

## East & Southern Africa Hub and Regulatory Workshop: 26 & 27 August

*"As Government we do appreciate the role the private sector plays in the development of this country. Government has received a lot of support from the pesticide industry. This industry is playing a vital role by ensuring that farmers receive the latest technologies in pest management. The stakeholders in the pesticide industry have continued to supply genuine pesticides, resulting in improved yields*

*Due to the number of benefits demonstrated through the use of such technologies, adoption rates, among farmers have been increasing in the last 5 years. Some of the obvious benefits in the use of the pesticide technologies include, among others, reduced weeding time, freeing of women in particular from back breaking manual weeding and reduced cost of weeding. In terms of yields, farmers who use herbicides in maize have yields that are four times higher compared to the ones who weed manually"*

So said the Honourable Greyford Monde, MP, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock when undertaking the official opening of the CropLife East & Southern Conference in Lusaka, Zambia on 26 August.

The Honourable Minister included many more positive statements in his covering address such as:

The agricultural sector continues to be the mainstay of the Zambian economy, maintaining a positive growth averaging 12% for the past 4 years.

The sector employs over 80% of the total workforce of the country.

That agriculture continues to receive priority attention from government through increased budget support aimed at increasing agricultural production and productivity to ensure food security, income generation, employment creation and poverty reduction.

In order to address the challenges of storage, government set aside funds in this year's budget to increase the storage capacity of grain to 1.3 million tons by the end of 2014. In addition, K80.9 million was allocated to support irrigated agriculture.

The pesticide industry is involved in a number of Stewardship programs, notably the Spray Service Provider initiative and the introduction of the pilot Container Management program.

That government is in the process of formulating a biotechnology and biosafety policy.



The Honourable Greyford Monde, MP, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock undertaking the official opening of the East & Southern Africa Hub & Regulatory Workshop in Lusaka

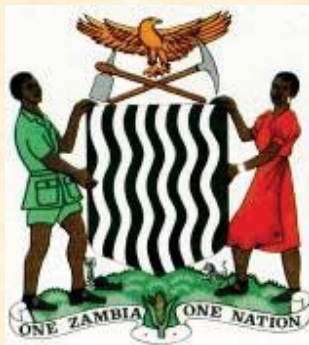


L-R Chola Kamaki, Chairman of CropLife Zambia, Hon Maxas Bweupe Ng'onga, MP and Perry Ngoma, Executive Secretary, CropLife Zambia

## East & Southern Africa Hub and Regulatory Workshop: 26 & 27 August



Above: L-R Herman Louw, CropLife Namibia, Christopher Kanema, ZEMA and Kobus Steenekamp, Hub Chair



Below: L-R Perry Ngoma, Les Hillowitz, Rudolf Guyer, Hon Greyford Monde and Nolwazi Mkize



The meeting was “welcomed” by Chola Kamaki, Chairman of CropLife Zambia who focused on the maturity of the industry, its members and highlighting on the excellent relationship the Association has with the Regulatory Authority.

Kobus Steenekamp, Hub Chair, delivered the keynote address. He focused on the phenomenal development of agriculture in the country, which is positively aided in all aspects by government

The three presentations within the Plenary Session were:

- “Potential impact on trade in agricultural commodities arising from the current European Commission proposal for regulating Endocrine Disruptors” – Bernhard Johnen.
- “Highlights of the IFPRI Report on climate change and the role of technologies for sustainable agriculture” – Keith Jones
- “The Pollinator Crises-Truth or Fiction” – Mike Allsopp

Highlights of the Hub Workshop included:

- A half-day workshop - “IPM Training Through Partnerships“
- The Spray Service Provider concept
- The Anti-Counterfeiting “Flagship” Project – Kenya
- The Empty Container Management Project – Mauritius
- An update on Plant Biotechnology in Africa

Highlights of the Regulatory Workshop focused on:

- Principles of Regulation: Endocrine Disruptors – risk assessment and risk management.
- A Regulator’s Guide to Pesticides and Pollinators
- Highly Hazardous Pesticides in Africa – An industry perspective.

Les Hillowitz

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Above: Mukesh Rughoo, Executive Secretary of CropLife Mauritius receiving an award for the "Container Management" project



Right: Richard Sikuku, CEO of CropLife Kenya receiving an award for the successful "Anti-Counterfeiting" project



Group Photo

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## Stewardship

### Kenyan Exports of Fresh Produce under Scrutiny from the European Union

**The European Union (EU) has accused local producers and exporters of shipping contaminated produce contrary to the set trading requirements developed for consumer preferences**

But, says Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Cabinet Secretary, Felix Koskei, Government has submitted a detailed action plan to the EU demonstrating it's commitment to controlling unethical trade behavior among fresh produce exporters.

He went on to say that jobs of senior managers with three State agriculture-based directorates are on the chopping board as government intensifies efforts to save the country from losing the lucrative European Union market following claims of traders cleared to export produce with high levels of pesticides. That an audit will be carried out in the State agencies charged with clearing local produce for export to EU market. The three institutions include Horticultural Crops Directorate (HCD) formerly Horticulture Crops Development Authority, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (Kephis) and Pest Control Products Board (PCPB). "The ministry will carry out an intensive inspection of the administration structures of the three institutions with a view to ascertaining their effectiveness. Further, managers who are in charge of the specific departments will also be investigated and if they are found to have failed to discharge their duties, as required, stern action will be instituted against them," warned Mr. Koskei.

HCD interim director Zakayo Magara confirmed six companies exporting fresh produce to the EU have been suspended from trading after being intercepted with high levels of Maximum Residuals Limits (MRLs). Once a company is suspended, it remains out of business for a month or until it complies with the new requirement. EU, in 2012, made changes in its legislation that has made it difficult for exported beans and peas in pods to meet the requirements of pesticide MRLs. In January 2013, the EU decided to sample these exports at a frequency of 10 per cent to verify compliance. The crops included mangoes, vegetables and certain varieties of flowers. Some of the companies suspended from trading with the EU have been intercepted more than five times, Koskei explained, adding that the Government is determined to stamp out corruption that has riddled State corporations leading to the country almost losing her market share to other countries.

"Nobody will be allowed to mess up with the economy. Our audit is meant to find out whether the structures are operative and if they are, why have they not been able to detect produce with high residues," he added. He warned that the next phase of the purge by the Government would target any officer who may have played part in abetting corruption in clearing of produce to the EU market. Kenya, he said, is supposed to have stopped exports with excessive residues by end of September.

Adapted from The Standard—Kenya



Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Cabinet Secretary, Felix Koskei

Photo: Courtesy The Standard

## IPM-Responsible Use Training Workshop: Cameroon

Seventeen participants underwent a 2-day training on aspects of IPM / Responsible Use in Bertoua, Cameroon. This took place on 12 + 13 August and was part of the joint training program signed between CropLife Cameroon and the MINADER.

The facilitators were professionals from member companies of CropLife Cameroon and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) who guided the participants on the following:

- Basics on pesticides
- Stewardship of crop protection products
- Reading and Understanding a label
- Management of empty pesticides containers
- The management of a pesticide store
- Risks associated with the misuse of pesticides
- Counterfeit and fake pesticides

Bama Yao



Group Photo of the Participants at the Workshop



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## Cooperation Initiative: CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and the Council of Coffee and Cocoa

More than 100 participants comprising of the administrative and traditional authorities, regional officers of the Conseil Café-Cacao (CCC), representatives of growers and farmer organizations, CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and CropLife AME met on 1 August, in the village of Honorékro in the region of Agboville (Southern Côte d'Ivoire).

This get-together was organized under the quantity, quality and growth (Quantité-Qualité-Croissance, 2QC) support program of the CCC, which aims to improve productivity in cocoa. Supplying quality pesticides and ensuring effective on-farm spraying is part of the program. The support and contribution of the CCC to the WCF-ACI SSP project in Côte d'Ivoire covered in a recent agreement between the organization and CropLife Côte d'Ivoire stipulates the supply of mistblowers and PPE to the Spray Service Providers (SSPs) by the CCC. Under the agreement, the cooperatives in the region of Agboville will receive 350 mistblowers and sets of PPE to be used by the SSPs who were trained on behalf of those cooperatives. Four SSP'S trained in the village of Honorékro attended the ceremony and received their certificates of competence and badges and are now ready to provide services to framers.



Above Left: Ms Pohé, Regional officer of the CCC (L, micro) and (Above Right ) B Yao WCA Regional Director CropLife AME (R) explaining the role of the SSP and the associated project to improve productivity in cocoa

*“Although I have been training for years, I never realized that there was so much more to training and facilitation”, said one of the participants to the Training-of-Trainers program that took place from 11-15 August 2014 in Accra. The fourteen participants improved on their training and facilitation skills and on completion, all received a certificate of competence having successfully passed a written and practical test.*

Participants were field officers from member companies from Ghana and Nigeria, staff of CropLife Ghana and an officer of the Ghana Agri-Input Dealers Association (GAIDA). The six participants from Nigeria are all actively involved in the training of Spray Service Providers (SSP) and they shared their experiences during the breaks with their colleagues from Ghana.

During the first three days of the program, participants learned about adult learning, training methods, verbal and non-verbal communication, evaluation and follow up, and questioning amongst other skills. The last two days, every participant facilitated a session on the “safe and responsible use of pesticides”. At the end of the program, a presentation was given on the SSP project in West Africa and the specific activities in Ghana and Nigeria.

The program was highly appreciated by all participants. When asked what they would now do differently, most mentioned that they would start using different training methods and better prepare their programs. Others mentioned the use of recaps and to be more creative when facilitating. (Manon Dohmen from CropLife Africa Middle East facilitated the program)

**Bama Yao**

## Regulatory

### Training Workshop for Regulators and the Crop Protection Industry in Côte d'Ivoire

This workshop was organized as a follow-up to the recent WCA Hub meeting for the rollout of the PRD-CBI, aimed at sensitizing participants on the importance of PRD as a tool to support and attract innovations in pesticides technologies. This took place on 12 August in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The workshop attracted 12 representatives of the inter-ministerial pesticides committee, chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture, which also acts as the Secretariat of the pesticides committee, together with 13 other participants representing member companies of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and the generic companies as well as a representative from the Office of Intellectual Property in Côte d'Ivoire.

Presentations and subsequent discussions covered the following:

- Pesticides as a tool for sustained agricultural production
- The International CoC on Pesticide Management
- PRD-CBI
- Pesticide regulations in Côte d'Ivoire.

Groups work sessions discussed and provided recommendations on the following:

**How to ensure effective and sustainable protection of the registration dossiers** (acceptance and safekeeping)

- Limit and list the personnel accessing the dossiers;
- Keep the confidential dossiers in a safe and secured place;
- Submit the dossiers in an electronic format with a password.
- Members of the secretariat should sign a confidentiality commitment.
- Set-up a traceable procedure of the dossiers/courier.

**Monitoring IPR (commercial names/marks....) in the registration processes.**

- Provide clear and correct definitions of IP
- Continue sensitization and awareness creation of key players.
- Create or join a national Anti-Counterfeiting coalition.

**CoC, Ethics in the pesticides industry.**

- Identify the key actors of the supply chain (Importers and distributors)
- Reorganize the pesticide sector with reliable and credible associations/actors.
- The pesticide committee/government should be more active and take needed measures where and when necessary.

The workshop further recommended that a seminar be organized in order for the Office of Intellectual Property of Côte d'Ivoire (Office Ivoirien de la Propriété Intellectuelle, OIPI) to provide guidance on the available tools to consider in the pesticide registration process and in the overall regulatory processes.

Bama Yao



B. Yao addressing the participants on the objectives of the workshop (L) chaired by the Director of Plant Protection, Control and Quality of the Ministry of Agriculture (R).

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## Plant Biotechnology

### Meeting of Seed Companies and Plant Biotechnology Industry re: ISAAA Biotechnology Press Conference 2015: Centurion, 22 August

The impact of the media coverage press conference that took place on 28 February 2014 was reviewed and which showed this to have been the most successful to-date.

The financial statement for this undertaking was approved. Taking this a step further the meeting agreed that the engagement of a qualified auditor was warranted for compliance of good governance practices.

The date for the Press Conference 2015 was set for Thursday 26 February

Mr Owen Paterson MP, ( former British Minister of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) has been invited as the guest speaker for this event. The budget for this undertaking was developed and approved.

The management of the Committee would remain as Andrew Bennett, Dr Wynand van der Walt and Hans Lombard.

The purpose of the annual ISAAA press conference taking place for the past six years supported by prominent overseas and local speakers, under the auspices of the biotech seed companies is to:

- Create a constant, sustainable awareness among farmers, consumers, parliamentarians, agricultural and scientific institutions and the media, of GMO crop developments (successful commercialization of biotech crops), yield benefits to farmers (commercial and smallholders), economic achievements, both globally and locally in order to counter the constant negative attacks by the anti-GMOs. Information is sourced from ISAAA (International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications), South African Maize Trust, local seed companies, individual farmers and government information.
- Announce the number of countries, farmers, commercial and smallholders growing biotech crops.
- Announce new GMO varieties in field trials, i.e. traits such as stacked genes, drought-resistant, the WEMA project and new research findings.
- Arrange biotech presentations to the parliamentary “portfolio committees” on agriculture forestry and fisheries, and science and technology.
- Print local copies of the Executive ISAAA Summary and other related ISAAA documents and the South African overview.

**Les Hillowitz**



The Committee at Work

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## Ghana to trial GM technology on cassava to fight mosaic virus

Cassava is expected to be the next crop to undergo confined trials with genetically modified technology to combat the Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD).

Cassava plays a role as the leading food security base, widely consumed in various forms in many parts of Ghana. But the cassava mosaic virus is considered the most important biotic constraint, which greatly reduces yields.

The disease spreads easily from one field to another in most cassava growing areas as farmers continue to use infected stem cuttings as planting materials.

The application of biotechnology is therefore important to sustain production, said Eric Okoree of the Ministry of Environment, Science Technology and Innovation.

“We are doing well with cassava production but we have cassava mosaic virus... and the virus is something that the GM technology is trying to fight against. It’s already on trials in Nigeria and I expect it to be in Ghana probably very soon,” he stated.

Ghana is presently undertaking confined field trials on four biotechnology crops approved by the National Biosafety Authority.

Mr. Okoree, who works with the regulatory authority, says all the four trials – Bt. Cotton, Bt. Cowpea, High Protein Sweet Potato and GM Rice – are complying with the terms and conditions under the regulations.

“As far as biosafety is concerned they are on course and Ghana is on course,” he observed.

It is early days yet to know the outcomes of these research activities but the aim is to increase food security and income for farmers.

Story by Kofi Adu Domfeh



Photo: Modern Ghana

## Get More Crop for the Drop of Water

The United Nations has called drought the “world’s costliest natural disaster,” both financially, imposing an annual cost of \$6-8 billion, and in human terms; since 1900, it has affected two billion people, leading to more than 11 million deaths. That is because so much of the world is vulnerable; currently affected areas include Australia, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, North and South America, and the Middle East.

Given that agriculture accounts for 70% of water consumption, on average, worldwide, it seems logical that this sector should be the focus of conservation measures. And, in fact, a proven technology exists that could go a long way toward reducing the impact of drought:



Henry I Miller

Sometimes called “genetic modification,” GE enables plant breeders to make existing crop plants do new things – such as conserve water. Even with research and development hampered by resistance from activists and excessive government regulation, drought-resistant GE crop varieties are emerging from the development pipeline in many parts of the world

Over the last two decades, such crop varieties have been cultivated on more than 1.5 billion hectares by more than 17 million farmers in some 30 countries – without disrupting a single ecosystem or causing so much as a stomach-ache. Worldwide, these new varieties have provided “very significant net economic benefits at the farm level, amounting to \$18.8 billion in 2012 and \$116.6 billion” from 1996 to 2012, according to a recent report by Landes Bioscience.

Most of these new crop varieties are designed to resist herbicides, so that farmers can adopt more environmentally friendly, no-till cultivation practices, and many have also been engineered to resist pests and diseases that ravage crops. Others have higher nutritional value; making them ideally suited for developing-country populations that struggle to acquire the nutrients they need to lead healthy, productive lives.

But, in the long term, the greatest boon of all, for both food security and the environment, will likely be the ability of new crop varieties to tolerate periods of drought and other water-related stresses. Even a small reduction in the amount of water used for irrigation could have huge benefits, especially in drought conditions.

To develop such varieties, plant biologists identified genes that regulate water use and transferred them into important crop plants, enabling them to grow with less or lower-quality water, such as water that has been recycled or is high in natural mineral salts. Egyptian researchers have shown that by transferring a single gene from barley to wheat, the plants can tolerate reduced watering for a longer period of time. This new, drought-resistant variety requires only one-eighth as much irrigation as conventional wheat; in some deserts, it can be cultivated with rainfall alone.

Other types of GE crop varieties, such as those that are disease- and pest-resistant, indirectly improve the efficiency of water use. Because much of the loss to diseases and pests occurs after the plants are fully grown – that is, after most of the water required for their growth has already been supplied – resistance to them means more agricultural output per unit of water invested. In short, farmers can get more crop for the drop.

Molecular genetic engineering technology can conserve water in other ways as well. One-third of irrigated land worldwide is not suitable for growing crops because of the presence of salt – the result of repeated fertilization. To regain the more than 200,000 hectares of irrigated land that is lost to cultivation annually, scientists have enhanced the salt tolerance of crops as diverse as tomatoes and canola. The transformed plants can grow in salty soil and be irrigated with brackish water, conserving fresh water for other uses.

Given the benefits, one might expect such developments to be universally lauded and encouraged. But they face major regulatory obstacles. Europe, for example, largely prohibits GE crops; India has approved insect-resistant cotton but has failed to sanction any food crops. Even where GE crops are being cultivated, unscientific, excessively burdensome regulation has raised the cost of producing new plant varieties significantly, keeping many potentially important ones from the market.

These measures are irrational, because they are inversely related to risk. They permit the largely unregulated use of new varieties of plants and microorganisms that have been crafted with less precise and predictable techniques, under the pretence that they are somehow more “natural,” while stringently regulating – or even banning – those based on the most advanced knowledge and methods.

As water scarcity increases, drought-stricken crops wither, and food prices rise, the need for resilient agriculture will become more obvious – and more urgent. With more rational public policy, we can meet that

Henry I Millar

Upcoming  
EventsUpcoming  
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Events

<b>FAO Workshop for the establishment of a CMS in Mozambique</b>	<b>Sept 3 - 4</b>
<b>Bee policy meeting (Naivasha) TBC</b>	<b>Sept</b>
<b>SAICM regional focal point, CropLife Tanzania (TBC)</b>	<b>Sept</b>
<b>CropLife Kenya ExCo Introduction</b>	<b>Sept 12</b>
<b>WCF SSP Coordinators Meeting, Accra</b>	<b>Sept 21-25</b>
<b>8th CmiA/ COMPACI Stakeholder Conference, Cologne</b>	<b>Sept 24-26</b>
<b>CMPT Meeting, Frankfurt</b>	<b>Oct 7-10</b>
<b>WCF Stakeholder Meeting, Copenhagen</b>	<b>Oct 15-16</b>
<b>Risk assessment capacity building workshop for CILSS-CSP</b>	<b>Oct 21-22</b>
<b>Pollinator Issue Team Meeting, Washington</b>	<b>Oct 20</b>
<b>Stewardship Steering Committee, Washington</b>	<b>Oct 21</b>
<b>IPM / RU Project Team Meeting, Washington</b>	<b>Oct 22</b>
<b>Endocrine Disruptors Issue Team meeting, Washington</b>	<b>Oct 23</b>
<b>AfricaBio AGM, South Africa</b>	<b>Oct 24</b>
<b>NAME Regulatory Meetings with LB/JD and SD/EG, Cairo</b>	<b>Oct 28-29</b>
<b>NAME mini hub meeting in Cairo</b>	<b>Oct 28-29</b>
<b>Meeting of the Regional Regulatory Committee</b>	<b>Oct 30</b>
<b>CLAME Board Meeting</b>	<b>Nov 6-7</b>
<b>WCF Cocoa Symposium Ibadan, Nigeria</b>	<b>Nov 11-14</b>
<b>Meeting of the Obsolete Stocks Project Team Brussels</b>	<b>Nov 19</b>
<b>NAME Regulatory Meeting Gulf countries</b>	<b>Nov 25-26</b>



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

Representing the Plant Science Industry



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