

Stewardship

East and Southern Africa Hub & Regulatory Workshop

The East and Southern Africa Hub & Regulatory Workshop took place in Dar es Salaam on 6 and 7 September at which 62 participants attended. The meeting was officially opened by Godfrey Simbeye, Executive Director, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation.

The Hub meeting focused on “communications and advocacy” and the rollout of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for Spray Service Provider projects.

The focus of the Regulatory meeting was on risk assessment of crop protection products as a central pillar in science based regulatory decision making and the various approaches employed in risk assessment, key steps including, hazard assessment, hazard characterization, exposure assessment and risk assessment for both human and the environment. The meeting also introduced participants to the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) and addressed its implementation for classification and Labelling in East & Southern Africa countries.

We were indeed privileged to once again have Dr Bernhard Johnen facilitate this meeting and who was ably supported by Dr. Felix Meier-Manz.

Central to the objectives of both groups, Will Surman of CropLife International undertook a presentation in the plenary titled “The Risk of a Hazard-Based Future”. He later conducted a workshop for the national associations on “Exploring the Communications and Advocacy Toolkit to Tackle Key Issues”.

With biotechnology starting to take a foothold in Africa, we were indeed fortunate to have Daniel Otunge of AATF provide his reflections on “The Status of Agricultural Biotechnology in East & Southern Africa.”

The opportunity was taken to provide the national associations with an “Overview of Key Projects with Partners within CLAME” which was undertaken by Manon Dohmen. Both meetings were highly participative and interactive.

Les Hillowitz

Group Photo



East and Southern Africa Hub & Regulatory Workshop



Left: Will Surman conducting the "communications workshop"



Right: Betty Atto describing the "project structure" in Uganda



Evelyn Lusena explains the "preparation needed for a TOT"



Above & Below: Group discussions on GHS



Fred Boampong covering "awareness creation and selection of SSPs"

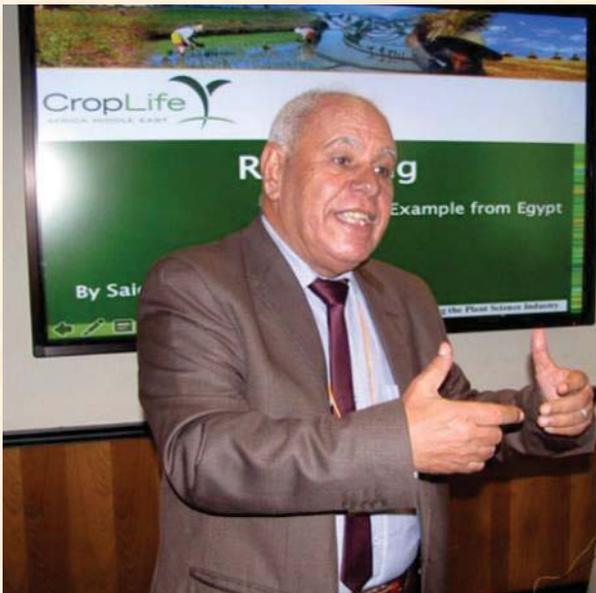




Perry Ngoma detailing the "importance of member companies in the project"



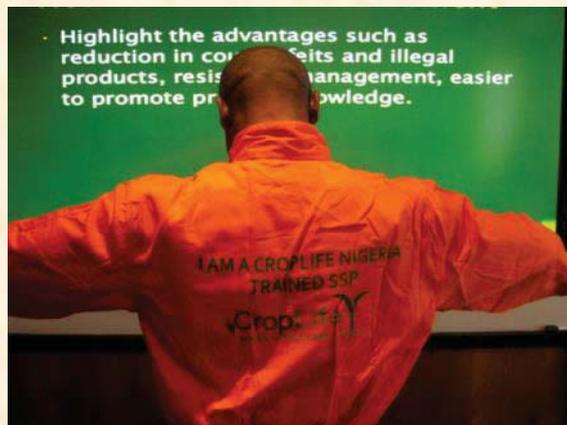
Ronald Chilumpha covering "the training of SSPs in Malawi"



Above: Said Abdella explaining "the importance of timely and good reporting"



Above: Dedefo Abdo covering "the procurement of PPE and sprayers in the project"



Siji Ofoesuwa demonstrating "recognition in the field"

Update on SSP Activities in Malawi

Last year CropLife Malawi started with the implementation of the Spray Service Provider (SSP) concept in the cotton sector with financial and technical support from Malawi Oilseeds Sector Transformation (MOST), a program funded by DFID.

The project is targeting to train 51 SSP trainers who would in turn train 797 SSPs to service more than 10,600 cotton farmers across the country. This target would only be for the initial phase as these trainers have the potential to train more SSPs in the following seasons.

To date, 47 SSP trainers have been trained in the SSP concept of which 11 also underwent an IPM course. The trainers trained a total of 137 SSPs last year and earlier this year.

In the next three months, prior to the start of the planting season, the SSP Coordinator will facilitate project partners to identify potential SSPs who will be screened and trained by selected SSP trainers ready to serve smallholder farmers in their respective communities.

Manon Mireille Dohmen



Practical Session on Responsible Use and Handling of Chemicals during the March 2016 SSP ToT training



Participants at the March 2016 SSP ToT Training in Lilongwe

Introduction to IPM for SSP Trainers, Zambia



Group Photo

Following the first training covering the Introduction to IPM for SSP Trainers which was carried out as a pilot in Lusaka in 2015, CropLife Zambia organised a second training which took place in Lusaka from 19 to 22 September. The training was attended by 11 SSP trainers drawn from member Companies

Once the presentation on the course and objectives had been covered, participants were required to undertake a pre-test to evaluate their basic knowledge on IPM before embarking on the training. The overall knowledge level was fairly good but with a few grey areas.

From the results of the post-test it was apparent that there was improvement by a number of participants.

Participants found that the SSP concept was now more refined compared to when they were initially trained but as recommended in the previous IPM training, the program should be extended by a day to include a field visit to be used to develop an IPM plan as a practical exercise to enhance learning. The training was facilitated by Perry Ngoma

Les Hillowitz



CropLife Kenya signs a Partnership Agreement with SNV Kenya (Netherlands Development Organization on the promotion of Spray Service Providers.

The Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK) / CropLife Kenya, signed a joint implementation for the promotion of Spray Service Providers (SSPs) with the Dutch nonprofit development organization SNV Kenya through the HortIMPACT facility.

The project will run from August 2016 to November 2017 and will cover 6 counties in Kenya. These are:

- * Bungoma
- * Nyeri
- * Nyandarua
- * Makueni
- * Kajiado
- * Nakuru

The main objective of the project will be to develop the capacity of 120 SSP supervisors in the provision of Integrated Pest and Disease Management services to farmers. The training will use a business model approach while incorporating a strong IPM and soil fertility management component.

This will see an extended curriculum that will cover soil fertility management, scouting of pests & diseases, integrated approach to pest and disease management, responsible use of chemicals and the business model to successfully offer this SSP package as an entrepreneur to paying farmers. The project will train a total of 480 spray service providers. To crown it all, there will be awareness creation among farmers to sensitize and educate them on the availability of the services to be offered by the SSPs. The project will also introduce an aspect of linking the SSPs to CropLife Kenya member companies who wish to work with them in the field.

The outcomes expected from the project will be the responsible handling of pesticides, reduced risk towards human health, the environment and reduction of residue levels in produce. As a result, horticultural produce in the Kenyan domestic market will be safer for consumption.

CropLife Kenya called on its members to embrace this project and to support the initiative and make use of the trainees once they are operating on the ground. The SSP's could serve as brand ambassadors (through branded equipment and PPE from member companies), technical assistants or mobilizers and would provide a useful link to farmers in the 6 counties. Members are also encouraged to give the trainees an opportunity to serve their communities and hence assist in sustainability of the model.

The first training will commence in Makueni from 26 – 30 September.

Interested members will be given an opportunity during the program to address the trainees. All members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Evelyn Lusenaka



CropLife Egypt Participation at SAHARA Exhibition

The SAHARA Exhibition is the largest Ag-inputs fair in the Middle-East, with an attendance in excess of 400,000 stakeholders. This year the event was held from 24 to 27 September 2016 at the International Conference Centre in Cairo.

CropLife Egypt participated in a workshop titled, " Good Marketing for Good Product". The workshop included an audience of 150 participants made up of farmers, retailers, import/export companies and the media. Discussions covered "Contracting Agriculture" and the important role of all stakeholders to link the supply chain through networking to achieve the goal of "good marketing for good product".

Sarwat Sakr, Chairman of CropLife Egypt, delivered a speech introducing CropLife activities and its role in enhancing best practices regarding plant protection products and the importance of this role inside the supply chain. He also covered the importance of sound product stewardship and the need to strengthen anti-counterfeiting activities

Said Abdella



Group Photo

CropLife Ghana Trains New Batch of SSP Trainers



Above: Group picture of SSP Trainers

Below: SSP Trainers taking the Post-Training Test



Sixteen officers from nine different CropLife Ghana member companies benefitted from a training program that took place 12-16 September 2016 in Kumasi, Ghana. All participants recently joined their companies as sales agronomists and were very eager to improve their knowledge and training skills.

The program consisted of one-day on training skills, and four-days on the Spray Service Provider (SSP) course. This was facilitated by Training Coordinator Manon Mireille Dohmen and Regional Trainer, Copperfield Banini. During the program, the SSP concept was explained in detail. Participants showed great interest and discussed how best to implement the concept within their companies.

At the end of the program, all participants had to undertake a written and practical test concerning the SSP topics. The average score for the written test was well above 80% and that of the practical test even higher, at above 90%. This indicated a high level of learning for the group. All participants received a well-deserved Certificate of Competence.

The SSP Trainers were challenged by the Program Manager of CropLife Ghana, Frederick B. Boampong, to train more SSPs to develop their marketing chains amongst the farming communities. He also advised them to emulate what other countries have been able to do by "branding" the SSPs for the benefit of their respective companies. All the trainers undertook to train more SSPs to improve trade and minimize misuse of pesticides amongst farmers

Frederic Boampong

SSP Trainers in Nigeria Upgrade Training Skills

A total of 11 SSP trainers in Nigeria upgraded their training skills during a Training-of-Trainers program that took place from 22 to 26 August 2016 in Kaduna, Nigeria. Among the participants was the Field Officer of CropLife Nigeria and 10 field officers from member companies who trained SSPs for the past year.

Every SSP trainer had already undergone the Training-of-SSP Trainers earlier this year, however, to ensure that all are able to work with the specially developed SSP manual and have the ability and skills to transfer this knowledge to farmers to become SSPs, CropLife Africa Middle East offered them this advanced course. The training program was facilitated by Training Coordinator, Manon Mireille Dohmen. The Executive Committee of CropLife Nigeria was well represented during the whole event. Chairman Mahmood Tauhid stopped by most days, and Secretary Dr. Abdullahi Ndarubu flew in from Lagos, especially for the closing ceremony.

The group was enthusiastic and experiences from the field were freely shared. In spite of the informal atmosphere, the group was put through their paces the whole week. Every participant had to undertake a written test on the theoretical aspects of training and a practical test in which their training skills were assessed. Only those who passed both tests received a certificate of competence. Although participants were nervous, especially for the practical test, they all did pretty well and received their certificates of competence. All SSP trainers will continue using their training skills the in upcoming SSP projects of CropLife Nigeria.

Manon Mireille Dohmen



Group Discussions



Group work in the classroom followed by field work covering monitoring to detect pest infestation or diseases infection on cocoa trees and pods

CropLife Nigeria Starts SSP Activities with IFDC in Cassava



2SCALE



Cassava Beer

CropLife Nigeria is ready to sign a contract with the International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) to start a pilot project using Spray Service Providers (SSP) in cassava in Nigeria. The first activities will start during October 2016. The main goal will be to set up a network of 24 SSPs in cassava clusters in Oyo state.

The activities are part of the "Towards Sustainable Clusters in Agribusiness through Learning in Entrepreneurship" (2SCALE) project. The project has a partnership with Psaltry International Ltd. and Nigerian Breweries Plc. in Oyo State. Psaltry is an indigenous agro-allied company established in 2005 to market cassava produce, but later expanded its business line to include farm development and the production of food grade starch from cassava. Nigerian Breweries is an operating company of Heineken and is the main producer of beer for the Nigerian market. The partnership between IFDC, Psaltry and Nigerian Breweries will enhance farmer productivity and increase the supply of high-quality cassava roots to Psaltry who will, in turn, provide industrial quality cassava starch for Nigerian Breweries to extract maltose syrup, for use in the brewing process.

The introduction of the SSP concept into the partnership is to ensure that the application of pesticides to the cassava is done in a responsible way and that the residue levels are well below the Maximum Residue Levels (MRL). In addition, the SSP concept offers job opportunities for rural youth.

The agreement with IFDC/2SCALE is the second with the project in Nigeria. Earlier this year, 2SCALE and CropLife Nigeria introduced the SSP concept to the tomato and chilli clusters in Kaduna, Oyo, and Plateau State. A total of 78 SSPs were trained. Last month all these SSPs were visited in their home communities. So far, a total of 650 farmers made use of the services of the SSPs.

Manon Mireille Dohmen

Workshop on Pesticide use in Cotton Production, Cote d'Ivoire

On 22 and 23 September a workshop was organized by the social security branch in Bouake aimed at the cotton companies to promote risk reduction in the cotton sector especially during production. Approximately 100 participants representing the Quality Security and Environment sectors of the cotton companies took part.

Roger Yeboue, of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire facilitated a session on "Pesticide Use in Cotton Production in Cote d'Ivoire". He guided the group on:

- The importance of cotton in both the regional and national economies
- The importance of pesticides in the sustainability of cotton production
- Stewardship and the IPM/RU program of CropLife
- Chemical control and IPM approaches
- Risks to man and the environment during pesticide application
- Risk reduction: the importance of PPE, the importance of product labels, to use only registered pesticides and to avoid illegal products. To introduce container management programs

He made reference to the SSP concept which could be implemented in the cotton sector and would contribute to the effective management of pests and diseases

Bama Yao



Participants (Left) were addressed by R. Yeboue, (Above) on the safety to man and the environment as fundamental criteria for pesticide usage

Regulatory

EU Regulation 1107/2009: What it may mean for Exporters of Agricultural produce to the EU?

A new report on the potential trade effects on selected agricultural to EU under regulation 1107/2009 has been published. The Kyd Brenner study is based on an evaluation of those substances that have been identified as *potential EDs* in the Commission's impact assessment, and assumes that an EU decision to 'cut-off' substances as per the proposed criteria in June 2016. This would lead to the setting of default level import tolerances – which would have a substantial impact on trade.

The report provides a detailed analysis of the effects of application of the proposed legislation and criteria for a number of specific countries, commodities and crop protection products. The measures could have a potential impact on trade of around €65 billion globally, and specifically affecting a number of important commodities including apples, pears, citrus fruits, cocoa and coffee among others.

Thus depending on the substances eventually selected for application of the cut-off criteria, actual trade effects in each country will depend on the ways in which the exporting producers and industry can respond to the loss of particular substances or groups of substances.

The full report can be accessed at :

http://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/PotentialTradeEffectsSelectedAgExporters2EU_Reg1107post.pdf

Stella Simiyu Wafukho



Association Management

CropLife Kenya Engages a Field Coordinator for SSP projects.

Andrew Thuo joined CropLife Kenya on 1 September as the Field Coordinator for the Spray Service Provider projects operating in the country.

Andrew was previously engaged in the implementation of the “Empty Pesticide Container Management Initiative” in Nyeri County. His previous experiences include various private and governmental agencies in the Kenyan agricultural sector, covering aspects of crop protection, agronomy, environmental conservation, soil science and socio-economic research and development.

He currently holds a Master's degree in Crop Protection from the University of Nairobi and is currently pursuing a post-graduate diploma in Project Management at the Kenya Institute of Management.

Evelyn Lusenaka



Andrew Thuo

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Anti-Counterfeiting

Anti-Counterfeiting Stakeholders Forum, 5 August 2016

The aim of the forum was to win the support of members of the industry in developing strategies to curb counterfeiting in the industry while highlighting on the achievements, challenges and protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Kenya.

In her opening remarks, The Chairperson of AAK, Susan Njoroge, said that counterfeit products affect our health, economy, our industry and that the Agrochemical Industry alone cannot win the war against the vice and therefore she reiterated the need of the Agrochemical industry to collaborate with various stakeholders in the fight against the vice.

Speaking at the forum, The Chairperson of the Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee, Patrick Ngugi, informed the meeting that the main objective/mandate of the Anti-counterfeiting Project was to reduce the counterfeiting scourge and promote a clean supply chain by the end of the project period. The project commenced in January 2014 and will terminate on 31 December 2017. The project is using three strategies to address the problem in the Agrochemical Industry i.e. establishment of baseline data, raising awareness among stakeholders and strengthening the supply chain.

The Regulator of the Pest Control Products Board discussed the measures they have put in place to curb counterfeiting. These measures include: increased surveillance by opening new regional offices, training and awareness programs, seizures of illegal products, prosecution of offenders, cooperation with other stakeholders, enhanced penalties on offenders and enhance industry self-regulation.

The Anti-Counterfeiting Agency (ACA) a state corporation, currently under the Ministry of Industry, Investment & Trade talked about the challenges the Agency is facing. One such challenge involves lodging complaints with the Agency. Many people view this as cumbersome since it involves filling in lots of forms. Also the issue of indemnity scares people away.



Patrick Ngugi, Chairperson of Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee addressing the members

Susan Njoroge, Chairperson of AAK



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Simon Maina, of the Plant Health Inspectorate (KEPHIS) based his talk on counterfeiting in the seed industry. He was keen to note that no single institution can win the war against counterfeiting. "Winning the fight against counterfeiting, requires collaborative effort among stakeholders and this to include inspectors, police and local administration".

Sylvance A. Sange, of Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI), clearly defined what can be registered as a patent, a trademark or as an industrial design. He briefly gave the process for reservation of each category and the lifespan of such a reservation.

Amon Adiema, Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and Head of Complaints Section and Ms. Mary Mwenje, Office of Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP), both gave overviews of what it takes to successfully investigate and prosecute a case within the judicial system of Kenya. Challenges in meeting their mandate were mentioned, such as reluctant witnesses, poor exhibit handling, corruption and fear of loss of public image by complainants.

Evelyn Lusena



Patrick Ngugi, the Chairperson of Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee



Casper Oluoch of the Anti-Counterfeiting Agency

Anti-Counterfeiting Workshop – Luxor - Egypt

CropLife Egypt participated in the anti-counterfeiting workshop, "Fighting pesticide counterfeiting and smuggling" organized under the auspices of Prof. Dr. Muhamed Badr; Governor of Luxor. This was in accordance with the protocol signed between the Agricultural Pesticides Committee and CropLife Egypt, and in collaboration with the CropLife Egypt member company, Kafr El Zayat. The workshop took place on 11 August, at the Steigenberger Nile Palace hotel – Luxor Governorate.

The workshop was attended by 150 participants from pesticide dealers and enforcement agencies in addition to a number of Agricultural Pesticides Committee representatives.

Sarwat Sakr, Chairman of CropLife Egypt participated at the workshop where he presented the role of CropLife and the "flagship project" being managed jointly by Agricultural Pesticides Committee in fighting the illegal trade in pesticides in Egypt. "This he said is achieved through awareness campaigns, training, workshops and law enforcement".

Said Abdella



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Plant Biotechnology

Largest-Ever Study of GM Crops Reveals their Environmental Impacts



University of Virginia economics professor Federico Ciliberto leads the largest-ever study of the environmental impacts of genetically modified (GM) crops in the U.S.

Alongside Edward D. Perry of Kansas State University, David A. Hennessy of Michigan State University, and Gian Carlo Moschini of Iowa State University, the four economists studied annual data from more than 5,000 soybean and 5,000 maize farmers in the U.S. from 1998 to 2011, exceeding previous studies that have been limited to one or two years of data.

The study found that maize farmers who planted insect resistant seeds used significantly less insecticide (about 11.2 percent less) than farmers who did not use GM maize; and that they also used 1.3 percent less herbicides over the 13-year period. On the other hand, adopters of GM soybean used 28 percent more herbicides than non-adopters.

ISAAA

Associate economics professor Federico Ciliberto co-led the largest research study to date examining how genetically modified soybeans and maize have impacted pesticide use in the U.S. (Photo by Dan Addison, University Communications)

U.S. Approves Arctic Fuji Apple

Arctic Fuji apple with non-browning characteristic is now commercially approved in the U.S., according to Okanagan Specialty Fruits, Inc. (OSF).

This new apple variety is just like other conventional Fuji apples sold in the market, but it resists browning when the flesh is cut and exposed to air.

Thus, the new trait displaces the need for preservatives. This nonbrowning trait has been introduced initially in other apple varieties (Arctic Golden and Arctic Granny) which were approved for commercial use in the U.S. in 2015

ISAAA



Okanagan Specialty Fruits founder - Neal Carter

Seminar at EU Parliament Tackles GM Crops Concerns

The Public Research and Regulation Initiative (PRRI) and EuropaBio organized a seminar entitled Unshackling Innovation: Will Europe block or enable GM crops? at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium on September 27, 2016 to discuss concerns on genetically modified (GM) crops.

Europe helped invent agricultural biotechnology, but has done more than anyone else to thwart genetically modified crops. Will Europe's cold shoulder prevent urgent agricultural modernization in developing countries? Will Europe's scientists ever see their innovations take root? What can Europe learn from other countries' experiences? How can science reclaim its seat at the table?

These were the concerns raised during the seminar, with the objective to unshackle innovation in agricultural biotechnology so that it reaches the farmers to feed the growing global population. Members of the EU Parliament who spoke at the seminar, Anthea McIntyre and Lambert van Nistelrooij called for GM crops to be adopted in the light of climate change, growing population, and the need for sustainable agriculture practice with minimum environmental footprints.

Sir Richard Roberts, the Nobel Laureate who organized the petition against Greenpeace over GMOs gave his candid views on why GM crops cannot be ignored when millions are starving or malnourished in many parts of the world. Other speakers from the public sector research, industry, farmers' associations, and government agencies shared similar views that innovation in agriculture, especially GM technology and New Breeding Technologies (NBTs) should be part of the breeders' toolkit. They also stated that activism against GM crops is a crime against humanity which is not supported by sound science. The speakers also said that Europe should show leadership for developing countries in embracing GM technology and NBTs in agriculture, and address challenges in agriculture, including ageing farming community, food insecurity in many countries, and climate change.

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Prof. Marc Van Montagu, Prof. Diran Makinde, and Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan spoke at the seminar, among other speakers. More information, is available on the website

Upcoming Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Bee Forum, AgriSA, South Africa	September 29
Meeting with CropLife Egypt covering review of SSP training the SSP	
Concept and a Container Management fact finding mission	October 18/19/20
Mini Hub Meeting, Cairo	October 25/26
IPM/RU training for retailers and applicators, Cote d'Ivoire	October 23 - 28
WCF Membership Meeting, Abidjan	October 25
WCF Stakeholder Meeting, Abidjan	October 26 - 27
IPM Project Team meeting, Washington	November 9
Stewardship Steering Committee, Washington	November 10
CLAME Board Meeting, Nairobi	November 15 - 16
Meeting with CropLife Malawi and project partners, Lilongwe,	November 17 - 18
AfricaBio AGM, Pretoria,	November 30



Photo: FAO



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GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

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