



North Africa Middle East

Jordan

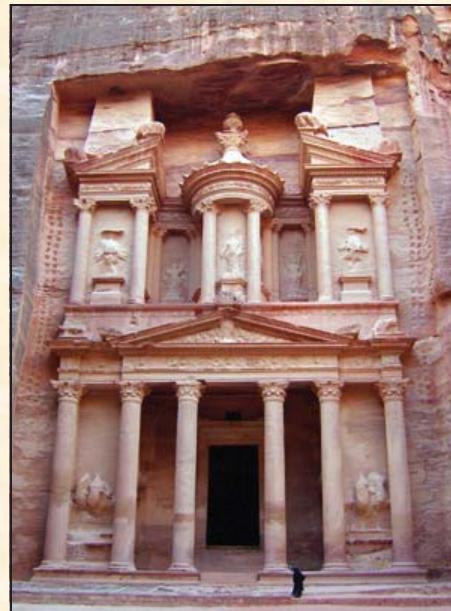
Jordan Expands Capacity in Residue Analysis

In a recent visit to Jordan, the Minister of Agriculture of Bulgaria declared that his country will establish a well equipped residue analysis laboratory in Jordan as a grant from the Bulgarian government. Alongside this, the Greater Amman Council also undertook to establish another residue analysis laboratory.

This development takes place within the framework of a national plan by the ministry of agriculture of Jordan to build and operate 6 additional residue laboratories to be located at the border control points within Jordan.

The ministry of agriculture announced that this expansion in capability in residue analysis aims at facilitating the access of the Jordanian horticultural and vegetable producers to the global export markets. Also, to ensure that Jordanian consumers would have access to residue free local and imported goods.

It is worth noting that Jordan produces two million tones of fresh vegetables and fruits, half of which (one million tones) are set for export. The main export markets being the Gulf Council Countries, Syria, Turkey together with East European countries, namely Bulgaria and Romania.



Mahmoud Altabaishi
Chairman, AMATPA-Jordan



Limited Pesticide Ban in Jordan

The national Pesticide Registration Board of the Ministry of Agriculture of Jordan issued a limited ban with notification to operating pesticide companies and local formulators in the country. The ban covers the 2 substances below with effect from March 2011:

◆ Propargite

All formulations of Propargite are banned based on the reassessment conducted by the USEPA. Local formulators are allowed to continue producing for export purposes, provided that they inform the ministry of agriculture and submit a certificate of consent from the concerned governmental body in the importing country.

The locally produced formulations will be granted a certificate of registration for export purposes only.

◆ Methomyl

All formulations with an active ingredient higher than 25% are banned with immediate effect.

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Anti-Counterfeiting workshop at CAPL-Egypt

The Central Agricultural Pesticides Lab (CAPL) of the Ministry of Agriculture of Egypt organized a one-day workshop on anti-counterfeiting measures on 3 March 2011 at the CAPL Training Centre.

The workshop was attended by 20 pesticide surveillance officers from the different governorates of the country and was conducted by Dr. Monir Almaz of CAPL and Dr. Said Abdella of CropLife Egypt.

The training covered the role of surveillance departments in the inspection of pesticide distribution channels with special focus on retailer outlets. Important aspects of surveillance covered were the identification of counterfeit pesticides and the preparation of technical reports for submission to law enforcement forces.

The workshop also included training on the prevailing laws and regulations relating to counterfeiting and the illegal trade in pesticides.

CropLife Egypt and CAPL have pledged to continue with this training in the different governorates of Egypt during 2011.



L-R Dr. Said Abdella and Dr. Monir Almaz



CAPL anti-counterfeiting workshop, Cairo

Pesticide Operator Project-Egypt



CropLife/ ACDI-VOCA in Cairo

The regional coordinator and training consultant, Said Abdella, met with ACDI-VOCA representatives on 27 March at the ACDI-VOCA offices in Cairo Egypt. Discussions focused on the practical steps for the implementation of the joint project for training, certification and licensing of pesticide operators and applicators in Egypt.

Plans are put in place for conducting 2 master trainer courses for 50 trainers who will carry out the operator and applicator training at field level.

Elements for the launching of a national grower awareness campaign were also covered with agreement reached on the relevant media messages and media coverage.

ACDI-VOCA and CropLife Africa Middle East will organize the official launch of their joint project on 24 May 2011 which will be attended by a broad audience representing different stakeholders in the Egyptian agricultural sector.

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Representing the Plant Science Industry

The Regional Regulatory Committee (RRC) meets in Geneva

On 21 March the RRC met in Geneva for its first formal meeting for 2011. The meeting was hosted by Philippe Cattan from DuPont who had kindly provided both organization and meeting facilities for the event. From CropLife International, Sandra Keller attended in person whilst Bernhard Johnen joined for a special session by conference call.

The discussion covered a long list of ongoing and new regulatory issues arising from African and Middle Eastern countries. Of major concern were the various and often surprising national ban lists and how they could be reviewed and possibly modified. Another issue is the impossible demand by more and more countries requesting a country of origin registration certificate. This request presents major difficulties for globally operating companies who have production and supply units often located in countries where the product in question has no market and therefore is never registered.

The meeting then spent time in discussions and preparation for the upcoming regulatory meetings in West and Central Africa (Ouagadougou) and later in Nairobi where the global project "Principles of Regulations" will be presented to the country registrars. The Ouagadougou meeting is intended as a pilot program and the team will then develop this further at the follow-up meeting in July. This will involve a more detailed action plan for the required long term advocacy and expected implementation and application of these principles of registration in the region of Africa Middle East.



The RRC Committee

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Representing the Plant Science Industry

East & Southern Africa

Biotechnology

Biotech Crops increased by 100 000 ha in South Africa. According to a Maize Trust funded survey on GM crops conducted in December 2010 in South Africa, maize, soya and cotton are surging ahead at an unprecedented rate for the 13th consecutive season.

In 2010 the biotech crop area increased by 100 000 hectares over 2009, said Dr. Pieter Mulder, Deputy-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Speaking at a biotech crop press conference in Pretoria, Dr. Mulder said that the total biotech crop area in South Africa for 2010 was conservatively estimated at 2.2 million Ha. The total maize crop, down 10% from 2009, was approximately 2.47 million commercial ha, with 1.90 million ha or 76.9% being GM. Single Bt comprised 45.6%, herbicide tolerant 13.4%, and stacked Bt and herbicide tolerant, 41%.

The total white maize crop represented 1.522 million ha, with 74.8% GM. Yellow maize comprised 0.946 million ha, of which GM was 80.2%. Smallholder farmers planted 19 000 ha of GM maize in 2009. Data for 2010 is not as yet available.

For the 10 year period, 2001 to 2010, an accumulative 10 million ha of GM maize was planted in South Africa, producing a grain crop of over 38 million MT.

In one way or another this grain has been consumed annually by more than 40 million people, as well as 800 million broilers, 1.4 million feedlot cattle and three million pigs slaughtered at formal abattoirs, without any scientific or medically substantiated incidences of adverse effects to humans, animals or the environment.

Soybean plantings increased by 78 550 ha from 311 450 ha in 2009 to over 390 000 ha. At least 85% were biotech herbicide tolerant. As a result of higher cotton prices, the hectares planted to cotton, 100% biotech, doubled to 15 000 ha and 95% with the stacked gene.

The benefit of biotech crops from 1998 to 2009 was US\$676 million (R4.7 billion), R1 billion in 2009 alone (Barfoot & Brookes global survey, 2011, forthcoming).

Modern biotechnology addresses production constraints to the benefit of sustainable agriculture and food security. New modifications in field trials combine various insect resistance and herbicide tolerance traits to offer the producer more options in crop management. These include 21 different stacked GM traits in maize and 9 in cotton.

Apart from drought tolerant maize, three GM sugarcane lines with growth rate, yield and altered sugar benefits, GM cassava, and a GM table grape are being field tested. A virus resistant chincherinchee is undergoing greenhouse tests. GM maize with two Bt genes and herbicide tolerance was approved for commercial release in 2010.

Africa

Apart from South Africa, the biotech driving force in Africa and ranked ninth among biotech mega countries, Egypt and Burkina Faso are the only two other African countries growing commercialized GM crops and are expanding rapidly.

In 2010, Burkina Faso in West Africa planted 260 000 ha (115 000 ha in 2009) of Bt cotton, farmed by 80 000 farmers on less than three ha of land each. This represents an increase of 126%. The cotton seed was researched and produced in South Africa.

Dr Pieter Mulder



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Biotechnology—cont..

Egypt, the first Arab country, planted 2 000 ha of Bt maize. The seed was researched and produced in South Africa. Several other countries – Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Mali and Ghana – are at an advanced stage of conducting research and field trials with numerous GM crops including maize, rice, wheat, cassava, bananas, sorghum and cotton.

Global adoption

Dr. Mulder said that according to the ISAAA report (International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications) globally in 2010 a record 15.4 million farmers in 29 countries on all six continents grew 148 million ha of GM crops. An increase of 10% or 14 million ha.

Three new nations approved biotech crops for the first time. In Pakistan, 600 000 farmers planted 2.5 million ha, in Myanmar 375 000 farmers planted more than 300 000 ha of insect-resistant Bt cotton, and Sweden planted a new biotech high-quality starch "Amflora" potato. Sweden is the first Scandinavian country to commercialize biotech crops. Germany resumed planting GM crops by approving the same biotech potato.

In 2010, 15 years after commercialization, accumulated global biotech crops exceeded 1 billion hectares. In addition to the 29 biotech countries another 30 countries have approved the importation of biotech crops for food and feed, totaling 59 countries that have approved the use of biotech crops, either for planting or importing.

Notably, over 90% of the 15.4 million biotech farmers in 2010 were small resource-poor farmers. The five principal biotech developing countries – China, India, Brazil, Argentina and South Africa – planted 63 million ha of biotech crops, equivalent to 43% of the global total.

Brazil had a record increase of four million ha, totaling 25.4 million ha of soybeans, maize and cotton – the largest hectare increase worldwide.

In China 6.5 million smallholder farmers planted 3.5 million ha biotech cotton, papayas, poplars, tomatoes and sweet peppers. In India 6.3 million farmers planted 9.4 million ha of Bt cotton equivalent to 86% adoption rate.

European Union

Led by Spain, eight EU countries planted a combined 91 193 ha of Bt maize. The EU imports 33 million MT of soybeans, 95% GM, from Argentina, USA and Brazil for food and feed but prevents its own farmers from planting the crop. After joining the EU, Romania was banned from planting RR soybeans. According to Romania's minister of agriculture, the EU ban is costing Romania US\$131 million annually.

Worldwide, biotech soybean continued to be the principal biotech crop in 2010, occupying 50% of global biotech area. Maize was second with 31%. Cotton came third, with 14%, and canola fourth at 5% of global area. From the outset in 1996, herbicide-tolerance has been the dominant trait. In 2010 these soybeans, maize, canola, cotton, sugar beet and lucerne occupied 61% of the global biotech area of 148 million ha.

Stacked traits are becoming an important future trend. In 2010 a total of 32.3 million ha or 22% of the 148 million ha were stacked.

According to ISAAA, future biotech crops include the following:

- ◆ Drought tolerant maize, 2012
- ◆ Biotech wheat with drought tolerance, disease resistance and grain quality
- ◆ Biotech potatoes (2015) resistant to late blight
- ◆ Sugar cane with improved agronomic and quality traits
- ◆ Disease resistant bananas
- ◆ Bt eggplant, tomato, broccoli, cabbage, cassava and sweet potato
- ◆ Golden rice with pro-Vitamin A, 2013



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Biotechnology—cont ...

At the current adoption rate, ISAAA predicts that by 2015 an additional potential 150 million ha of biotech crops will be added.

Yield Gains and Biodiversity/Environmental Protection

The ISAAA report emphasizes the important contribution biotech crops have made to yield gains, increased productivity, biodiversity and environmental conservation.

During the period 1996 to 2009, substantial yield gains of 229 million tons and economic benefits of US\$65 billion were generated globally at farm level as a result of reduced input cost, fewer pesticide sprays, less labour and reduced use of fossil fuels. Conventional cropping would have required an additional 75 million ha. Environmental conservation benefitted by saving 393 million kg active ingredient of pesticides. (Brookes & Barfoot, 2011)

In conclusion, Dr. Mulder emphasized that the Department of Agriculture has implemented a regulatory system that has managed to analyze and monitor all potential impacts of the GM technology.

Dr. Pieter Mulder with representatives of AfricaBio and a "small holder farmer"



CropLife South Africa



Kobus Steenkamp

CropLife South Africa held their AGM on 8 March 2011. Marcel Dreyer of Arysta LifeScience was elected President and Kobus Steenkamp of Monsanto elected Vice President

The Assembly also adopted the "Special Resolution" by which office bearers may serve two years or longer.



Marcel Dreyer

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Malawi

CropLife Malawi held their AGM on Tuesday 8 March at which Adamson Tong'o was re-elected as Chairman of the National Association.

During the meeting the key activities for 2011 were outlined. These are:

- ◆ To develop a "Poisons Information Centre"
- ◆ To embark on a "Container Management Programme"
- ◆ To continue with the IPM / RU training programme of agro-dealers aiming to reach 1000 dealers by year-end
- ◆ To develop a campaign to entice membership growth



Participants at the CropLife Malawi AGM



Mr. Adamson Tong'o

Kenya



CropLife Kenya held their AGM on Friday 25 March at which A.K. Otieno was re-elected as Chairman for the 2011 / 2012 period.

Two key points were covered during the meeting, namely:

- ◆ That the PCPB were in the process of finalizing the amendment to the Pest Control Products Act and that the National Association had provided their position and inputs into this.
- ◆ That the National Association would develop an additional 5 acres of forest cover in the "Kona Baridi" programme. This project commenced in 2008 as part of industry's Corporate Social Responsibility programme.

Zimbabwe



CropLife Zimbabwe held their AGM on Thursday 24 March at which Jacob Nyagweta (above) of ZFC was elected Chairman.

Jacob holds the position of Technical Services and Business Development Manager at the company.

Uganda

CropLife Uganda in partnership with USTA, organized an Agricultural Trade Show in Northern Uganda which took place between 9 -12 March 2011 at the Pece Stadium in Gulu. The project was funded by the USAID-LEAD project of which the theme was "agricultural modernization for sustainable development"

The public awareness campaign relating to the show kicked off with a street drive together with radio spots. This was followed by a press release in two of the most popular daily newspapers. CropLife Uganda together with USTA had three radio talk shows which further promoted the Agricultural Trade Show.

The purpose of the show was to expose farmers in the Lango and Acholi regions to technologies available for modernizing agriculture and link them to players in the food value chain in agricultural development.

The show was officially opened on 9 March 2011 by the Local Councilor of Gulu, Mr. Macmot Kitara accompanied by the Regional District Commissioner, Mr. Oboi Odoi and other district officials.

The show attracted exhibitors from Kampala, Lira, Pader and Gulu displaying a full range of agro-inputs including implements and mechanization equipment. Other exhibitors included agricultural research institutions, agricultural information service providers, micro-finance institutions, donors, NGOs and farmer groups

A number of CropLife members exhibited and were supported by the CropLife Uganda Secretariat.

During the show more than 900 copies of the responsible use poster, 300 responsible use brochures and 100 calendars were distributed. Approximately 7,000 people visited the show

CropLife produced and distributed promotional T-shirts for key personnel and stakeholders.

On 10 March, there was a networking conference at the Churchill Courts Hotel at which 60 delegates participated. Fred Muduuli represented the national association in the area of "challenges and opportunities of the Chemicals and Fertilizer Industry in Uganda".

The show closed on 12th March 2011.

The benefits of the show derived by CropLife Uganda included:

- ◆ A wider range of contacts for responsible use training such as the FAO, the Northern Uganda Resettlement Enhancement Project (NUREP) etc.
- ◆ Exposure of the CropLife Uganda organization to the Northern Uganda communities.
- ◆ A good promotional platform for CropLife member companies



The CropLife Uganda stand at the Gulu Agricultural Show

Plant Biotechnology – 2011 Regional Network Meeting—Malawi



The Africa Regional Network Team

The Africa Regional Network Group met in Malawi the week of 7 March to coincide with the annual AFSTA Congress.

The week was divided into two parts, with the first part devoted to “Developing a Path to Commercial Cultivation in Uganda”. Several additional stakeholders joined these discussions.

The second part covered the following:

- ◆ Briefing on “The Compact”
- ◆ Update on Stewardship
- ◆ Standard Operating Procedures and Expectations
- ◆ Presentations by ISAAA, ABSF, Africa Harvest and AfricaBio
- ◆ Presentations by AFSTA and COMESA / ACTESA.
- ◆ Review of the “tiered” approach to planning
- ◆ Budget discussion – Proposals for the PBSC May Meeting

ASP—Obstocks

On 10 and 11 April the last four containers from the ASP South Africa “pilot project” were packed and transported to Durban Harbour for shipment to the UK for destruction.

On Monday 14th March the working site at Holfontein was cleared and handed back to the owners.

Right: the final four containers being loaded



Holfontein Site—left clean and tidy



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Representing the Plant Science Industry

West & Central Africa

Launch Workshop for CropLife Quality Scheme in Accra — Ghana

Under the Project Title "Protecting Cocoa Smallholder Farmers in Ghana from Counterfeit and Illegal Pesticides", CropLife Africa Middle East organized a special launch workshop on 18 March for this Pilot Project in Accra, Ghana. The event was attended by a broad range of participants representing the government, the private sector and civil society.

The public sector was represented by the Ghana Cocobod, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Ghana Police Force, Prosecution Unit and Interpol. The private sector representation included agro input suppliers (members of CropLife Ghana and representatives of CropLife Africa Middle East), the Ghana Agro Dealer Association, the Ghana Farmers Association and the Abrabopa Cocoa Grower Association. Civil society was present with executives from several international development organizations such as the IFDC, GIZ (formerly GTZ), World Cocoa Foundation, ACDI/VOCA, TechnoServe, UTZ, AGRA and STCP.

The proposed Pilot Project is built on two pillars. The first pillar is the highly sophisticated "Holospot" technology delivering a unique product code for every single pesticide pack supplied to the market and to the cocoa farmers. This unique code can then be verified with a simple SMS or on the internet to get confirmation of the authenticity of the product and its lawful quality supplier. The second pillar of the project is the strict pre-selection of quality products gaining access to this new technology as this is only for pesticides with a complete regulatory package and with a valid Maximum Residue Limit or a valid Import Tolerance at the destination export market for Ghana cocoa.

The workshop included a practical session on how to check and confirm the authenticity of the Holospot label and how to read the unique code and obtain relevant information from the internet or by a simple SMS to the short code 1401 (valid and activated only in Ghana). Both enquiries deliver automated responses a few seconds after the submission of the code.

All participants expressed their strong interest for this Pilot Project and would like to see its implementation with additional products in order to have a real field test of the scheme.



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Nigeria



The stakeholder forum discussing various issues

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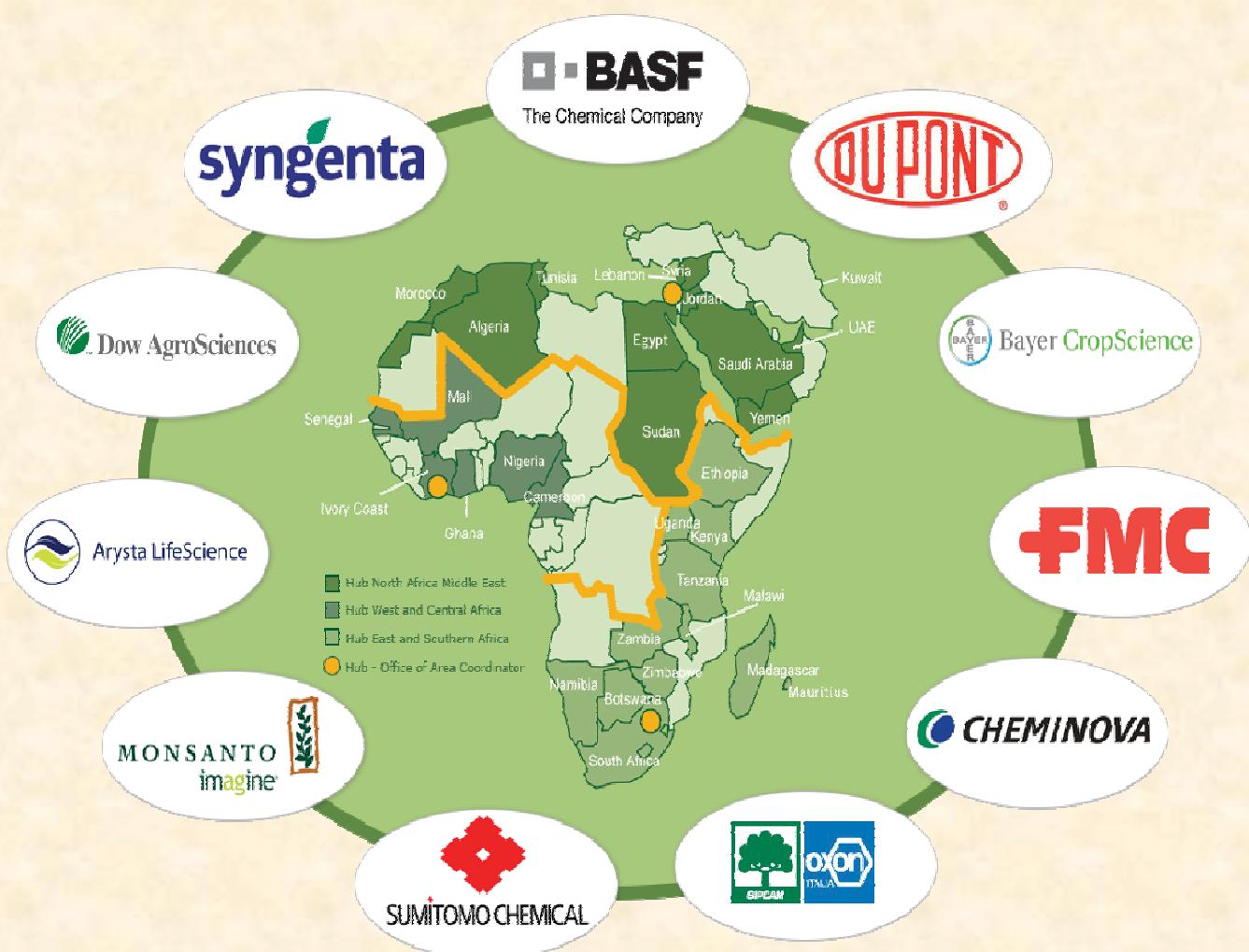
Stakeholders' meeting, - CropLife Nigeria discusses sustainable solutions for empty pesticide containers and obsolete pesticides stocks

Approximately 10 tonnes of obsolete pesticides and more than 70,000 empty pesticides containers have been identified in the private sector in Benue, FCT, Kaduna, Nasarawa, and Niger states of Nigeria. The safeguarding and disposal of these stocks is considered to be a shared responsibility of all stakeholders, including the user. This was one of the main conclusions of the stakeholders' meeting that was organized by the CleanFarms project of CropLife Nigeria. A total of 43 representatives of the private and public sector, and civil society attended the meeting that took place on Thursday 17 March 2011 in the Valencia hotel in Abuja.



*Upcoming
Events*

Quality Scheme Launch in East Africa	May 2-7
ASP South Africa-disposal tender meeting	May 11
CropLife Zambia AGM	May 13
Project Team Meeting “Operations” - Geneva	May 13
Global AC meeting at Bayer CropScience	May 19
CoC meeting in Brussels	May 23
ACDI VOCA project launch in Cairo	May 24
Launch of Cocoa Project-ICCO-Cameroon	June 6-10
AGM and ExCo (2)- 2011 in Brussels	June 14
Crop Protection Strategy Council Meeting	June 16
Obsolete Stocks Project Team meeting	June 17



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GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

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