



TradeMali and CropLife Mali train Mango Stakeholders

As follow up to the agreement signed between CropLife Mali and TradeMali, two 2-day training courses were carried out for mango producers, scouts and other stakeholders in all aspects of responsible use of pesticides. The two sessions, in Sikasso (bottom right) and Yanfolila (bottom, left), were lead by Bréhima Danioko and Pascal Sanou of TradeMali and Nonon Diarra and Alassane Kéïta of CropLife Mali. There were 23 participants in Sikasso and 45 in Yanfolila, who were all trained in the local language, Bamanan.

Topics included definitions, classification, protection of the environment, personal protection, storage, transport and application. Participants were also provided with information on the FAO Code of Conduct. The training was enthusiastically received and a follow-up session, covering more practical aspects is planned for the near future.

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What's happening?

- National Association elections in Zimbabwe, South Africa
- Partnership trainings in Nigeria, Somalia and Ghana
- Egypt: IPM Manual & Master Trainers Course
- Ugandan MP's trained in Biotech
- West Central Africa Hub Meeting
- COMESA meetings in Sudan
- South African biofuels news
- Important forthcoming activities





BUSAC Partnership in Ghana

CropLife Ghana have been fortunate to form a partnership with BUSAC (Business Sector Advocacy Challenge Fund), a project funded by international donors, DANIDA, DFID and USAID in Ghana. The BUSAC Fund aims to strengthen the advocacy capacity for the private sector to help strengthen the business sector in Ghana.

In two trainings, one in Takoradi, Western Region and the other in Koforidua, East Region, CropLife Ghana used CropLife Africa Middle East trainers from the industry and government sectors to train 135 agricultural input dealers on how to read labels of pesticides effectively to avoid unnecessary accidents as well as to create awareness on the use of adulterated and counterfeited agrochemical products. This technical training on Responsible Use and Pesticide Regulation for GAIDA dealer members was conducted by Peter Biney, PPRSD/MoFA, Joe Edmund, CCMC/EPA, Franklin Mensah, Dizengoff Ghana Ltd and Bob Adjakloe, PPRSD/MoFA. Peter, Joe and Franklin are certified CropLife Master Trainers.

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Partnerships and Training Successes

Somalia: EU

Jack Aston reports that the EU sponsored UNA IPM Project in Somalia has continued its activities, despite some unrest in rural areas. CropLife contributes to the project. They have just carried out trainings in 105 farming villages in Somaliland, reaching directly over 4000 farmers. They have also trained 8 Agrosphere extensionists who work with over 3000 farmers in the South. The project's trainers have directly trained around 1800 farmers in Puntland, these last couple of months. The CropLife Africa Middle East Train-the-Trainer program which Jack and his colleagues attended in Tanzania has been a great help, according to Jack.

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Nigeria: IFDC & USAID



Emmanuel Chukwue-meka of Dizengoff (Nigeria) recently trained 61 farmers, operators, warehouse & factory workers and government extension officers in various aspects of Responsible Use of pesticides in Ebonyi and Benue States in Nigeria.

Emmanuel was trained as a Master Trainer by IFDC partners. These Responsible Use trainings were sponsored by USAID. Each training was a two day session, each specifically developed for the audience and conducted in the local language.

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Master Trainer Course in Egypt

Dr. Said Abdella has again been active in training in Egypt. He recently trained 27 specialists from the Plant Protection Research Institute as Master Trainers. This course was a 6 day course consisting of Facilitation Skills and Technical Training in IPM and Responsible Use of Pesticides, incorporating theory and practicals, as well as participative exercises, work exercises, written tests, lesson plans, and individual lesson assessments. Dr. Abdella was proud to claim that the average age was 35; that 10 of the 27 participants were ladies; and that 23 had PhD's. This is in line with CropLife Africa Middle East's policy of training more women and younger people. Feedback from the training shows a need for more technical training, which Dr. Abdella will be keen to follow through.

CropLife Egypt has received a letter of appreciation from Dr. Magdi AlHariri, director of PPRI in tribute to the course success.

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Pictures from the CropLife Egypt training, show Dr Abdella congratulating participants (top), participants doing participative exercises (left), and participants with their certificates (above).

More Training & Partnership Successes

Biotechnology: Ugandan MP's trained in RSA

The training of the 16 delegates from Uganda was successfully completed. Included in the delegation were two members of parliament namely, the Hon. Bikwasizehi Deudedit who is the Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and the Hon. Sematiko Gordon Katende who is the Vice Chairman, Science & Technology Committee. The Hon. Bikwasizehi Deudedit recently accepted the role of "Patron" for CropLife Uganda.

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IPM Training Manual – Egypt

Training specialists of CropLife Egypt have concluded the preparation of an advanced IPM course manual and curriculum in the Arabic language. The kick-off session of the first course based on the newly developed manual is scheduled to convene towards end of April or beginning of May, 2007. This is provided by CropLife Egypt as a service to the Ministry of Agriculture whose personnel will be the first beneficiaries of this advanced course.

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West Central Hub Meetings



The West Central Africa Hub meeting took place in Lomé, Togo, 20 to 21-March-2007. Participants included National Associations of the Hub (NAs); National Associations partners of CropLife Africa Middle East; CropLife Member companies representatives; IFDC, UNITAR, Ministry of Agriculture of Togo; various other stakeholders in Togo.

The Hub Meeting was opened by Yves Demeure (centre), WCA Hub Vice-President, with Mr. A. Arokoum, Director of Agriculture and President of Togo Pesticides Committee (left) and Mr. Bouwassi (right), Director of Cabinet representing the Minister of Agriculture. The main issues focused on National Association activities, including:

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR's)

Bama Yao (WCA Hub Coordinator) presented facts on Data Protection and Exclusivity. Mr. Lamatetou (National Institute of Industrial Property & Technology) of Togo addressed legal frameworks for proprietary protection in francophone countries of West and Central Africa, with emphasis on the African Organisation for Intellectual Property and the Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI). Raphael Vogelsperger and Manon Dohmen of IFDC facilitated a workshop on fake and counterfeit products.

The National Associations, thus committed to:

- ensure the existence of proper laws/decrees in their respective countries.

- take necessary actions and/or assist regulators for effective implementation of laws/decrees
- conduct a study on extent/level of fraudulent and counterfeit products in the domestic markets, and to communicate on and engage in alleviation of such practices.

STEWARDSHIP ISSUES

IPM and RESPONSIBLE USE: A presentation was made by the training consultant regarding the rationale for stewardship activities and on training activities throughout the regional association with emphasis on the activities in the hub for capacity building. All NA's were requested to provide their reports on such activities to the regional association through the Training Consultant and the Area Coordinator.

FAO CODE of CONDUCT: Following the presentation by Hub Coordinator on the necessity for a public-private partnership for implementation of the code, NA's were requested to conduct internal evaluations on compliance to the code, to set-up action plans and conduct necessary actions for compliance, and to report on activities related to the code.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS: Prof. Kanda (University of Lomé, and Focal point of POPs Convention) presented the Rotterdam/PIC and Stockholm/POP's conventions and their implications in sustainable agriculture. This presentation was made as a contribution from the Ministry of Environment for the necessary cooperation among stakeholders for full and effective implementation of the necessary instruments for management of pesticides.

REGULATIONS: Industry experts on regulatory issues from CropLife member companies and NA's discussed the draft framework on ECOWAS/WAEMU initiative and made necessary remarks to be communicated for inclusion in the document before the validation workshop to be organised by ECOWAS and WAEMU.

West Central Hub Meetings (cont.)

The quality of CPP's for efficiency and safety in crop protection as well as the implication of ongoing GHS initiative for CPP's labelling were also discussed following presentation by Xavier Schmid (Dow AgroSciences). The need for a follow-up with stakeholders was proposed and in particular assistance from UNITAR was indicated for coordinated actions for Senegal and neighbouring countries.

ALLIANCES/PARTNERSHIPS

The Director of IFDC Africa Division made a presentation on the ongoing West African Cotton Improvement Program (WACIP) funded by USAID and to be implemented by IFDC.

Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin and Chad, and to a lesser extent Senegal have been targeted by the program and opportunities to conduct joint activities, between CropLife and IFDC, exist in those countries.

National and international organisations/institutions attending the workshop were called on for cooperation for effective implementation of the initiatives and issues indicated in the different presentations.

COMMUNICATION

All NA's were requested to send out to the hub Coordinator and Training Consultant necessary reports on activities, communicate with members of

the association, partners and media to create visibility for credibility.

REGULATORY ISSUES

Contacts were maintained with ECOWAS, WAEMU and CILSS for organisation of the validation workshop for the region, under coordination of IFDC. The proposed date for the workshop has been set for 08 to 10-May-2007, to be approved by different parties implicated in the initiative.

STEWARDSHIP/COMMUNICATION

The media in Togo largely covered and rightly reported on the annual hub workshop, and a press conference was organised at the closing of the workshop to inform the media of the conclusions.

Collection and forwarding of reports from NA's were coordinated with the training consultant for 2006 activities. At the same time awareness/sensitisation activities were conducted towards NA's for periodic reports on activities.

Preparatory activities for ToT's and follow-up trainings planned for April in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire were carried out to ensure proper and smooth organisation.

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Delegates addressing the press conference, from left: Bama Yao (WCA Hub Coordinator), Yves Demeure (WCA Hub Vice-President), Mr. A. Arokoum (Director of Agriculture and President of Togo Pesticides Committee), Rob Groot, Director IFDC-A, Mr. V. Adossi, President AFITO (Agricultural Input Suppliers Association of Togo).



Zimbabwe Elections & South African Biofuels

CropLife Zimbabwe recently held elections for office bearers. Casper Masvikeni was elected Chairman and Wilson Gopoza as Vice Chairman. Graeme McPhail (pictured right) remains the CropLife Africa Middle East representative.

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The South African government is set to finalise its biofuels strategy by June and to implement the policy during the second half of the year. It estimates that a nascent biofuels sector could create 55000 jobs. The chief director of clean energy said that there was a possibility in view of the subsidies in the US, Spain and Germany that the government might consider increasing the level of incentives for biofuels in the final biofuels strategy.

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Follow-up to COMESA MoU

As a follow-up to the recently signed MoU with COMESA (<http://www.comesa.int/>), CropLife Africa Middle, East-Southern Area Coordinator, Les Hillowitz was invited to participate in the "Seventh Meeting of the Committee on Agriculture" and the "Fourth Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture", held in Khartoum, Sudan. Important implications for CropLife Africa Middle East are set out in the following extracts from the report.

Les Hillowitz of CropLife Africa Middle East also made a presentation on the progress made in the field on regulatory harmonization of crop protection products and biosafety regulations since the Ministerial Meeting in Cairo, Egypt, in November 2005. In his presentations, he noted that the COMESA region was lagging behind West Africa in harmonization efforts, which situation was acting as a constraint to investment and agricultural production. The Ministers noted the points highlighted by CropLife and the Ministers decided that:

- The Secretariat works with CropLife to drive the effort of hastening harmonization in crop protection chemicals regulation



"Fourth Meeting of the COMESA Ministers of Agriculture" held in Khartoum, Sudan. Left to Right, Sindiso Ngwenya, Assistant Secretary General, COMESA and the Honourable Mohamed Alamin Kabashi, Kabashi, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Government of the Republic of Sudan.

and complete the work in 24 months.

- CropLife be included as a member of the panel of regional experts on biotechnology and biosafety to represent the private sector.

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51ST CIPAC & UN FAO/WHO 6TH JMPS Meetings due in South Africa

The 51st Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council Ltd (CIPAC) Meeting and the United Nations FAO/WHO 6th Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications (JMPS) are due to be held in Umhlanga Rocks, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa between 06 and 14-June, 2007

The JMPS

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) develop and publish specifications for pesticides and their related formulations. The specifications are designed to reflect generally acceptable product standards and to provide an international point of reference against which products can be judged, either for regulatory purposes or in commercial dealings, thus helping to prevent the trade of inferior products. They define the essential chemical and physical properties that may be linked to the efficacious and safe use of a product.

The JMPS (UN FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications) meets in Closed Meetings for a four-day conference from 6-9 June this year at the Protea Hotel in Umhlanga Rocks. This is the first time that this prestigious meeting is held in South Africa. The Panel of Experts is composed of about 25 scientists*, mainly belonging to national pesticide registration authorities, who collectively possess expert knowledge of the development of specifications. On Saturday (9 June), the Meeting concludes by holding interviews with representatives of those companies that proposed specifications, where clarification on possible open points in the draft specifications of their compound(s) is sought.

*[*Experts appointed by FAO are drawn from the Panel on Pesticide Specifications, Registration Requirements, Application Standards and Prior Informed Consent. Experts appointed by WHO are drawn from the WHO Panel of Experts on Vector Biology and Control, together with a representative of the WHO/PCS (Pesticide Chemical Safety). In addition industry experts may also be invited. The primary function of the JMPS is to produce recommendations to FAO and/or WHO on the adoption, extension, modification, or withdrawal of specifications. FAO and WHO pesticide specifications are developed with the basic objective of promoting, as far as is practicable, the manufacture, distribution, and use of pesticides that meet basic quality requirements.]*

CIPAC

The Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council (CIPAC) is an international, non-profit-oriented and non-governmental organization devoted to:

- Promote the international agreement on methods for the analysis of pesticides and physico-chemical test methods for formulations.
- Promote inter-laboratory programmes for the evaluation of test methods.

The methods are proposed by companies and are tested by

laboratories all over the world. After evaluation of the results and adoption, the methods are published in the CIPAC Handbooks.

The Joint CIPAC/FAO/WHO Open Meeting takes place on the Monday 11 June 2007, which is open to all who wish to attend. The Joint Open Meeting deals with all topics of common interest to all three organizations, such as official liaisons, reports from country activities, ongoing programmes, and more, and is chaired in turn by a representative of the FAO, WHO and CIPAC, respectively. Official opening is usually conducted by top official of the Department of Agriculture of that particular country e.g. the Minister of Agriculture.

The CIPAC Symposium takes place on Tuesday 12-June, involving both presentations and posters on a variety of analytical and other aspects of pesticide chemistry. For the following 2 days, the CIPAC Technical Council (TC) mainly deals with the presentation and discussion of collaborative tests# carried out recently and with the possible adoption of new methods as CIPAC methods. The CIPAC TC is open to all who wish to attend, with some minor exceptions. The CIPAC meeting concludes with two Management Meetings (typically attended by 25 people, which includes the Members and Officers) for half a day on Friday.

[#Wherever practicable, the test methods cited in FAO/WHO specifications should have been evaluated by international-laboratory trials under the auspices of CIPAC. CIPAC and AOAC International (formerly the Association of Official Analytical Chemists) publish methods of analysis that have been accepted after collaborative testing (which may include peer verification). CIPAC also tests and publishes methods for the determination of physical properties.]

Participation by the Plant Science Industry

The analytical methods which are collaboratively tested by CIPAC and the round robin test itself are from Industry, as well as the data on which the FAO and WHO specifications are based. Pesticide manufacturers are strongly encouraged to submit draft specifications and the supporting data to the JMPS for evaluation.

Copies of current FAO specifications may be accessed at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpp/pesticid/> and copies of current FAO specifications may be accessed at: <http://www.who.int/ctd/whopes>. The CIPAC website is <http://www.cipac.org>

The United Nations FAO and WHO, as well as CIPAC unanimously support the South African JMPS/CIPAC initiative for June 2007.

The CIPAC Committee (SA) gratefully acknowledges the generous sponsorship by CropLife South Africa.

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News Snippets

CropLife South Africa Elections

The AGM of CropLife South Africa took place in early March and the newly elected President and Vice-President of the association are Leon Smith of Klub M5 and Antonie Delpont of Syngenta.

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<http://www.thetruthaboutorganicfoods.org/>

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- FANRPAN Strategic & Business Plan Workshop, Pretoria, South Africa: 02 to 05-May-2007.
- Validation Workshop, Regional Pesticide Regulations for West Africa: ECOWAS, WAEMU & CILSS, supported by CropLife Africa Middle East & IFDC, Lomé Togo: 08 to 10-May-2007.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife South Africa and SA-PIP, Johannesburg, South Africa: 07 to 11-May-2007.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife Kuwait, Kuwait City: 20 to 24-May-2007.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife South Africa and SA-PIP, Johannesburg, South Africa: 07 to 11-May-2007.
- Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program's West African Regional Pesticide Safety Educators' Workshop, Bamako, Mali: 28-May-2007 to 01-June-2007.
- The Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council (CIPAC) and United Nations FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications (JMPS) meeting, Protea Hotel, Umhlanga Rocks, South Africa: 05 to 14-June-2007.
- Africa Agriculture Science Week and Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) General Assembly, Sandton City, South Africa: 10 to 16-June-2007.
- CropLife International Global Committees and Project Team meetings, Brussels, Belgium: 13 to 21-June-2007.
- CropLife Africa Middle East, East Southern Hub & Regulatory Workshops, Entebbe, Uganda: 26 to 27-June-2007.
- CropLife AME Executive Committee and General Assembly 2007 meetings, Deidesheim, Germany: 05-June-2007.



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