



International Conference, Respect for IP – Growing from the Tip of Africa, October 23 – 25, Johannesburg

The International Conference, Respect for IP – Growing from the Tip of Africa, in Sandton, South Africa, from October 23 – 25, was an opportunity to foster dialogue and ideas to support the development of a balanced and effective system for the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

More than 400 participants including government officials, policymakers, law makers, the private sector and lawyers covered a broad range of issues from the economic value of IP and its public rationale, to daily practical challenges facing those on the front line of IP enforcement

The conference offered a timely and important opportunity to reflect on the important role that IP rights play in supporting value creation and economic performance. Participants were able to explore available options, mechanisms and systems to more effectively build respect for and enforce IP rights.

CropLife was one of three major sponsors at the event and attracted many influential stakeholders to the stand. Assistance in manning the stand came from Mahmoud Said Abdella of CropLife Egypt and Elriza Theron, of CropLife South Africa

Les Hillowitz

Right: (Left to Right): Mahmoud Said (CropLife Egypt) - Mashaal El-Kharabsha (Crime Investigation Dept.) Jordan - Somya Mohamed (Society for the protection and support of IP) Sudan - Maha Bakhiet (Director, Intellectual Property & Competitiveness Dept. League of Arab State) Sudan - Rashid Abd Elmohsen (Director of the Dept. for the protection of IPR) Sudan Customs - Mohamed Sabbagh (National Institute of Industrial Property) Algeria - Ahmed Asiri (Ministry of Media) Saudi Arabia.



Francoise Dorcier, Coordinator, Illicit Goods and Global Health Programme, INTERPOL with Mahmoud Said Abdella of CropLife Egypt.



Left: Les Hillowitz with JoEllen Urban, Senior Trade Advisor, Office of Policy and International Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office



Stewardship

CropLife Egypt conducts Responsible Use training in Upper Egypt

CropLife Egypt collaborates with Blue Moon in activities involving professional spray teams and the awareness of Responsible Use with pesticides. This activity is intended to serve participants of the **USAID funded FAS project (Egypt Food Security & Agribusiness Support)** which includes small producer organizations.

CropLife Master Trainer, Mahmoud Said, undertook the training on the Responsible Use of pesticides and promoted the SSP concept.

The program took place on 11 - 13 September, in Assiut and on 18 - 20 September, in Minya, Egypt, to cover farmers working towards GLOBALG.A.P. certification under the FAS project. Responsible Use training is a requirement to qualify for certification.

Said Abdella



Left and below, Mahmoud Said Abdella conducting Responsible Use training



Stewardship

Closing of the outreach campaign for the Obstocks Project in Senegal

The official closing of the CleanFarms Campaign took place on September 27 in Dakar during a ceremony co-chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment and the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature. The campaign was launched on September 2017 as a component of the intervention by CropLife International in Senegal under the GEF-FAO Obstocks project in the Sahelian countries. The ceremony attracted 25 participants representing the key institutions and organizations involved in the campaign and the obsolete stocks project.

The three main activities of the campaign focusing on the private sector have been completed. These comprised the Outreach campaign aiming at sensitizing stakeholders for voluntary declaration, the inventory and the centralization of the small quantities of declared stocks. The inventoried volumes have been entered into the FAO database alongside the data from the FAO inventory, which focused on the public sector.

Following the presentations by the Consultant, David Laycock on the results and findings of the campaign, participants shared their experiences and reasons why their products had become obsolete. The reasons for stocks becoming obsolete included illegal imports and counterfeit pesticides, farmers using different products from those purchased by organizations such as the cotton authorities.

The next steps are to work with the FAO and the Plant Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment to determine storage priority for inclusion in the safeguarding and disposal phase of the project. It is hoped that this phase will be completed by the end of 2019. CropLife International will make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of safeguarding the prioritized stocks in Senegal and FAO will contract an international hazardous waste company to safeguard, remove and destroy the stocks by high temperature incineration.

CropLife Senegal led the CleanFarms Campaign, and as a result will be involved in future activities that the FAO will undertake. The Secretary General, Mamoune Sène, who is also the Coordinator of the CleanFarms/Outreach Campaign will serve as the focal point for the upcoming activities of the project

BamaYao



The inventoried sites covered the main agricultural areas of the country.

Photo: Courtesy CropLife Senegal.



Stewardship



Above: Participants listening to the explanations by David Laycock

Below: Participants included the President of CropLife Senegal, I. Dieye (Below 2nd L-R).

Photo Courtesy CropLife Senegal.



Left: David Laycock



Regulatory Advocacy

Application date for EU ED criteria is here!

The criteria for identifying agrochemicals that are potential endocrine disruptors (EDs) is scheduled to come into force on 10 November 2018, 5 years after the initial set date of December 2013.

What it entails

The updated ED criteria will apply to all new and ongoing applications.

For pending applications not finalized by then, applicants will be further required to provide data to complete the ED assessment.

If the a.i. is then considered an ED, the applicant may submit an assessment under Article 4(7) Regulation 1107/2009, under which an a.i. could be approved for up to five years on the basis that it is necessary to control a danger to plant health which cannot be contained by other available means.

An April 2018 amendment expounded that a substance would be found to have ED properties if it met all three criteria of:

- An adverse effect in an intact organism or its progeny;
- Has an endocrine Mode of Action; and
- The adverse effect is a consequence of the endocrine MoA.

In June 2018, a guidance document was provided on how to identify agrochemicals and biocides with ED properties, based on new criteria. It covers endocrine modes of action caused by estrogen, androgen, thyroid and steroidogenic (EATS) modalities. In August 2018, there was a further updating of guidelines to include thyroid parameters - There may be no data for the older compounds.

The guidance document describes how to gather, evaluate and consider all relevant information for the assessment, conduct an MoA analysis, and apply a weight of evidence approach - a demonstration of biologically plausible link between the observed adverse effects and endocrine activity.

Concerns

- Complying with the guidance documents in assessing existing approved compounds 'without data' may cause delays in approvals and increase costs for both applicants and regulators.
- Assumption of a pre-established link between "adversity and endocrine modality - may results in an unjustifiably low threshold for the identification of EDs
- Impression of repeated 'need for new data requirements' – may lead to huge amount of animal testing with no or minor improvement in human health
- Guidance requires an unreasonable burden of proof to demonstrate that a substance is not an ED- possible contradiction of the legal text of the criteria

Other lingering questions

- Applicability of basic toxicology principles to EDs
- Consideration of combination effects from exposure to mixtures of EDs
- Possibility of harmonisation of process to identify EDs in the EU

Excerpts from Robert Birkett (robert.birkett@informa.com) report of the Agchem Forum held on 27 September 2018. Full report can be accessed at

<https://agrow.agribusinessintelligence.informa.com/AG030255/ED-cutoff-criteria-that-shook-EU-agchem-sector-take-new-turn>



Robert Birkett



Regulatory Advocacy

Stakeholders Forum on MRLs held in Kenya

The Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK) in collaboration with the Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK) organized a stakeholder's forum on MRLs in September 2018. This was to enable the over 160 stakeholders in the horticultural industry discuss various issues affecting Kenya's fresh export market such as emerging pests, increasingly stringent requirements imposed by global markets concerning MRL standards, and the recently announced 16% VAT on pest control products in the country.

Participants drawn from grower groups, exporters, consumers, the pesticide industry and government agencies including the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Pest Control Products Board (PCPB); and the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate (KEPHIS). Key highlights from the presentations and plenary discussions were as follows

Stakeholder Group	Key messages and proposed actions
Ministry of Environment	Fresh Produce Exporters should conduct their business with integrity and accountability. invest in field support systems for GAP – good agricultural practices, especially for contracted farmers. MoALF to support policy implementations to ensure competitiveness of Kenya's fresh produce globally. Ongoing upgrade of the (KEPHIS) analytical laboratory, to enhance efficiencies in tracing residue detection and compliance.
FPEAK Board member	Need for a wider range of pest control products to help in the fight against False Codling Moth and FAW Fumigation chemicals for use at point of exit, a key requirement for the newly acquired Australian market. Increased occurrences of chemical residue exceedances by a section of production companies within the export chain, which if not rectified might have the country subjected to a 20% sampling requirement.
AAK/CropLife Kenya & CropLife Africa Middle East	Agrochemical industry's commitment to provide quality products that meet the sector's needs Potential negative impacts on trade in agricultural commodities with European Union as a result of their switch from risk based to a hazard-based approach in regulation 1107/2009 and proposed changes in the MRLs regulation 396/2005
Horticulture Crops Directorate	Minimize incidences of chemical residues by taking the spraying function away from farmers to spray service providers. HCD would provide a platform from which policies to facilitate such a move would be implemented.
Regulatory Bodies KEPHIS & PCPB	Difficulties in pest management due to limited modes of action, pesticide resistance, interceptions impact, residue monitoring on non-edible produce and changing conditions in destination markets. Due to the peculiarity of Kenya as a tropical country and its pest prevalence landscape, it was recommended that stakeholders take an active role in data generation for tropical conditions to be used in developing Codex MRLs and in determining penalties to be imposed for minor offences involving pest control products.
Plenary	Exporters to establish credible production systems while enhancing their monitoring and self-regulation mechanisms, in order to maintain their markets. Focused training for growers Adoption of systems for resistance monitoring Promoting measured response to regulatory changes through negotiations and facilitation of approval processes Registration of pesticides for minor crops to be expedited Set up of a fumigation facility

Benson Ngigi / Stella Simiyu Wafukho

Regulatory Advocacy



Ms. Lusena (Above) and Ms. Wafukho (Right) giving their presentations



Plenary Sessions



Anti-Counterfeiting Activities

Strengthening the capacity of the CDLPI in the fight against illegal pesticides in Côte d'Ivoire

The sensitization and capacity building workshop organized on 13 September in Abengourou, eastern Côte d'Ivoire, attracted more than 90 participants representing the departmental committees to fight illegal pesticides (Comités Départementaux de Lutte contre les Pesticides Illégaux, CDLPI) of Abengourou, Akoupé, Arrah, Bettié, Bongouanou and MBatto. These CDLPI are on the eastern side of Côte d'Ivoire and are exposed to the trafficking of illegal pesticides between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Participants present comprised of the regional administrative authorities (4 Prefects and 2 Secretary Generals of prefectorates), Regional Directors of the ministries, members of the Interministerial Pesticides Committee, and other local organizations and institutions involved in pesticide management and members of the CDLPI.

The Prefect of Abengourou chaired the workshop; he thanked CropLife AME and CropLife CI for providing continuous support to the Crop Protection Directorate. The Director of the Crop Protection Directorate addressed participants on the mission and importance of the CDLPI in his keynote message. He stressed on the support the administrative authorities and security forces must provide to the enforcement bodies during expected market controls and possible seizure operations as part of the mission of the CDLPI.

The presentations and subsequent discussions provided insight information on:

- The importance and the contribution of pesticides for improving crop yields and quality, especially with the threats of climate change and the increasing needs to feed a rapidly growing population.
- Regulations governing the distribution and sales, and the use of pesticides in Cote d'Ivoire, which requires prior certification and regular training of the retailers and agro-dealers.
- Risks associated with the misuse of pesticides.
- Risks and potential impacts of counterfeit and illegal on human health, the environment and the economy of the country.
- Identifying and recognizing counterfeit and illegal pesticides

The local rural radio station covered and reported on the training, and hosted a live talk-show with the Executive Director of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and the Regional Director of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Bama Yao



B. Yao (L), Regional Director CropLife AME (Above) and K. Yeboué (Below) addressing participants on the issue of fraudulent pesticides in the country.

Photo: Courtesy: CropLife Côte d'Ivoire.



The Prefects as well as the other participants were presented with certificates of participation at the end the workshop. Courtesy: CropLife Côte d'Ivoire.



Association Management

Educating Crop Science students on the sound management of Pesticides in Ghana

CropLife Ghana is collaborating with the Crop Science Department of the University of Ghana to provide technical knowledge on the plant science industry to students embarking on their doctorate degrees.

This arrangement was brokered through the efforts of Prof. Kwame Afreh-Nuamah, Head of African Centre for Postgraduate Studies on Insect Science (APIS), and William Kotey, President of CropLife Ghana. The plan was set to offer students the opportunity to have a tour of two companies namely RMG Ghana Limited and Dizengoff Ghana Limited to familiarize themselves with every aspect of their operations focusing specifically on the plant science elements of the businesses.

At the CropLife Ghana office, the students were addressed on the work carried out by CropLife Ghana and CropLife Africa Middle East, focusing on:

- The promotion of Responsible Use of pesticides and the Spray Service Provider (SSP) concept
- The support to Regulatory Affairs to create a sound environment for the pesticides business
- The promotion of intellectual property rights and support in the fight against counterfeit and illegal pesticides
- The management of empty pesticide containers
- The support for the disposal of obsolete pesticides

CropLife Ghana's belief in this exercise is that these students will be in positions to influence policy in the near future, and their exposure to the activities of the industry could lead to a positive influence on agricultural policies. CropLife Ghana is hoping that in the near future, the Crop Science Department would consider including students at Masters and Bachelors levels as part of this industry training initiative.

Frederick B. Boampong, Program Manager of CropLife Ghana, and Bob Adjakloe, a Master Trainer of CropLife Ghana facilitated the program.

Frederick Boampong



The three students between F. Boampong, and Bob Adjakloe (1st and 5th L-R, respectively).

Photo : Courtesy CropLife Ghana.



Association Management

Advocacy towards a sustainable funding for pesticide management

CropLife Ghana signed an agreement on September 25, 2018, at the MJ Grand hotel with Business Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) to conduct an advocacy activity for the establishment of a levy system on pesticides through the review of the EPA Act 1994, Act. 94.

The agreement was reached following the request submitted by CropLife Ghana based on the recommendations and inspiration of the 2018 West and Central Africa (WCA) Hub and Regulatory workshop in May in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

The recommendations emphasized on the needs for the national associations to emulate the levy system approach being practiced in Kenya as a sustainable funding mechanism for pesticide management in the countries of the WCA sub-region. Such a funding mechanism is considered necessary to meet the many challenges the pesticide sector is facing and the subsequent activities to be implemented to support the sound and responsible use of pesticides in the country.

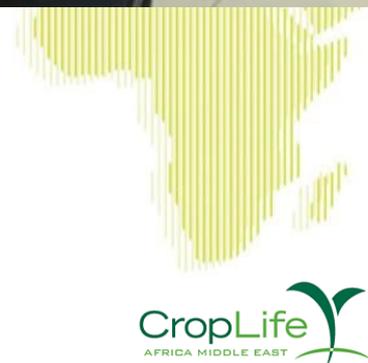
It is expected that to take this further, CropLife Ghana will collaborate with other stakeholders such as the Ghana Agri-Input Dealers Association (GAIDA) and other responsible importing companies to implement the action.

Fred Boampong



William Kotey, President of CropLife Ghana, signing the contract while Fred Boampong, Programme Manager, looks on.

Photo: Courtesy CropLife Ghana



Plant Biotechnology

AfricaBio Annual Symposium, "Namibian GMO Food Labelling Regulations", 27 September 2018

AfricaBio held their annual symposium on 27 September at which the guest speaker was Ms Enid Keramen, acting CEO at the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST). NCRST is the authoritative body for research, science, technology and innovation within Namibia.

As the Biosafety law in the country has now been approved, their labelling regulations were covered during the symposium as these differ from those in South Africa.

Vincent Nowaseb, General Manager, Innovation & Technical Development within NCRST, shared the podium with Ms Keramen. Key points covered were as follows:

- The GMO Product list is not yet gazetted but is expected to be published by end of Sept 2018. The official list will be published on the Namibia Biosafety Clearing House (BCH), <http://bch.ncrst.na/>
- Technology developers are currently not eligible to submit application for placing food and feed on the Namibian Market. However, they are requested to check the official GM product list against all their respective products approved in South African & globally. They are requested to provide all necessary information required by the applicants (grain traders based in Namibia) in order to facilitate smooth agricultural trade between Namibia and exporting countries. Time frame 1 -3 months
- Food Manufactures and Food Retailers are encouraged to inform their distributors and related business partners about the urgent need to consider applying for the permit to place GM products on the Namibian Market to avoid trade distribution.
- In Namibia, any product containing a specific event/s more than 0.9% must be labelled. All permit holders based in Namibia who trade with GM products must ensure that the genetically modified food or feed is labelled as per the 3 categories stipulated in the regulation.

Les Hillowitz



Vincent Nowaseb and Enid Keramen

Ready for edible cottonseed?

US regulators have cleared the way for farmers to grow a cotton plant genetically modified to make the cottonseed edible for people, a protein-packed potential new food source that could be especially useful in cotton-growing countries beset with malnutrition.

The US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, on Tuesday 16 October, lifted the regulatory prohibition on cultivation by farmers of the cotton plant, which was developed by Texas A&M University scientists.

The cottonseed cannot be used as food for people or as animal feed yet in the US because it lacks Food and Drug Administration approval.

Cotton is widely grown around the world, with its fibre used to make textiles and the seed used among other things to feed animals like cattle and sheep that have multiple stomach chambers.

Ordinary cottonseed is unfit for humans and many animals to eat because it contains high levels of gossypol, a toxic chemical.

With financial help from a cotton industry group, scientists led by biotechnologist Keerti Rathore used so-called RNAi, or RNA interference technology to "silence" a gene, eliminating gossypol from the cottonseed. They left it at natural levels in the rest of the plant because it guards against insects and disease.

"To me it tastes somewhat like chickpeas and it could easily be used to make a tasty hummus," Rathore said after tasting gossypol-free cottonseed.

African News Agency



Kenyan President Okays Planting of Bt Cotton

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta has instructed the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Trade, Industry and Cooperatives to explore the possibility of farming Bt cotton to revitalize the country's cotton sub-sector. In his Heroes' Day address to the nation, President Kenyatta directed the three ministries to work together and come up with a quick mechanism to revive the production of cotton, including the possibility of introducing biotech cotton.

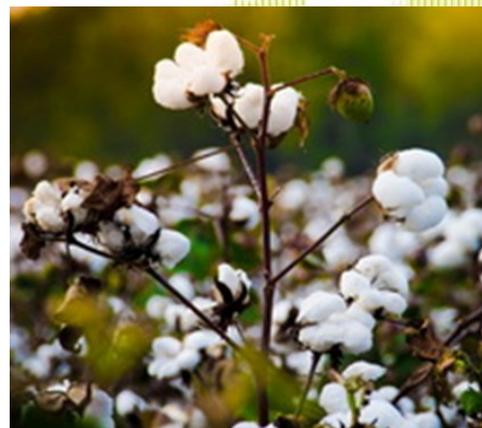
The President's directive marks a big step towards commercialization of the crop which is now undergoing National Performance Trials (NPTs). The pronouncement adds a fresh impetus to the Big Four' Action Plan, aimed at accelerating the country's economic growth. Under the Plan, the government banks on Bt cotton adoption to revive the textile and apparel industry and increase the contribution of the manufacturing sector to the country's GDP from the current 9.2 percent to 20 percent by 2022.

As part of the revitalization process, the government aims at creating 680,000 direct jobs through cotton farming, 210 jobs at ginning level, 6,000 at integrated mills and 25,000 at garments manufacturing. The revival will further create an import substitution of Ksh1.2 billion (\$11.87 million) and enhance self-sufficiency of lint for exports that will earn Kenya Sh8.75 billion (\$86 million) in foreign exchange.

Only 30,000 farmers are currently cultivating cotton while the industry has the potential to support over 200,000 farmers. According to the country's Fiber Crops Directorate, domestic market demand for lint is 140,000 bales against a production of 21,000 bales. "Cotton farming was once a major source of income and livelihood for many people in this region," lamented the President.

Adoption of Bt cotton is expected to boost productivity from the current estimate of 572 kg/ha to 2,500 kg/ha, and lower the cost of production by 40%. The presidential nod for genetically modified (GM) cotton cultivation comes in the wake of a study tour of India's cotton sub-sector by Kenyan policymakers. India's biotech cotton success story convinced the policymakers that the improved crop will make a big contribution towards resolving cotton farming woes in the country.

ISAAA





**CropLife Africa Middle East
International Association AISBL
Rue Théodore de Cuyper 100
B-1200 Brussels**

www.croplifeafrica.org

