



Representing the Plant Science Industry

CropLife
Annual Report
Africa
2005
Middle East



CropLife Africa Middle East Annual Report 2005

The 2005 Annual Report has been prepared by the Regional Coordinator with inputs from Area Coordinators and the Training Consultant and edited by the President of the Organization.

Introduction

This third Annual Report of CropLife Africa Middle East covers the period of the financial year from 1st January to 31st December 2005. The General Assembly of the organization held its annual meeting on June 1st in Brussels. In addition to the statutory decisions and approvals, the General Assembly also elected Mr. Peter van den Hoek, representing BASF in the Assembly as an additional director of the Executive Committee by a unanimous vote.

The Executive Committee held three meetings in 2005. The first meeting in Rome in February 2005 was combined with a visit and discussions at the FAO. The June meeting was combined with the AGM and the Annual Conference of CropLife International in Brussels and the September meeting followed the hub meeting for North Africa Middle East in Casablanca. These meetings focused on the execution of hub action plans and the periodical review and monitoring of budget performance.

Three annual hub meetings were also convened during the year, April in Cotonou, June in Lusaka and September in Casablanca with the objective to provide guidance and coaching to national association activities together with support of regional regulatory initiatives.

All activities of CropLife Africa Middle East during 2005 were carried out in line with the priorities set by the association and the action plans approved by the Executive Committee. This report elaborates on the various areas of activity.

Regulatory Harmonization

North Africa Middle East

- The regulatory harmonization initiative, co-driven by CropLife Africa Middle East and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) continued to expand the harmonization of regulatory measures amongst countries of the sub-region.
- The approved harmonized application form has been accepted and implemented in 16 out of the 18 member countries with the exception of Qatar and Oman who are still pending issuance of national legislation on the registration of pesticides.
- A fallback in implementing the harmonized form in Libya is being addressed through the AOAD. In Egypt, the "me-too" registration system which was introduced in 2003 has been cancelled by the new government.
- In Morocco, implementation of the harmonized form led to an increase in quality of submissions and a reduction in the number of requests for registrations. In 2005 the number of rejections was 17% compared to 60% in 2003.

- Iraq has been reinstated as a member of the regulatory initiative. Two delegates of the Iraqi regulatory authority attended the annual regulatory meeting in Casablanca in September 2005 and accepted to introduce the harmonized form and documents in their country.
- Content and format of a harmonized label proposal has been accepted by member countries.
- All member countries accepted the issuing of a registration certificate for each product. Tunisia would issue certificates only upon request. The content and format of a proposed registration certificate has been accepted with certain freedom for modifications in the case of Jordan.
- AOAD agreed to establish a data base on pesticides uses to trigger exchange of field data.

West and Central Africa

- The terms of reference for the regional regulatory harmonization on crop protection products in West Africa have been approved and the study is underway for a workable regional framework. Both ECOWAS and WEAMU are fully involved and are leading the process. A regional workshop will be organised by mid-2006 to validate the harmonization framework for the sub-region.
- The initiative for a Central Africa Phytosanitary Committee (CPAC) has been signed by the Ministers in charge of Agriculture in the individual CEMAC countries. The initiative has been submitted to the Council of Ministers of CEMAC for adoption prior to implementation.
- Liaison at country level was undertaken with the registration authorities through workshops and seminars to promote the need for effective application of regulations. These activities were conducted in Ghana, Mali and Burkina Faso. The impact of fraud and counterfeit products on the economy were stressed; authorities were thus requested to implement corrective measures to combat these practices, and to support effective management of CPPS in the different countries.

East and Southern Africa

The 2005 SEARCH meeting in Lusaka focused on developing a guideline on "Mutual Data Acceptance". Implementation of this across the fourteen countries of SEARCH proved to be extremely difficult leading to the direction of "country groupings" which will be developed further during 2006.

Additional achievements arising from the Lusaka meeting were:

- The Guideline for the Registration of Generic Products was accepted as the minimum requirement for the granting of a generic product registration.
- The Guidelines for the Repacking and Small Pack Requirements was accepted and will be implemented.



Regional Coordinator
and Area Coordinator
for North Africa Middle East:
Ali Mohamed Ali
based in Amman, Jordan



Area Coordinator
for West and Central Africa:
Yao Bama Octave
based in Abidjan,
Côte d'Ivoire



Area Coordinator
for East and South Africa:
Les Hillowitz
based in Johannesburg,
South Africa



Safe Use Trainer
CropLife Africa Middle East
Peter Mills
based in Pietermaritzburg,
South Africa

- Agreement to identify the major crops within SEARCH or “country groupings” in order to develop harmonized trial protocols and corresponding MRL's.

CropLife represented the SADC Secretariat at the UNITAR “Global Thematic Workshop on Strengthening Capacities to Implement the Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)”.

In 2003 CropLife assisted the SADC Secretariat in developing a framework for an “MRL Project” which they then presented to the EU for funding. Towards the end of 2005 a budget for the project was approved. We learned that the EU consultant in charge of the project appraisal included in his findings that CropLife (SEARCH) must be a partner in the project for this to be a success.

Training and Stewardship

North Africa Middle East

- In line with the Executive Committee policy to support local capacity building on Safe Use/IPM training activities, three master trainer courses were organized in Egypt, Sudan and Jordan. In total 41 master trainers were certified.
- Financial assistance to national associations was directed strictly to support stewardship and training activities as decided by the hub chair and regional coordinator.

West and Central Africa

- Primarily farmers and retailers were targeted in all countries. About 5000 farmers benefited from training and stewardship activities conducted by member companies of national associations of the CropLife network. 400 distributors and retailers were trained during sessions conducted by the national associations.

East and Southern Africa

- During 2005 the drive towards capacity building continued with the focus on “Training of Trainers”. Five such trainings were undertaken within the region and for the first time a follow-up assessment of trainers was carried out in a country, in this instance, Ethiopia. For the countries participating in the Africa Stockpiles Program our endeavor was to include key personnel in the training program.
- In the area of “container management” and together with the Plastics Federation of South Africa the initiative “Plastics on the Farm” was developed. This initiative commenced in the well known agricultural area of the Western Cape and involves the collection of all obsolete plastics on the farm which are then taken to an accredited recycler. A second initiative is in the development phase and involves the production of “ecowood” of which the main constituent is obsolete plastics. This project is likely to

receive funding from the EU. In South Africa, the Area Coordinator will participate in the working group that the Department of Agriculture has created for container management.

- One of the highlights in 2005 was that a MoU with FANRPAN was signed. The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) is an autonomous stakeholder-driven policy research, analysis and implementation network that was established in 1997. FANRPAN is represented in 11 SADC countries. The main objectives of FANRPAN are to promote appropriate agricultural policies in order to reduce poverty, increase food security and promote sustainable agricultural development in the SADC region. Within the project portfolio of the organization two projects were identified in which we saw the opportunity for a partnership. These are:

- “Contract Farming” as a mechanism for the commercialization of smallholder agriculture in the SADC region.
- Addressing agricultural biotechnology policy issues to improve food security in the SADC region.

With the above as background a MoU was signed between the parties which outlines the partnership covering the promotion and facilitation of:

- “Safe use initiatives”.
- Regional harmonization efforts of biosafety regulations for the registration and regional commercialization of genetically modified organisms (GMO's).

An action plan has been developed which will be rolled out during 2006.

Regional Training Overview provided by Peter Mills

In terms of training, the overall objective is the creation of suitably trained Master Trainers through CropLife Africa Middle East's program of capacity building throughout the region, at all levels and in all sectors. In addition, the secondary objective to this is the cascading of training down throughout all sectors.

We are continuing the project which began in 2002. It started with a Training Needs Analysis (Phase I), where 34 country visits were made and personnel from the Industry National Associations, NGO's, Training Institutions and other stakeholders were consulted on the requirements. As a result of this TNA, a Pilot Project (Phase II) was introduced in Zimbabwe, where the first Training of Trainers course was presented. Initially this was a three x five day course. After consultations on Industry requirements and budgetary discussions, this was eventually compacted into an intensive five day course, and the first in the on-going program (Phase III) was conducted in Amman, Jordan for Industry trainers coming from countries throughout the North Africa Middle East region.

Subsequently, another 11 courses were conducted in 2004, 15 in 2005, and another 15 are planned for 2006 (all part of Phase III). Phase IV of the program is the training of others, by these "Master Trainers", and this has been a continuing program. Phase V is the assessment of the Master Trainers, and this has begun in Ethiopia and Ghana, with the assistance of Belgian Technical Cooperation and IFDC, respectively. Partnerships have been formed in several countries, including: IFDC (Malawi, Ghana); USAID (Uganda); FAO (Tanzania, Ethiopia, SA); Belgian Technical Cooperation (Ethiopia). The last part of the program, Phase VI, is the assessment of the trained trainees in each country. This Impact Assessment will be a massive and costly task, which will require pre- and post-training surveys, and is being planned for the future. Future plans are linking with other education/training institutions, and providing post-graduate students with the necessary skills, materials and information to use when they enter the industry or government. The first one is planned for the Mediterranean Agronomy Institute in Bari, Italy, which caters for students from throughout the Mediterranean region.

To date the program has trained over 400 Master Trainers. It is estimated that approximately 30000 farmers, retailers, and other participants have been trained in 2005 by these Master Trainers. In addition, two French speaking Facilitators, funded by IFDC, have begun a Training of Trainers program in West and North Africa. A program of introducing Arabic speaking Facilitators begins in 2006. The plan is to have several Facilitators in each of the three regions, East-Southern, West-Central and Middle-East-North Africa, each conducting Train-the-Trainer courses in local languages, thereby building capacity throughout the region.

In 2005, Training of Trainers courses to create Master Trainers took place in Malawi (with 10 participants from Malawi, 3 from South Africa and 3 from Namibia); Egypt (17 participants, some of whom are now doing training for the USAID backed Agriculture Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq - ARDI); Sudan (15 participants from government); Cote d'Ivoire (8 participants from government and industry, including the National Association Chairman!); Mauritius (12 very high caliber participants); Cameroon (10 English speaking participants); Ethiopia (12 participants); Tanzania (13); Zambia (15); Mali (the first French speaking course for 11 participants, run by CropLife trained IFDC facilitators); Sudan (12); Jordan (6 participants from Palestine and 5 from Jordan); Senegal (the second French speaking course, for 12 participants, again facilitated by the IFDC facilitators); Ghana (the CropLife trained IFDC facilitators ran their own Training of Trainers course for 14 participants representing pesticide dealers);

Refresher courses for the Master Trainers were also conducted in Ghana (8); Cameroon (2 Master Trainers attended the second Master Trainer course as a refresher); Ethiopia (8 participants); Sudan (12 participants).

In addition, there were several opportunities for the CropLife Training Consultant, Peter Mills, to assess the Facilitators and Master Trainers (Ghana, Senegal, Ethiopia, Mali), which forms part of Phase V of the Capacity Building program.

A Train-the-Trainer Manual has been compiled for the main facilitators, including Peter Mills, two French speaking facilitators and Arabic speaking facilitator. These have all been translated into French and are currently being translated into Arabic. A manual for dealers was compiled for the Ghanaian pesticide dealers association, GAIDA. Other training manuals on General Safe Use, Storekeeping, Transporting, Maintenance & Calibration of Sprayers, Disposal, Scouting, Protection of the Environment, Poisoning. These are made available only to the Master Trainers for use in compiling their own training courses for their own circumstances. Other materials made available to the trained Master Trainers include manuals from other regions, notably the translated manuals from CropLife Latin America; all pictures from the CropLife guidelines; posters from the terminated Safe Use Program in Kenya; training course materials from the discontinued Asia Pacific Regional Technology Center's AgLearn courses.

New this year is the Newsletter, the first edition published in November, 2005, which is now available on the web site. Additional Newsletters will be published quarterly.

Another success is the CropLife Egypt Dealer Accreditation scheme, which is run by CropLife Egypt in conjunction with the government and the local seed association.

Future training will continue the program of creating more Master Trainers throughout the region, as well as assessing these Master Trainers in the work environment. Focus will also be given to forming more partnerships to assist with the cascading of training to dealers and farmers. A new initiative will be the focus on the FAO's Code of Conduct, including setting up training programs for its implementation.

Obsolete stocks

North Africa Middle East

With the launch of Phase (1) of the Africa Stockpiles Program (ASP), two of the hub countries namely Tunisia and Morocco are lined up for activities targeting the clean-up of obsolete pesticide stocks, they are amongst the seven countries of the Phase (1) initiative.

The Global obstocks Team of CropLife International shoulders the provision of technical support in ancillary activities such as safeguarding of stocks and related training requirements.

West and Central Africa

A national information and sensitization campaign on the ASP was conducted in Mali by the country project team with the contribution of CropLife Mali prior to the inventory process commencing.

The contribution of CropLife International for disposal activities and that of CropLife Africa Middle East for prevention measures were highlighted during a briefing conference to journalists organised by WWF and Pan-Africa in Bamako, Mali.

East and Southern Africa

At the end of 2005 the African Stockpiles Program was signed off by the World Bank Board and country Grant Aid agreements should now start in the early stages of 2006. Within the East & Southern Africa region these countries include Ethiopia, Tanzania and South Africa. In South Africa we have been asked to lead the inventory process for the private sector within the project.

Agricultural Biotechnology

North Africa Middle East

- While the importation and introduction of GMO's are still prohibited in nearly all of the hub countries, GMO's remain under the responsibility of seed departments and genetic engineering research institutes.
- The Genetical Engineering Research Institute (AGERI) in Egypt has been identified as a reference institution on GMO's for Middle East and North African countries.
- Emphasis on this area is in developing the appropriate legislations and biosafety protocols.

West and Central Africa

- Participation at the ECOWAS Annual Ministerial Conference in Bamako, Mali provided the opportunity to renew contacts with other stakeholders such as the Burkina Biotech. Association (BBA), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and (WECARD).
- CropLife Cameroon has joined the Cameroon Biotechnology Committee for the sensitization and information of the public on biotechnology issues in the country.

East and Southern Africa

- Our drive to develop informed communicators in the field of biotechnology continued during the year. This led to a follow-up training during the third quarter organized in conjunction with AfricaBio. Representatives of National Associations from the following countries participated in the training: Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Uganda.

Alliances and Partnerships

North Africa Middle East

1. AOAD

An updated Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between CropLife Africa Middle East and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development aimed at expanding mutual cooperation towards joint regional training activities while still supporting the regional regulatory harmonization initiative in the sub-region.

2. CIHEAM

Joint activities with the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM) continued towards support of IPM projects in Mediterranean countries through exchange of information and expertise. In this context Dr. Anna Maria D'Onghia of CIHEAM participated at the annual hub meeting in Casablanca, Morocco in September 2005 for the second time. Agreements were reached on mutual training activities between the two organizations focused on Safe Use/IPM.

3. FAO

Mutual exchange with the FAO has been established with the focus on measurement and improvement of compliance to the FAO Code of Conduct. Cooperation in this direction is being maintained with the FAO Near East office in Cairo.

4. IFDC

Mutual discussions with the IFDC resulted in agreement with that organization to extend training facilitation in North African countries besides WCA. Two master training sessions have been scheduled to take place in Morocco and Tunisia within this cooperation framework.

West and Central Africa

Activities related to the MoU with the IFDC covered regulatory issues on crop protection products and seeds in West Africa, capacity building and strengthening of national associations. Two "training of trainers" sessions on IPM/SU were conducted in French in Senegal and Mali. Another area of cooperation was communication and information exchange. Common activities were regularly reported in local and/or international media such as "Afrique Agriculture". This collaboration led to the co-organisation of the annual hub workshop allowing for the participation of more stakeholders. Collaboration was initiated with other organizations and institutions implicated in the use, management of and policies on CPPs. WWF, Pan-Africa, IFAD and Winrock are about to conclude formal cooperation with the national associations.

East and Southern Africa

During 2005 a draft Memorandum of Understanding was developed with COMESA, this has yet to be signed. We did however participate at the "Sixth COMESA Meeting of the Committee on Agriculture Cooperation" as well as the "Third Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture" in Cairo, Egypt. We also participated at the 5th SADC Plant Protection Technical Committee Meeting in Maputo, Mozambique.

The relationship with USAID, who is becoming a key partner in a number of initiatives, is growing and also that with IFDC as a partner in our training programs.

New country members

North Africa Middle East

Legal incorporation of the newly established Syrian national association, CropLife Syria was finalized in 2005. The association has been accepted as a member of CropLife Africa Middle East. The number of officially registered national associations thus reached 12 associations in the sub-region.

The executive board of the Moroccan association AMIPHY decided to change their name to CropLife Morocco, thus raising the number of hub associations adopting the CropLife name and brand to 6 out of 12 associations.

The remaining six associations have approved the use of the CropLife logo alongside their existing logos, with prospective name changes expected in Jordan, Tunisia and Sudan.

West and Central Africa

The name and logo of CropLife have now been adopted by the six national associations of the hub. CropLife Senegal has been launched; CropLife Mali and CropLife Ghana are officially registered and will be launched, while CropLife Côte d'Ivoire is awaiting registration in 2006.

Most national associations are undergoing restructuring into Projects Teams. This approach aims at handling more efficiently the issues in the countries through specific programs and projects in cooperation with different stakeholders.

East and Southern Africa

During the year no new national associations within the region were formed. Our efforts to establish a National Association in Mozambique continues and we could see a positive outcome of this by mid 2006.

By December 2005 eleven (11) of the twelve (12) National Associations had adopted the CropLife brand.

Communication

The association's website went live in February 2005 and continues to provide an efficient tool for communication within the association's network and to stakeholders. The site is regularly updated with the latest country data and contact details of national associations.

The association also developed during the year a newsletter for electronic distribution to the association's network, industry, global secretariat, regional associations and stakeholder organizations worldwide. The first edition of the newsletter has been made ready for electronic distribution as of April 2006.

Press releases synchronized with hub meetings and inputs to the media in the 3 regional hubs continued through 2005 with parallel coverage on the website.

In West Africa, local media such as radio stations, TV and newspapers as well as international media such RFI, TV5 and Africable reported on activities conducted by national associations.

All three hub workshops were reported in "Afrique Agriculture". National associations have been engaged in stronger cooperation with local media associations to better communicate and promote the contribution of CPPs to sustainable agriculture.

EUREPGAP

Our efforts towards the development of an "Africa Guideline" which will enable small-scale farmers to be EUREPGAP compliant have progressed favorably. The final document should be put before the Technical Review Committee of EUREPGAP by mid 2006.

Discussions have been initiated with EUREPGAP to evaluate ways of allowing small-scale growers to obtain EUREPGAP certification in an acceptable and affordable manner. The existing certification scheme allows for local interpretation – however, such an interpretation guideline for the Control Points and Compliance Criteria (CPCC) list has not been established as yet for local African conditions. A working group within the East and Southern Africa Hub of CLAME has been formed to address this issue and work closely with EUREPGAP to enable African growers' continued participation in European and global trade according to established quality norms.

Finance

In the year 2005, the association concluded all its activities within the budget frame approved by the Executive Committee and the General Assembly. A transparent and workable accounting system is in place and provides for the smooth flow of funds relative to all lines of spending while allowing for transparent internal approval and required external audits at hub and central levels.

Looking ahead

CropLife Africa Middle East has experienced an impressive territorial expansion since its legal establishment in 2002. During these past years a functional and lean structure was set up and effective governance processes have been described in a detailed Operations Manual.

As a result of all these efforts the CropLife brand has gained significant visibility, weight and respect in most countries but also at regional level. CropLife Africa Middle East is firmly established as a key institution regarding the management of pesticides in Africa Middle East and is equally respected and consulted by internal and external stakeholders.

CropLife Africa Middle East will continue to pursue its objectives as laid down in its strategic priorities (www.croplifeafrica.org). Having completed the organizational set-up there must now be an increased focus on local implementation jointly with the national associations and other relevant regional and local stakeholders. We will join forces with the FAO and others to raise the compliance level with the recently revised FAO Code of Conduct.

Another major effort will be needed to fight the rapidly growing problem of counterfeit and poor quality pesticides in many countries across Africa and Middle East. It is expected that the food chain driven quality standards on export crops (such as EUREPGAP, etc.) will have a positive influence on the establishment and enforcement of strong national pesticide legislation against counterfeit and not properly documented generic pesticides. Respective initiatives are therefore also supported by our association.

Last but not least, CropLife Africa Middle East will continue to play its role as an ambassador and promoter for the introduction of transgenic crops with their proven benefits for improved agricultural production systems. We will facilitate and support the needed training and know-how transfer to national decision makers to enable them to establish the appropriate legal framework for these new technologies.

All these activities will be executed with the continued and generous direct financial support from CropLife International. Equally important as direct funding is the availability of qualified human resources of the leading global companies of the Plant Science Industry. Contributions and direct involvement of the global CropLife network are key to reach the given goals in the area of product stewardship, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), science based regulatory systems, Integrated Crop Management and sustainable agricultural systems. This continued direct engagement of the leading multinational companies together with CropLife International is proof of the commitment of the Plant Science Industry to develop professional and state of the art agricultural systems and by doing so contributing to overall economic development and poverty alleviation on the African continent.



Dr. Rudolf Guyer
President

Please Reply to:
Dr. R. Guyer, President
CropLife Africa Middle East
c/o Syngenta Agro AG
P. O. Box 233
CH-8157 Dielsdorf, Switzerland
Phone: +41 44 855 83 07
Fax: +41 44 855 87 20
e-mail: rudolf.guyer@syngenta.com

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Key Data for CropLife Africa Middle East (Status 31-12-2005)

Members	30 National Associations 11 Company members of the Plant Science Industry 1 Professional organization	Regional Offices	Amman, Jordan	Ali Mohamed Ali Regional Coordinator P. O. Box 961810 Sport City 11196 Amman, Jordan e-mail: ali-croplife@nets.com.jo
Registered Office	CropLife Africa Middle East Avenue Louise 143 B-1050 Brussels Belgium www.croplifeafrica.org		Abidjan, Ivory Coast	Yao Bama Octave Area Coordinator Rue des Jardins, Cocody II Plateaux, Residence Palmeraie Villa 12 28 BP 437 Abidjan 28 Côte d'Ivoire e-mail: bama-croplife@aviso.ci
	Remark: CropLife International hosts this legal address. There is no own staff of CropLife Africa Middle East based in Brussels		Johannesburg, South Africa	Les Hillowitz Area Coordinator P. O. Box 72127 Parkview 2122 Johannesburg South Africa e-mail: les.hillowitz@icon.co.za

Breakdown and regional distribution of total spending of CropLife Africa Middle East (2005)

	North Africa Middle East	West & Central Africa	East & Southern Africa	Central Expenses	Line as % of Total Expense
Operational Expenses (as % of hub total)	56% *)	47%	45%	28%	47%
Capacity Building (as % of hub total)	14%	17%	14%	5%	14%
Training for Safe Use (as % of hub total)	30%	36%	40%	67%	39%
Total	33%	27%	28%	12%	100%

*) Includes regional coordination