



Stewardship

FAO Workshop for the establishment of a Container Management System in Mozambique

As background, in 2010, FAO Pesticide Risk Reduction Group commissioned a preliminary survey on the management of empty pesticide containers in Mozambique as part of a Project Information Format (PIF). The report provided a baseline study on the type and quantity of pesticide packaging sent to the market and recommendation for establishing a container management program for the country.

As follow-up to this preliminary work, FAO obsolete pesticides program was requested to support the Mozambique Government in establishing a safe and sustainable container management system (CMS) in the country in collaboration with the main interested stakeholders and where container rinsing by farmers will have a prominent role. Local stakeholders already expressed their interest in establishing appropriate container management in Mozambique and requested support and expertise from FAO to develop a pilot system for the safe collection and recovery of rinsed empty crop protection containers.

The project recruited Steven Byrde, a CMS expert consultant to conduct a preliminary situation analysis, to develop a draft strategy for collecting and treating empty pesticide containers in Mozambique and finalize the strategy together with stakeholders. Based on this strategy, a pilot container management system will be established, improved upon and expanded to a national CMS.

FAO Mozambique arranged a 2-day workshop, which was held at the Ministry of Agriculture on 3 & 4 September. The aim of the workshop was to:

Review the CMS proposal;

- Identify expectations from main stakeholders;
- Agree on the role and responsibility; and to
- Establish the milestones and the scope for a pilot CMS program.
- CropLife Africa Middle East was invited as an interested and experienced stakeholder to share know-how on other container collection schemes in Africa.
- At the conclusion of the two days, a strategy, pilot setup and roadmap had been established.

Les Hillowitz



Above: Some of the participants at the workshop

Right: L – R Khalid Cassam, FAO Mozambique and Steven Byrde, Meeting Facilitator



Above : Benedito Manjate, from the cashew industry making a point

An Update on the SSP Training in the Lango Sub-Region, Northern Uganda in partnership with IFDC CATALIST targeting 1,000 farmers

The project kicked-off with a training on Project Management This was undertaken by Manon Dohmen who trained the CropLife Uganda management staff in early June on project logistics and procedures

This was followed by the selection of the trainers undertaken by the CropLife Uganda Team and the two Area Coordinators in the Apac and Lango districts. From this two "Training of Trainers" interventions followed and which included four members of the CropLife Uganda team. Perry Ngoma facilitated both trainings over a 6-day period that introduced the candidates to the training concepts and techniques of the Spray Service Providers.

The selection of the 45 trainee SSP's for the Lango sub-region was successfully undertaken by the CropLife Field Coordinators in collaboration with Caritas, Uganda Oil seeds Producers Association and the Apac Farmers association. All three-farmer associations have member groups receiving support from IFDC CATALIST project.

The selected group of 45 Spray Service Providers underwent a 6-day intensive training by the CropLife trainers, assisted by the IFDC team in Lira. The training consisted mainly of Responsible Use, spraying techniques, adopting a business approach and linkages to finance.

Key to the project is the interaction between the SSP and the agro-dealer as this ensures the supply linkage to genuine products. The objective of this interaction is to establish well-documented supply lines from the CropLife member companies through the agro dealers to the SSPs. This serves as a strong proactive measure to prevent counterfeit products from entering the supply chain. The interaction created a close business working relationship between the two groups.



Above: Manon Dohmen teaching CropLife Uganda management on project principles

Below: Perry Ngoma leading on the SSP Concept



The newly trained SSP's showing off their certificates of competence



Each of the SSPs will be provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) in the form of a coverall, orange in colour and embroiled with his SSP number on the back. Added to this he will be provided with an orange coloured facemask, a pair of gloves, a pair of gumboots and volumetric measuring cups. He will also receive a CP15 diaphragm knapsack sprayer. Key to all of this is the SSP/IFDC/CropLife identity card.

Steven Matovu



Coordinators Meeting of the WCF-ACI SSP Project

The SSP country coordinators, field officers, project manager, technical advisor, as well as the support team from CropLife AME met in Accra, Ghana on 23 and 24 September. This was strengthened by a delegation led by the Chief of Party, Sona Ebai.

The purpose of this get-together was to provide an update on the implementation and challenges for the project closure at end December 2014. Important achievements noted were the following:

The targets set for SSP trainers and SSP's were reached in all four countries.

Farmers serviced by SSP's varied from county to country with Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana achieving 71% and 87% respectively. Targets at year-end will however be met. Improvement for both Cameroon and Nigeria can be expected where current figures are 75% and 50% respectively.

Major challenges relate to the availability of PPE for which a subsidy was considered at the time of project initiation. Various mechanisms are in place at country level to provide the needed PPE to the SSP's. One such mechanism is the MoU between CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and the Council of Coffee and Cocoa to provide 1000 mist-blowers and 1000 units of full sets of PPE to the cooperatives. This was further made possible with member companies advertising on the PPE in Ghana and Nigeria.

Data collection and follow-up was covered to ensure that the activities of the SSP's and the subsequent services to farmers are captured in the database.

On ending, the success of the project must be well coordinated as this could gain further momentum through other interested parties.

All data collection needed for the preparation of project closure together with the final report must be submitted by 20 December 2014.

Bama Yao



Chief of Party: Sona Ebai



World Cocoa
Foundation



Obsolete Stocks Project: Benin

The official launch of the Obsolete Stocks Project in Benin took place on 30 September in Cotonou. Approximately 30 dignitaries from the Directorate of Crop Production of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Environment, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) country representative, representatives of CropLife and the national media agencies, participated at this event.

The project is aiming at developing an inventory followed by a safeguarding exercise.

Three key messages followed:

- A "Welcome message" by the Director of Crop Production Directorate (Direction de la Production Végétale, DPV) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, to thank all for their participation at the event, and for future cooperation and contribution to the project. He particularly thanked CropLife International for providing the opportunity for Benin to eliminate the obsolete pesticides, which were causing harm to the population and the environment.
- An address by Bama Yao, CropLife Regional Director to explain the role of CropLife International in the initiative based on the "vision mission & values" of the Plant Science Industry. He emphasized the contribution that CropLife makes through its products and services focusing on the responsible use of pesticides. He added that the important financial and technical contribution to this project reflects the commitment of CropLife International to engage in initiatives to protect man and the environment. In this regard measures must be adopted to prevent a further accumulation of unwanted pesticides. Such measures include the implementation of sound regulations, control measures to fight the illegal trade in pesticides, proper planning in the supply of pesticides and stock management.

Representing the Plant Science Industry

The "Opening address" by the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Agriculture who thanked local participants, international organizations such as GEF, FAO, the EU, JICA and particularly CropLife International. He then went on to explain the importance of the project for Benin. He also indicated how the misuse of pesticides could lead to catastrophic situations such as obsolete stocks and harm to the population. To avoid such situations it was important to implicate the supply chain in education and information. He stated that the Ministry of Agriculture will provide the needed support and will fully cooperate for the success of the project. To this end the government, including other ministries, and all involved stakeholders including the media and civil society will be involved in the project.

The action plan for the implementation of the project was discussed with the CropLife consultant, David Laycock and the project coordinator. Covered specifically was the upcoming training for the inventory with PolyEco in charge of the collecting and managing the stocks.

Side meetings were organized to discuss some specific topics with the Director of DPV, and officers of the Pesticide Regulation Services.

Bama Yao



Above: Bama Yao addressing the participants.

Below: David Laycock (centre)



The Executive Committee of SAGA (CropLife Sudan) holds meeting with the Federal Minister of Agriculture

The Executive Committee of SAGA held a meeting with the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Eng. Ibrahim Mahmoud. Mr. Khidir Gibreel, the Registrar of the National Pesticides Council (NPC) also attended the meeting.

Discussions points covered included:

- The role of SAGA in the field of plant protection and the services the national association provides to the agricultural community.
- The relationship that SAGA has with the National Pesticides Council and other agricultural organizations and entities.
- The responsible use of pesticides and the role of the agricultural extension services in the country
- Regulations and by-laws governing pesticides in the Sudan.
- The importation of pesticides into the country and state tenders.
- Obsolete stocks and empty pesticide containers and the role of the Poison Information Centre.
- The meeting was seen to be extremely fruitful and the Minister immediately requested further information on the topics covered.
- A follow-up letter to concerned stakeholders on the obsolete stocks issue is being drafted and which will be viewed as the starting point to finally get this initiative underway.

Faisal M Ali

L-R Mr. Khidir Gibreel (NPC Registrar) Eng. Ibrahim Mahmoud (Federal Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation) and Mr. Sirelkahtim Omer (SAGA chairman).



Representing the Plant Science Industry

The SAGA Executive Committee of SAGA holds important meetings in the Gezira State

The Executive committee of SAGA paid a visit to the Gezira State.

Three meetings were held with the General Manager of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Minister of Agriculture and the Governor of the State.

Topics covered were mainly on the responsible use of pesticides and the management of obsolete stocks. Both the Gezira state and SAGA expressed similar views and a plan covering a number of activities will be developed in the near future.

The Gezira State intends to launch the SAFE FOOD PRODUCTION project shortly and SAGA will be sharing, both in the planning and execution stages.

The SAGA delegation addressed a selective group on the responsible use of pesticides. SAGA member companies also provided support in terms of sprayers and pesticides for the public health sector.

Faisal M Ali

L-R Mr. Eildallah Mohamed Yousif, General Manager, Ministry of Agriculture, (former SAGA ExCo member) and Mr. Azhari Khalafalla, Minister of Agriculture, Gezira state.



SAGA addresses a selective gathering on the Responsible Use of pesticides

Anti Counterfeiting

CropLife Egypt's Anti-Counterfeiting campaign participates in Sahara Exhibition

CropLife Egypt's Anti-Counterfeiting campaign participated at SAHARA, the 27th International Agricultural Exhibition for Africa and the Middle East, held at the Cairo International Conference Centre.

The "campaign" stand was visited by over 2500 visitors who received promotional items, including folders, flyers, stickers, brochures, CD's, etc. whilst the opportunity was taken to explain the campaign activities to them.

The Vice Minister, Dr. Ali Ismail opened the exhibition and visited the "campaign stand". It was quite evident that the activities of CropLife Egypt were highly appreciated.

Twenty five percent of the visitors to the stand were farmers who are victim of counterfeit products.

Forty percent were from the crop protection sector that appreciated the campaign and the activities this brought with it and echoed support for the campaign.

Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and pesticide regulation also visited the stand and appreciated both the activities, and level of promotion given.

During the Exhibition, groups from the "campaign contributors" visited the booth, namely: Bayer – Dow – BASF – DuPont – Syngenta - KZ – Agrin Serve – Maytrade and Samtrade.

Said Abdella delivered a presentation on the 1st day of the Exhibition covering the campaigns activities and the strategy to fight the illegal trade in pesticides.

Publicity of the exhibition referred to the "campaign" in local newspapers and appreciated the activities being undertaken.

Said Abdella



Dr. Ali Ismail, Vice Minister viewing the "campaign's activities" with Said Abdella

CropLife Egypt's Anti-Counterfeiting campaign participates in Sahara Exhibition



The CropLife Egypt Anti-Counterfeiting Campaign stand at the SAHARA Exhibition



Dow Team visiting the stand; L-R: Osama Emara, Said Abdella, Tarek El-azab, Gaél Hilli, Ali El-nenai and Rudolf Fuchs

Association Management

CropLife Ghana: General Assembly Meeting

CropLife Ghana held their General Assembly Meeting on 10 September in Accra, at which 17 member companies participated.

Topics focused on were activities related to the following:

- Stewardship: an update on training activities on IPM/RU, the Container Management and the CleanFarms Program which covered the safeguarded stocks and their anticipated removal
- Member companies were urged to give their full support to the SSP program by using the SSP's to expand their business and to give feedback to the program officer
- Regulations: covering the planned introduction of a levy in cooperation with the EPA; if introduced this levy would provide funds for activities primarily to improve the regulatory framework and the fight against fake pesticides. A working group has been formed and will make proposals to the ExCo
- Anti Counterfeiting: This included an update of the "cross-platform program" directed under the Plant Biotech activities. This program focuses on the illegal trade of agro inputs including seeds for which two training interventions were organized, and a third planned for October
- The training of enforcement agencies (customs and police) and agro-dealers will continue with the regular support of CropLife AME and will be expanded by a special anti-counterfeiting focus pushed by the SSP project
- Other issues:
 - Providing relevant information to the secretariat for dissemination to farmers and other stakeholders
 - Greater demands for the Secretariat time
 - Market survey update
 - New shared office accommodation for all players involved in agro-inputs including distribution

Bama Yao

CropLife Cameroon: General Assembly Meeting

CropLife Cameroon held their General Assembly Meeting on 17 September in Douala and at which 15 member companies participated.

The meeting was used as an opportunity to share information on:

- Progress on the SSP project
 - The targets achieved of 30 SSP trainers, 297 SSP's and 2459 farmers were 100%, 99% and 68% respectively
 - A commitment to urgently supply 50 sets of PPE to the SSP's in early October and to start the radio jingles
 - The national coordinator needs to finalize all outstanding paper work in advance of project closure at year-end
- Pesticides Management in coordination with the Department of Crop Protection (DRCQIPA) of the MINADER and covered in the minutes of the recent meeting between CropLife Cameroon and the DRCQIPA, comments from CropLife Cameroon have been submitted and feedback from the DRCQIPA is expected. CropLife Cameroon was encouraged to pursue collaboration and cooperation with the DRCQIPA for the guidance and support of industry to the regulatory authorities.
- Regulations on plastics. Participants were briefed on new regulations that are applicable for packing of pesticides and in agriculture in general.

Bama Yao

United States Department of Agriculture Introduces New Staff

Eric Wenberg, Minister Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, USDA, organized a function on 18 September to welcome Justina Torry, Senior Agricultural Attaché, and Abigail Nguema, Agricultural Attaché, to South Africa.

An interesting piece of news is that Pretoria office of USDA is now responsible for activities in Zambia.

USDA is keen to assist Zambia with their GMO policy and seem positive that funding will be available for projects in this discipline.

A number of diplomats and representatives at the function discussed the impressive development of agriculture in Zambia.

Les Hillowitz



L-R Justina Torry and Abigail Nguema

L-R Lucas Monama, USDA,
Heiko Koster, US Grains Council
and Dirk Esterhuizen, USDA



Representing the Plant Science Industry

News From Member Companies

Monsanto: New Africa Region Area Lead Meets With USDA

To accelerate Monsanto's focus on the transformation of agriculture in Africa and to help farmers on the continent become more self-sufficient in food and feed production, a new Africa Region has been created with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. This came into effect on 1 September 2014. Gyanendra Shukla was appointed as the first Africa Regional Lead. This new region will include all countries in Sub-Saharan and South Africa and firmly establishes Monsanto's long-term commitment to the continent as an integral part of their business. Kobus Steenekamp will continue to lead the South African commercial business.

On 1 October the Monsanto team met with USDA and later with the agricultural media.



Above: L-R, Les Hillowitz, Kobus Steenekamp, Gyanendra Shukla, Eric Wenberg, USDA, Judi Rabe, Monsanto, Alison Levesley, Monsanto and Wellington Sikuka, USDA



Left: Judi Rabe, Gyanendra Shukla and Kobus Steenekamp

DuPont to Invest R62m in Agribusiness R&D Centre

Innovation and science solutions company DuPont has committed to invest R62-million in its research and development (R&D) hub in Delmas, Mpumalanga, South Africa by 2017.

The R&D hub was established by DuPont's commercial and research business DuPont Pioneer Hi-Bred and is the first major R&D hub in Africa, DuPont sub-Saharan Africa regional leader Richard Okine told *Engineering News* at a media briefing in Johannesburg, last month.

The hub, which will serve as the core DuPont Africa regional technology centre, focuses on agribusiness for the African region and will help support development activities in the Delmas region, extending throughout South Africa and Southern Africa.

"Although science is global, the implementation is local and we have to apply science to meet the local needs. We are making large investments in Africa with a strong focus on the region. We hope the hub will create research and inventions that are localised. The goal is to have a highly productive R&D community, making significant advances to meet the needs of the continent," Okine said.

Eventually, R&D needs to be used to get the fundamentals of agriculture in place and to grow and develop local talent for the sector, he added.

The hub will accelerate seed product development for farmers in Africa and help them better manage key agronomic challenges, including pest and disease pressure, climate volatility and nutrient-depleted soils.

South African field crop seed producers and suppliers Pannar Seed, which was acquired by DuPont last year, will use the R&D hub, together with DuPont Pioneer, to drive R&D product pipelines for the companies, capitalising on complementary germplasm pools and developing innovative solutions for customers of both brands.

The hub also includes the first private insectary in Africa, which will raise and house insects that pose challenges to local crop production for scientific purposes.

DuPont Pioneer has similar hubs in Brazil, India and China.

Meanwhile, DuPont will also invest \$2-million over the next two years to help African countries with their agriculture extension programmes and train farmers to increase their output and help improve farming efficiency.

Sashnee Moodley—Engineering News



DuPont sub-Saharan Africa regional leader Richard Okine



Plant Biotechnology

USDA Allows Commercial Planting of Dow AgroSciences' Enlist™ Corn, Soybean Traits



(L) NEW LEAF: Boeing has teamed up with SAA to develop jet fuel from tobacco as part of efforts to cut carbon emissions. Picture: Courtesy THINKSTOCK

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has given the final approval to Dow AgroSciences' Enlist™ corn and soybean traits in the United States. The Enlist traits are part of the Enlist™ Weed Control System, a new trait and herbicide technology that seeks to control herbicide resistant weeds. The approval applies to the Enlist corn, Enlist soybean and Enlist E3™ soybean traits. The company now awaits registration of Enlist Duo™ herbicide with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the companion herbicide to the Enlist traits

U.S. farmers, who anxiously waited for the commercial availability of the Enlist™ Weed Control System, voiced strong support following the USDA decision. Brooks Hurst, a farmer from Tarkio, Missouri, said: "Tools like Enlist will help me do my job more efficiently and productively. That benefits Americans in two ways: It puts food on our tables, and contributes to a healthy economy."

US AIRCRAFT manufacturer Boeing has teamed up with South African Airways (SAA) to develop jet fuel from a tobacco plant as part of efforts to cut carbon emissions and promote green energy in South Africa.

The jet fuel will be made from a hybrid tobacco plant known as Solaris, which will be produced by alternative jet fuel maker SkyNRG, the companies said in a joint statement on Wednesday.

Test farming of the plants, which are nicotine-free, is under way in South Africa, with biofuel output expected in the "next few years", the companies said.

"By using hybrid tobacco, we can leverage knowledge of tobacco growers in South Africa to grow a marketable biofuel crop without encouraging smoking," Ian Cruickshank, SAA's group environmental affairs specialist, said.

SAA is the only airline in Africa to have a biofuel program, aimed at producing sustainable fuel from waste feedstock, which will significantly reduce net carbon emissions.

Several international air carriers, including British Airways and Virgin Atlantic Airways, are developing projects to produce jet fuel from crops to reduce greenhouse emissions.

The tobacco-based biofuel has potential in several regions where traditional tobacco is cultivated, including Africa, southern and central Europe, Asia, Oceania and Latin America, Boeing spokeswoman Jessica Kowal said.

"In coming years, Boeing expects emerging technologies to increase South Africa's aviation biofuel production from the rest of the plant," Ms Kowal said. "This initiative broadens co-operation between Boeing and SAA to develop renewable jet fuel."

South Africa has set the beginning of October next year as the date when fuel producers will start blending diesel and petrol with biofuel to cut its reliance on imported fuel. The biofuels industry in South Africa has been held back by an inadequate regulatory regime and concern that biofuels will affect food security and prices.

ISAAA– Crop Biotech Update

Uganda: GMO Bill not withdrawn - Minister

The minister of state for Finance in charge of Planning, Matia Kasajja, has refuted claims that government has withdrawn the National Biotechnology and Bio safety Bill, 2012 (BSBT). He said government fully supports the Bill. A Bill whose objective includes providing for development and general release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in Uganda was tabled in Parliament for the first reading last year by Ajuri county MP Denis Hamson Obua. Minister Kasajja on the same day laid on table the certificate of financial implications of the Bill. Appearing before the Committee on Science and Technology Wednesday at Parliament, Kasajja said consultations are going on to ensure different players give in their contribution before the Bill is passed into the law. He revealed what he called the government position "Government has not withdrawn the BSBT 2012 Bill saying the NRM caucus had already discussed and considered the bill, but still wanted the input of other stakeholders, particularly critics." "The Bill has nothing sinister, it is just intended to promote and regulate the use of science and bio- technology, government want to expedite the process of passing it into a law. Kasajja added.

He explained "Absence of a law to regulate the high rate of unregulated (GMOs) products in Uganda will impact a lot on people's health.

He added "Uganda will become a dumping ground for GMO products if there is no law regulating the different importers of the products. Science and technology is the way to go; any country that does not think scientifically is always left behind. So, the [BSBT] bill is one of the much-needed laws," he said, before urging MPs to consider the Bill as soon as possible to close the legal vacuum and promote biotechnology.

Committee chairperson Anthony Semmulu said BSBT Bill, 2012, if passed into law will provide for a regulatory framework to facilitate safe development and application of biotechnology."

He stressed that once passed into law; the Bill would boost food production through the use of improved, drought and disease-resistant seeds and other planting materials. If it were approved by parliament, Uganda would join Rwanda and Kenya, among other countries that have already passed BSBT laws.

Otuke Woman MP Annet Nyakecho said, "If it becomes a law the Bill is not trying to kill our indigenous seeds but there is need to improve on them. I don't want Uganda to import food 10 years from now, but if we don't do something, we shall be importing food," she said.

The Bill creates an authority in the National Council for Science and Technology that will test and approve all GMO seeds first, before rolling them out to farmers for safety reasons.

If approved, into a law will include approving the development, testing and use of GMO in the country as well as updating the national focal point on matters relating to biotechnology and biosafety.

The Authority will also ensure necessary measures to avoid adverse effects on the environment, biological diversity, and human health and on socio-economic conditions arising from GMOs.

It will further prescribe standards relating to development of GMOs advice government on issues of biotechnology and biosafety and coordinate the roles of other lead agencies in relation to handling of GMOs.

By Paul Kivuuwa Reuters 10 September 2014



Deputy Chairperson Science and Technology Committee of parliament, Annet Nyakecho Okwenye, chairing a session of a consultative workshop on the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill 2012 at the Prime minister's building in Kampala August 4, 2014. PHOTO/Maria Wamala

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

AntiCounterfeiting Workshop for Customs, Takoradi Ghana	Oct 27
NAME Regulatory Meetings, Cairo	Oct 28-29
NAME Mini Hub Meeting, Cairo	Oct 28-29
Meeting of the Regional Regulatory Committee	Oct 30
ICIPE launch of Bee Health Laboratory, Nairobi	Nov 4
WCF-ACI-CLP Steering Committee meeting, Abidjan	Nov 4-6
CLAME Board Meeting, Milano	Nov 6-7
WCF Cocoa Symposium Ibadan	Nov 11-14
Meeting of the Obsolete Stocks Project Team, Brussels	Nov 19
NAME Regulatory Meeting Gulf countries	Nov 25-26
Global Meeting of the Regulatory SC, Brussels	Dec 4-5
Global Meeting of the PRD SC, Brussels	Dec 9



Photo: Wikimedia

GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

Representing the Plant Science Industry



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