. The Secretariat will develop guidelines to comply with this new approach that can be referenced by the countries.

With regard to Project Teams, It was mentioned that the CoC e-learning tool would be updated along with other materials in 2014.

On Container Management, it was mentioned that the main issue surrounding the container management program is one of sustainability. This is particularly true for programs in developing countries where resources are limited and the intrinsic value of the plastic high, bringing about a number of competitors.

On ObStocks, Phase 1 of the ASP was covered as well as the two countries identified for Phase II. The Kenyan situation was discussed as some of the already safeguarded stocks are leaking.

End uses of the plastic collected under the empty container management schemes were discussed in some detail. It was concluded that a non-hazardous classification is just a step towards proper disposal and that it is industry's responsibility to go further and ensure that all the plastic collected by the program is used only to manufacture end uses which have limited human contact and have been tested under a risk analysis approach. This proactive approach is needed not only in Europe but also in the other regions to prevent potential risks for the Industry. To be consistent with this approach, the group recommended changing the end use 'plastic lumber' in CLI's guidance document, Road map to 'plastic lumber to be used in products with limited human contact.

Les Hillowitz

## Migratory Soaring Birds Project

### Experts join forces for profitable and bird friendly agriculture development

Agriculture is one of the most productive sectors in the Rift Valley / Red Sea flyway region, serving as the economic backbone of many countries who are still struggling to catapult themselves from poverty and achieve food security for their rising populations.

However, agriculture also poses serious threats to migratory soaring birds, notably agrochemical poisoning due to improper usage of pesticides, poison and veterinary drugs. Reaching an adequate balance between a profitable and a safe agriculture is key to answering the economic needs of countries while safeguarding their rich biodiversity.



Several experts from Africa and the Middle East recently attended a workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss this crucial issue. The "Agro-chemical Poisoning and Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds along the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway" workshop was organised by the BirdLife UNDP-GEF Migratory Soaring Birds (MSB) project, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS – BirdLife Partner).

**Getachew Cherinet** of CropLife Ethiopia gave a presentation on behalf of the Plant Science Industry

## CropLife Mauritius participates in celebrations marking “World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2014”

The ILO (International Labour Organization) celebrated World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. It is a public awareness campaign intended to draw attention to the magnitude of work-related accidents, diseases and death in the work place.

This year's topic for Safety and Health at Work for 2014 was "Safety and Health in the Use of Chemicals at Work". Chemicals are essential for a healthy and modern life. They range from pesticides, which improve access and quality of food production, pharmaceutical products that cure diseases, and household products used for cleaning to ensure hygienic living conditions.

To mark World Day of Health and Safety at Work 2014, CropLife Mauritius, in collaboration with Omnicane Limited organized a meeting with a group of farmers in the South of Mauritius on Tuesday 29 April. Apart from the various talks on safety at work by the Health and Safety Officer of Omnicane Limited, CropLife Mauritius Trainers trained farmers on the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment.

**Mukesh Rughoo**



Above: L - R, Mukesh Rughoo, Executive Secretary CropLife Mauritius, Stephanie Pacifique, Trainer CropLife Mauritius and Philippe Lai Choo, Health & Safety Officer, Omnicane Ltd.



Training on the use of PPE



**International  
Labour  
Organization**

## Responsible Use Seminar: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

On 28 April, 200 participants representing 67 companies, 12 professional organizations, Unions, NGOs and the civil society, 11 press associations and 11 ministries participated at the seminar. CropLife Côte d'Ivoire also participated.

The seminar was organized by the national social security service to sensitize employees and employers on the professional risks associated with the use of chemicals under the theme "Safety and Health Issues related to the Use of Chemicals at Work".

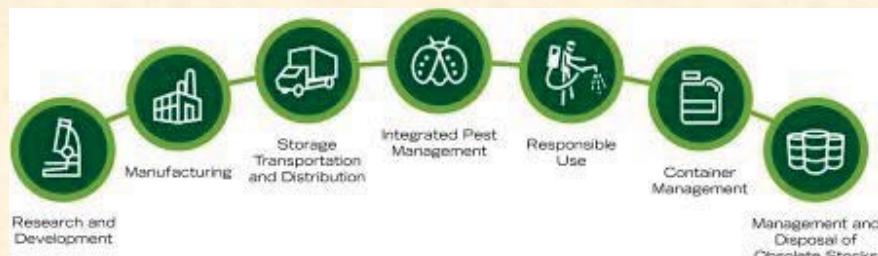
CropLife Côte d'Ivoire represented by the Executive Secretary made a presentation on the "Management of Chemical Risks: Challenges and the Way Forward".

The presentation focused on:

- The Plant Science Industry: Vision and Mission;
- Pesticide Legislation and Regulations, Registration and Basics on Pesticides.
- Definition of Hazard (Toxicity) and Risks;
- Safety and Health Issues: Reducing the risks through reduced exposure
  - Handling of pesticides during transportation and storage.
    - Responsible use practices by users on the farms: this includes preparation and application
    - Container Management and avoidance of obsolete stocks.
    - Protection of the environment
- PPE and medical monitoring.
- The Stewardship Approach of CropLife International.

The presentation concluded on the importance of handling only registered pesticides that conforms to the label. The role of the administration to enforce the regulations should help minimise the associated risks and particularly avoid the misuse of pesticides.

Bama Yao



  
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Participants (L) were addressed by R. Yeboué, CropLife CI (pictured centre, below) on PPE (Photo Courtesy CropLife CI)

## Association Management

### CropLife Uganda: Partnership with Key Enabling Environment for Agriculture Activity (EEA)



CropLife Uganda paid tribute to member companies who participated at the workshop to help build the capacity of the association in becoming a leading organization in lobbying government on regulations and policy for crop protection products and fertilizers.

The workshop was held on 10 April at the Sheraton Hotel, in Kampala and was facilitated by Craig Bowman, a consultant from the US. Twelve CropLife Uganda member companies attended the event.

Betty Atto

Participants undertaking a SWOT analysis.

### CropLife Uganda undergoes training on Effective Management for Business Associations



Participants attending the workshop

On 1 - 4 April, CropLife Uganda participated at the workshop organized by USAID-Feed the Future Enabling Environment for Agriculture Activities held at in Kampala. Betty Atto, Maria Gorreti Anguria, Godfrey Ongom and Stephen Matovu represented CropLife Uganda. Participants were awarded with Certificates of attendance.

Betty Atto

## CropLife Mauritius holds AGM

CropLife Mauritius held its Annual general Meeting on Wednesday 2 April 2014 in Port Louis.

**The Managing Committee for 2014 was constituted as follows:**

- President: Philippe Le Vieux (Universal Development Corporation Ltd)
- Vice President: Dani Joseph (COROI Maurice Ltee)
- Secretary: Clifford Dove (Roger Fayd'herbe & Co Ltd)
- Assistant Secretary: Sebastien de Ravel (Island Chemicals Ltd)
- Treasurer: Dineshsing Goburdhun (Mauritius Cooperative Agricultural Federation)
- Assistant Treasurer: Sebastien Koenig (Blychem Ltd)
- Mukesh Rughoo remains the Executive Secretary of CropLife Mauritius.

**Projects for 2014 include:**

- Reinforce the Container Management Project – The project will be fully operational this year as funding is expected from various sources. In 2013, a number of farmers were trained on “triple-rinsing” and posters placed across the island at strategic locations visited by the farmers and other users involved with empty pesticide containers.
- Training on Safe & Responsible Use of Pesticides – A number of agro-dealers are expected to be trained this year.
- Training of Trainers (TOT) on IPM - a Training of Trainers on IPM is anticipated for later in the year. This will help in the training of farmers to with tools and strategies to manage pest control thereby maximizing production and minimizing losses.

Mukesh Rughoo



L - R Arvind Ramlowat, Sachin Sookna, Philippe Le Vieux, Dineshsing Goburdhun, Dani Joseph and Mukesh Rughoo

## Anti Counterfeiting

### Anti-counterfeiting Flagship Project – Egypt - “Take Care”

In late September 2014, the “anti-counterfeiting flagship project” in Egypt kicked-off by establishing a local AC Steering Committee made up from CropLife Egypt members comprising representatives of Syngenta, Bayer, BASF, Dow, DuPont, Maytrade, Samtrade, KZ, Agrin Serve and CLAME with a set project period of 3 years. Sarwat Sakr was nominated as the AC Steering Committee Chairman and Said Abdella to manage the project. Member companies with the support of CLAME funded the project.

The project includes a mix of communication elements (TV commercials and various promotional components), execution of media and communication campaigns aimed at selected target groups including farmers, agro-dealers and civil society.

In April 2014, three TV commercials commenced over the local agricultural channel; the 3 videos were produced in Arabic focusing on: a general animation message, a farmers' message and a retailers' message with a daily news bar to promote campaign activities. The 3 videos are available with English and French subtitles.

The AC Steering Committee approved all promotional materials and videos under the campaign logo and slogan “Take Care”. Alongside this there will be 2 talk shows every month hosting AC Steering Committee members and authorities responsible to promote and discuss campaign activities.

The campaign also includes training workshops and farmer field days. Twenty-Five field days will be conducted in all agricultural governorates with the support of “member companies” activities in the field. It was agreed that each of the participating companies would allocate one hour to promote the campaign activities at the beginning or end of their normal field events.

There will also be intensive training for official pesticide surveillance officers and 2 workshops will be held for enforcement agencies, (Agricultural Pesticides Committee, Police services, Customs, Tax authorities, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Supply, Ministry of Environment and Consumer Protection Agency) for information exchange and to collect feedback on impact.

The project will establish a “hotline service” with the Agricultural Pesticides Committee as a means for reporting incidents of pesticide illegal trade and the opportunity to receive suggestions from stakeholders. Listed below are the links to the 3 videos of the campaign.

<http://misr.alzeraya.tv/posts/606534>

<http://misr.alzeraya.tv/posts/606532>

<http://misr.alzeraya.tv/posts/606531>

Said Abdella



Left: Project Logo  
Right: Project Poster



Left: The “Anti-Counterfeiting Flagship Project” Steering Committee



## Anti-Counterfeiting Campaign: Hurghada – Egypt



Dow AgroSciences "Product Stewardship" Event



Dow AgroSciences (DAS) held their annual event under the banner of "product stewardship" on 24 and 25 April and at which 85 retailers, pesticide wholesalers and Agchem Company's participated

The attendees represented most of the country governorates, including Delta, Upper Egypt and Cairo.

Said Abdella delivered 2 presentations on product stewardship and the anti-counterfeiting campaign.

The 3 videos developed for the anti-counterfeiting campaign were presented and discussions followed on the illegal trade of pesticides in the country. Details of the campaign were explained as well as the components namely; training – media – promotion – survey – workshops etc.

All participants received copies of the campaign promotional materials resulting in favourable feedback regarding the theme and logo. Appreciation was also made to the companies for their funding efforts.

The event was covered by Ministry of Agriculture television channel as part of the communications campaign and included interviews with Rudolf Fuchs, DAS Commercial Leader, Turkey, Northeast Africa, Middle East and Pakistan, Ali Nenai Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee member, Said Abedlla, Project Manager and some retailers.

These interviews together with coverage of the event have been broadcast on the Ministry of Agriculture television channel for which a link is attached.

<http://misr.alzeraya.tv/topics/142570#http://misr.alzeraya.tv/posts/614689>

Said Abdella



Group Participants

## Plant Biotechnology

### Cotton Board of Zambia calls for investments in biotech to aid sustained production of quality cotton



Cotton Board of Zambia board secretary Dafulin Kaonga

Cotton Board of Zambia board secretary Dafulin Kaonga said Government should invest in modern biotechnology, including genetic engineering, to develop cotton and other crops of high quality and sustain their production.

Mr Kaonga said Zambia should partner with reputable biotechnology companies and also involve farmers in the development and adoption of genetically modified cotton. "I call upon the Government to consider investing in capacity development in modern biotechnology. Once the human resource base and infrastructure is adequate, the country will be able to develop its own genetically modified crops which will be available to farmers at a lower cost," he said.

"Zambia needs to continue with the precautionary approach towards adoption of genetically modified organisms if farmers are to increase production of cotton," he said.

**Kelly Njombo, April 29, 2014: Zambia Daily Mail**

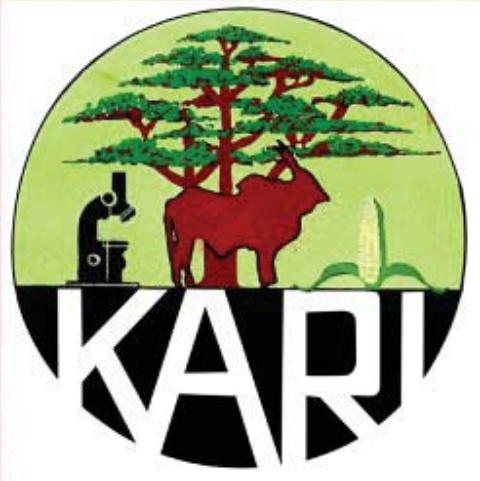
### Kenyan Stakeholders tell Government Taskforce to lift GM food imports ban

Biotechnology stakeholders in Kenya last week formally petitioned a government taskforce set up to review GMO food safety to urgently lift the ban on GMO food imports. The stakeholders presented these views during public hearing held in Nairobi on 25 April 2014. The taskforce is now expected to utilize the views submitted to it during the public hearing to prepare a report with recommendations on how the Government of Kenya should proceed with regards to GM products.

Stakeholders have maintained that the ban, which was imposed by the Ministry of Public Health in November 2012, was based on misinformation about the safety of GMO foods and is sending conflicting signals to the public as to what the true position of the government is on biotechnology.

"The Kenyan Government has invested millions of taxpayers' money on research on improved biotech crops such as the biotech cotton developed through the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). However, there appears to be indecisiveness when it comes to implementation of the various pro-biotechnology policies that have been promulgated in the country," noted Mr. Kennedy Oyugi, one of the biotech stakeholders who made their submissions at the public hearing.

The ongoing confusion on the government position on biotechnology is exemplified by a recent television interview by the Deputy President who confirms that the government is keen on revamping the cotton sector by adopting biotech cotton. For more details, contact Jonathan Odhong at: [jodjong@isaaa.org](mailto:jodjong@isaaa.org)



INTERNATIONAL SERVICE  
FOR THE ACQUISITION  
OF AGRI-BIOTECH  
APPLICATIONS

**Upcoming Events****Upcoming Events****Upcoming Events**

<b>SSP ToT, Lusaka, Zambia</b>	<b>May 5-9</b>
<b>Pollinator Issue Team face-to-face meeting, Brussels</b>	<b>May 13</b>
<b>Global Regulatory Steering committee Meeting, Brussels</b>	<b>May 14-15</b>
<b>Pollinator Forum, South Africa</b>	<b>May 22</b>
<b>34th CSP Ordinary Session for Pesticides Registration</b>	<b>May 26-30</b>
<b>Launch of ISAAA activities in Côte d'Ivoire</b>	<b>June 03</b>
<b>Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting, Brussels</b>	<b>June 10</b>
<b>Meeting of the CPSC, Brussels</b>	<b>June 11</b>
<b>Meeting of the Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee, Brussels</b>	<b>June 12</b>
<b>Meeting of Communication Steering Committee, Brussels</b>	<b>June 13</b>
<b>Meeting of the Obsolete Stocks Project Team, Brussels</b>	<b>June 13</b>
<b>USAID-CLP-IFDC-CropLife International Anti-Counterfeiting training workshop for administration agents and judiciary officers, Mali, Bamako</b>	<b>June 18-19</b>



Photo: UN.ORG

**GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY**

Representing the Plant Science Industry



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