

Regional Regulatory Committee Meeting

Chaired by Dr. Rudolf Guyer, Director General, CropLife Africa Middle East, the RRC meeting was attended by members, Regional Coordinators of CropLife AME and executives from CLI International Regulatory Affairs, Dr. Bernhard Johnen and Sandra Keller.

The meeting deliberated and resolved a number of country specific regulatory requirements in relation to Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

With regard to WCA, the RRC discussed the status of the CILLS public health registration guideline with a view to preparing feedback to the CILLS Secretariat; noting that the WHO with the support of the CLI Vector Control Project Team is preparing a global project where an African regional system is envisaged. Additional points covered under the WCA region were:

- The need to complete a database of regulators for the Hub Annual Workshop in April.
- To update the CEMAC-CPAC registration procedures as no progress has been reported since the conference call of November 2011. It was agreed to organize a face-to-face meeting with B. Bouato, the Permanent Secretary, during the April Hub Workshop.
- The agenda for the April Hub Workshop was discussed and inputs provided to enable the circulation of the first draft.

The CLI Principles of Regulation Initiative (POR) was presented in a joint meeting of RRC members with the representatives of the Technical Commission of CropLife Morocco. The outcome of the GAP Analysis from the Monheim meeting and CILLS workshops were shared with the Moroccan technical commission.

A.Mhd. Ali /B.Yao



Participants at the RRC workshop (above) met with the ONSSA Director General (below, L) to better learn about the registration process in Morocco through the presentation by M. Akchati.



West and Central Africa

Principles of Regulations Roll Out Workshops

Training took place on March 22, in Accra, Ghana and on March 26, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Participants in the respective countries comprised of:

- Pesticides registration committees (EPA and PPRSD in Ghana and Direction de la protection des végétaux, DPV, Côte d'Ivoire).
- Members of CropLife Ghana and CropLife Côte d'Ivoire
- Representatives of dealers and end users, national and international organizations including COLEACP and farmers' organizations

The purpose of the workshop was to familiarize participants on the PoR and to conduct a gap analysis of the regulatory frameworks in the two countries and prepare the framework for discussions during the Hub Annual Workshop in April.

- The participants in working groups comprising of regulators, CropLife national associations and other participants undertook the gap analysis.
- The ratings were discussed with the participants.
- Evident weaknesses were noted for post registration activities in both countries, and also for intellectual property rights and registration processes.
- Guidance was provided for discussion and action plan preparation for the Hub Workshop.



Participants including C. Moreira and S. Helbig from COLEACP-PIP worked studiously on rating for gap analysis

MIR Plus Project

On 27 & 28 March, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, more than 30 participants from organizations representing members of the Advisory Committee, met to review the midterm activity report and adopt the 2012 Activity Plan.

The recommendations that emerged were as follows:

- To hold quarterly meetings between ECOWAS, UEMOA and the Project Coordination Unit to better ensure the coordination of project.
- For ECOWAS and UEMOA to find ways and means of speeding up the adoption process of the regulatory frameworks.
- To develop regional strategies to promote innovations linked to agro-inputs.
- To capitalize on the lessons learned from the current pilot project to develop a UDP program..
- To increase the involvement of other key partners such as ROPPA (network of farmers' and agricultural producers' organizations of West Africa), CORAF (Conference of African and French leaders of agricultural research institutions), and CropLife etc. in the project's activities to build synergies
- To launch a sustainable MIS platform as quickly as possible.
- To ensure that the project anchors its approach in institutional structures on the ground which will bring about sustainability.
- To ensure that project activities consciously targets women and other disadvantaged groups.
- To ensure that in the revised time-frame more emphasis is placed on sustainable results.

East & Southern Africa

Empty Pesticide Container Management Project – Swaziland

As background, a visit was made to Swaziland by Cam Davreux as part of an FAO project during the week of 5 December 2011 to assess the feasibility of implementing a program to collect and recycle empty pesticide containers in that country. In summary, a sustainable container management program was deemed quite possible. This situation is aided by the dominance of sugar estates, which generate a large portion of the pesticide containers, and the presence of a local plastic recycler.

A return visit to commence the implementation of a container management program took place the week of 5 March. Three stakeholder meetings took place with a cross section of the public and private sectors as well as representation from the small-scale farming groups.

Prominent participants at these meetings included:

- The Honourable Clement Dlamini, Minister of Agriculture, who opened the meeting on Monday 5 March with both press and TV present. The event was later reported on the 8.00 pm news and again the following morning.
- The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Robert Thwala.
- The Director of Extension Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. George Ndlangamandla.

In the overall, the Container Management Program (CMP) Phase (1) has now commenced in Swaziland with the recycler now collecting empty containers from all the sugar estates and the two major forestry companies. This covers approximately 80% of all pesticide containers in the country, and represents an excellent start to this program.



A portion of the containers recently collected by the recycler from the sugar estates



Containers cut in half and cleaned

L-R Principal Secretary, MOA, Dr. Robert Thwala, Hon. Clement Dlamini, Minister of Agriculture, and Cam Davreux



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Public Benefits Messaging Project – CropLife Africa Middle East Workshop

On Friday 16 March Robert Hunter and Deb Carstoiu conducted a “Public Benefits Messaging Workshop” for both chemicals and biotech in the Africa / Middle East Region.

The agenda covered the following:

- Public Benefits Project Overview
- Emotive Tone Applied to Messaging
- Global Roll-Out
- Africa/Middle East Workshop – Discussion and Exercises

The “take-back” from this workshop will be reviewed, and combined with the other regions will form an all-inclusive document, which will give guidance on the way forward in how we communicate in the future.

The steps to be taken are:

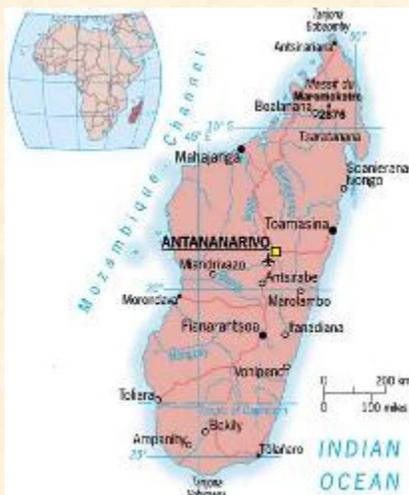
- The Global Roll-out Plan to be developed May / June 2012. This will cover:
- Country-by-country needs
- Analysis of messaging feedback
- Country and resource prioritization

Implementation is scheduled for beginning July 2012.

Participants at the Public Benefits Messaging Workshop



CropLife Madagascar



On 13 March CropLife Madagascar held their AGM and Rivo Andriamanalina (right) was re-elected for a further term. Our congratulations are extended to Rivo.



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ABNE / PBS: Partners and Stakeholders' Meeting on Biosafety Capacity Development in Africa

On 19 – 20 March a workshop organized by the NEPAD Agency African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE) in collaboration with the IFPRI Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS) and other Biotechnology and Biosafety Stakeholders, took place in Entebbe, Uganda.

The objectives of the workshop was to bring together leading biotechnology and biosafety stakeholders and providers of technical assistance to share experiences and analyze the key capacity building needs and emerging challenges in the following thematic areas:

- Framework, policy and regulation
- Implementation: ERA and decision-making
- Compliance and stewardship
- Communication and advocacy

The Hon. Prof. Z.M. Nyiira, Minister of State for Agriculture, Uganda, delivered the opening and keynote address.



Group Participants



Dr. Judy Chambers discussing with Prof. Z.M. Nyiira, Minister of State for Agriculture

CropLife International, 2012 Africa Regional Biotech Network Meeting

CropLife International organized their Africa Regional Biotech Network Meeting on the 21 & 22 March following the ABNE / PBS workshop.

The agenda included the following:

- A recap and discussion of the ABNE/PBS meetings
- Presentations from the Uganda Biosafety Consortium
- An overview and recap of the CLI programs
- Standard Operating Procedures and expectations of CLI
- Presentations from the CLI partners, namely: ISAAA, ABSF, Africa Harvest, AfricaBio and AFSTA.
- A country analysis discussion



Participants at the CropLife Africa Regional Network Meeting

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Representing the Plant Science Industry

CropLife Uganda: Responsible Use and Anti-Counterfeiting Messaging Project

CropLife Uganda - Agribusiness Initiative (aBi) Trust

The aBi Initiative is a one-year project effective 1st March 2012 to be implemented by CropLife Uganda (CLU) together with Field Coordinators and partner-organisations in the districts of Gulu, Nwoya, Amuru, Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, Lira, Apac, Soroti, Kumi, Koboko, and Arua. CLU will be responsible to conduct film shows in communities, run spot messages on radio and conduct radio talk shows to create awareness on the problem of counterfeit agro-inputs and the "responsible use" of pesticides. Trainings will be conducted for the Field Coordinators, Extension workers of collaborating organisations, stockists and agro-input dealers. Trade linkages will be created between the agro-input importers, agro-input dealers and the stockiest within the districts so as to improve accessibility of the genuine agro-inputs.

The grant value of the project is approximately \$ 168,800 of which CLU's contribution is approximately \$ 40,000 made up of both "in-kind" and a cash component.

The objectives of the project are:

- To promote the responsible use of pesticides among the people in the Achoili, Lango, Teso and West Nile Sub-regions.
- To curb the rate of growth of adulterated seed and counterfeit crop protection products in the Acholi, Lango, Teso and West Nile Sub-regions.
- To protect the environment through proper handling and disposal of pesticide packaging.
- To educate and promote good agronomic practices.

The contribution towards the aBi Trust targets include:

- At least 50,000 people attend the film shows on input use and the scourge of counterfeiting in agro-inputs.
- Establish at least 3 trade linkages between the importers, agro-input dealers and stockiest by end of the project
- At least 3,000 posters are distributed to communities for continuity of awareness.
- At least 8,000 leaflets are distributed to communities for continuity of awareness.
- Select and train 12 field coordinators to carry out activities on agro-inputs
- At least 75 stockists are trained on input use and anti-counterfeiting in agro-inputs
- Transmit film shows at least 48 times to the communities by end of the project.

The expected impact areas are:

- Increase input use by 15% in the Acholi, Lango, Teso and West Nile Sub-regions.
- Increase income of agro-input dealers and stockists by 10% due to the selling of genuine agro-inputs and increased sales.
- Increase the production and productivity of farmers by 20% due to the increase in the use of agro-inputs and hence improved income.
- Increased employment in the project areas by at least 15% due to the increase in input usage resulting in greater yields and more activities at different levels of the value chain.



CropLife Zambia: INTERPOL Anti-Counterfeiting Training

Interpol in conjunction with the US Department of Justice held a "3 day training" on intellectual property, dubbed 'Operation Tonse' (translated: all inclusive operation).

The Training was attended by a number of international organizations and competent authorities from the region. The following organizations attended:

Local: Zambia Police, Judiciary, Zambia Bureau of Standards, and Customs Department of Zambia Revenue Authority.

International: Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Center, FBI, Homeland Security (USA), and Interpol Regional Bureau.

From the Region: Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Namibia

The Deputy Inspector General of Zambia Police officially opened the training that emphasized the need to protect intellectual property rights of genuine producers. He encouraged participating organizations to take the scourge seriously as it erodes investor confidence in the country, disadvantages the genuine companies and puts consumers at risk. He pledged unwavering commitment to fight counterfeit products and this was demonstrated by the formation of an Intellectual Property Unit and the record of prosecutions carried out by the police relating to IPR.

The training focused on highlighting the gravity of the problem in the region. Sharing of information aided this and operations carried out within the region by the various competent authorities were proving successful. The FBI and the Homeland Security also shared ideas on how Intellectual property crimes can be tackled.

CropLife Zambia was given the role of highlighting the risks associated with counterfeit pesticides.



CropLife Zimbabwe



On 29 March CropLife Zimbabwe held their AGM and Jacob Nyagweta (left) was re-elected as Chairman of the national association. Jacob is the Technical Services & Business Development Manager of ZFC Ltd. We wish him every success for his second term of office

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CropLife Malawi



On 30 March CropLife Malawi held their AGM and Adamson Tong'o was re-elected as Chairman. We wish Adamson every success for his term of office.

During the AGM an update was given in relation to the CLI-led obsolete stocks safeguarding project (CleanFarms Malawi), as follows:

- Collection of legacy empty containers from producers who work to protocols has started. There is a need to encourage users to triple rinse. CLM needs to come up with a sustainable solution for empty containers.
- Safeguarding of obsolete stocks will recommence after the Easter holidays and hopefully will be completed by July/August. Veolia will be engaged to supervise this undertaking thereby reducing potential liability risks.
- It is estimated that close to 400 tons will be collected and safeguarded, 52 tons have already been tested and disposed of through use and composting (Actellic, fenitrothion, Round Up).
- The hazwaste company, Trevi will be in Malawi shortly to collect, transport and dispose of all the Methyl Bromide stocks.
- FAO have submitted a request to the GEF for funding to remove and dispose of safeguarded materials, they hope to have the funding in place during 2013.
- The "lessons learnt" workshop will be held sometime in September 2012 and this will close the current project
- CleanFarms Malawi will continue to monitor the collected materials for leaks etc. until such time as the GEF funded project commences.
- It was decided to leave the grain storage dusts as is as these are not high risk and the issue continues with over-importation and scant regard to quality control, aggravated by poor distribution.



Discussions in progress at the CropLife Malawi AGM

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Kenyan obsolete stocks safeguarding Project (CleanFarms Kenya)

On 23 March, the first 30 tons of obsolete stocks and contaminated containers were packed and transported for disposal by Veolia supported by funding from the FAO. This is part of the 200 tons of obstocks identified in Kenya.

The event was presided over by the Alternate Director of the PCPB from the Ministry of Agriculture on behalf of the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Abner K. Ingosti.

CropLife Kenya and members of the CleanFarms Project Team participated at the event.

The national hazwaste company, Environmental and Combustion Consultants Ltd (ECCL) and Veolia were involved in the safeguarding of the obsolete pesticides at the Temporary Storage Facility at Kabete, Nairobi. Veolia will assume responsibility to the UK for the disposal, through the port of Mombasa.

The National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA) issued a license after application was made to the UK through the filling of the Duly Reasoned Request (DRR) under the Basel Convention.

The license from NEMA for the shipment enabled the easy movement of the obsolete pesticides from Nairobi to Mombasa and onto the UK for disposal.

This successful outcome is as a result of the 2008 initiative by the Ministry of Agriculture and CropLife International to establish the CleanFarms Kenya project with the aim of mapping out obsolete pesticides and associated wastes and safeguarding the high risk materials.

The CleanFarms Kenya Project included a combination of awareness campaigns and outreach programs targeted at farming communities, municipalities, distributors, government agencies and large scale growers. Potential high-risk storage sites were mapped and were prioritized. In addition, the project tackled the repacking and transferring of all highly hazardous stocks to a safe and secure storage site thereby significantly reducing the potential to cause harm to humans and the environment. To-date 130 tons of such stocks have been safeguarded and are stored at the CleanFarms Kabete Temporary Storage Facility. Additional stocks will be generated from the ongoing national collection and safeguarding activities. The collected and safeguarded stocks will in due course be exported and disposed of through approved incineration facilities.

The plan is for all collected stocks to be disposed through funding sourced from development partners. The Ministry of Agriculture and CropLife International believe that the information gained in the CleanFarms Project, will assist in the forward planning in managing obsolete pesticides in the future. The pesticide industry and other stakeholders were encouraged to support the initiative, to clean farms of unwanted pesticides, thereby reducing both environmental and human risk.



Obsolete pesticides packed in UN approved drums being loaded into the container



Ed Hall, Veolia chatting to A.K. Otieno and the Project Team

North Africa Middle East

CropLife Morocco Holds General Assembly

CropLife Morocco held its General Assembly meeting on the 20 March 2012, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Casablanca. The meeting reviewed the association's activities for the year 2011 with a focus on a number of major achievements outlined below.

In the arena of legislation and regulations, the association had initiated, participated and contributed actively on various regulatory projects relating to:

- The evaluation of pesticide legislation with FAO and ONSSA
- The establishment of National Phytosanitary Directory
- Outsourcing testing for registration
- Maximum Residue Levels in Morocco
- The establishment of minor crop uses
- Registration Procedures

With regard to communication activities, the association participated and contributed to a number of workshops and events countrywide. The salient achievement is the renovation and updating of the association's website which has become more dynamic and user friendly.

CropLife Morocco also addressed various activities in the areas of extension services and good agricultural practices utilizing different media outlets but primarily radio stations.

The newly elected Executive Board consists of the following:

Board member	Function
Karim Ben Brahim	President
Samira Amellal	Vice-President
Mounir Sefiani	Vice-President
Faical El Houssaini	Secretary General
Ahmed Badaoui	Assistant Secretary General
Bentayebi Mazaz	Treasurer
Mahfoud Jalab	Assistant treasurer
Mohamed Chetouani	Member
Khalid Mimi Lahlou	Member
Mohamed Lamsalek	Member
Mohamed Zouini	Member



Boubker El Ouilani (Executive Director,
CropLife Morocco)

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Jordanian Association Elects New Board

The Jordanian CropLife Association (AMATPA) held its General Assembly meeting during March 2012 and elected a new Board of Directors for a 3-year term extended to March 2015. The elected board was constituted as below:

Board Member	Function
Mahmoud Altabaishi	Chairman
Mohamed Aldirawi	Vice-Chairman
Mohamed Yahia Alhmoud	Secretary General
Immad Tawfiq Sweid	Assistant Secretary General
Ahemed Sayahin	Treasurer
Salih Suliman Alyassin	Assistant Treasurer
Samir Owais	Member
Khalid Altahir	Member
Khaldoun Salem	Member



Mahmoud Altabaishi (Chairman AMATPA)

Tunisia Association Elects New Board



The CropLife association of Tunisia (ATPP) held its General Assembly Meeting on 28 January 2012 and elected a new executive board as follows:

Board member	Function
Chebil Mehrez	President
Nacer Chouikh	Vice-President
Mouhamed Dawed	Vice-President
Moncef Chargui	Secretary General
Habib Mabrouk	Treasurer
Hanan Chaabane	Member
Sauad Hedidar	Member
Med Mimoun Hammi	Member
Med Rabih Hajlaoui	Member
Moneem Khlifi	Member
Mouhamed Cherif	Member
Moussa Chaabane	Member

General Assembly
CropLife Tunisia



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Plant Science Innovation Helps Conserve Global Water Supplies

On World Water Day, CropLife International highlights how plant science is preserving natural resources now and in the future. 22 March 2012, Brussels —Today, agriculture accounts for 70% of global withdrawn fresh water usage, and by 2030 it's estimated that nearly half the world's population will be living under severe water stress. It is clear just how important it is for agriculture to use water wisely. Working together with plant scientists, farmers have embraced this challenge by adopting new technologies and techniques that conserve water.

In the U.S. for example, farmers use 50,000 fewer gallons of water to grow an irrigated acre of corn today, compared to 20 years ago. Farmers who have adopted biotech seeds that enable them to grow their crops with little or no-tilling of the soil are keeping more moisture in the ground. In Brazil this tillage practice is expected to save nearly 134 billion litres of water by 2020; the equivalent of three million people's water usage for a decade. In developing regions that lack basic agricultural technologies, these simple innovations could dramatically change how water is used.

"Farmers have been handed a difficult task over the next four decades," said Howard Minigh, President and CEO of CropLife International. "They must increase the amount of food grown by 70%, while reducing the amount of water used to cultivate their crops. The plant science industry is working with farmers to improve access to current technologies and develop tools to meet future challenges."

Rising effects of climate change will make agriculture's responsibility to protect water supplies even more difficult in coming years. Higher temperatures will reduce water availability for farming. In developing areas like Africa, if temperatures rise by just one degree Celsius, at least 65% of maize growing areas would experience crop losses. The plant science industry is working with farmers and the public sector to develop solutions to overcome this challenge.

"Public-private partnerships, such as the Water Efficient Maize for Africa project, demonstrate industry commitment to innovating for the future, hand-in-hand, with local institutions and farmers," explained Minigh. "In Africa alone, the drought-tolerant seeds developed in this project could improve farmer's yields by 20-35%, saving huge amounts of water that would be diverted to crops in a drought. Only through mutual collaboration between industry and the public sector can this be achieved."

CropLife International and its members are playing a key role in looking after our natural resources by developing these critical partnerships and enabling farming techniques, such as no-till, that use less water. To learn more about plant science's leadership in meeting this and other challenges facing agriculture, download CropLife International's new infographics

Feeding Nine billion: The Issues Facing Global Agriculture, or visit ActionforAg.org.

RRC Elects Chairman

At the first meeting for 2012 in Mohamadia, Morocco, the Regional Regulatory Committee (RRC) of CropLife Africa Middle East, elected Michael Studer as its Chairman.



RRC chairman—Michael Studer

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Representing the Plant Science Industry



Brussels Meeting with FAO team evaluating CILLS

Side Meeting Abidjan CropLife AME Team

Hub Meeting West and Central Africa in Abidjan

Obsolete Stocks Project Team Meeting

CropLife South Africa SHE Meeting

Meeting of the Regional Regulatory Committee RRC 2-2012

RSC Meeting Brussels

FANRPAN Partners Meeting

Meeting with APC-Egypt

Meeting with SAGA-Sudan

Global IPM Project Team Meeting in Brussels

Global Stewardship Steering committee Meeting in Brussels

Anti Counterfeiting SC Meeting in Brussels

Board Meeting and AGM in Brussels

CPSC meeting in Brussels

Global Communications SC Meeting in Brussels

April 18

April 23

April 24-25

May 2

May 3

May 15-16

May 30

May 31

April/May

May 8

June 20

June 21

June 26

June 27

June 28

June 29



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GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

Representing the Plant Science Industry