



CropLife Africa Middle East
Newsletter

Number 69
August 2011

North Africa Middle East

CropLife and ACDI-VOCA Launch Master Trainer Programme



Above & Below: Master Trainers at ACDI-VOCA



CropLife Africa Middle East and ACDI-VOCA organized the 1st master trainer course as part of their joint national project for the certification and licensing of pesticide operators and applicators in Egypt.

The master course took place on 25-28 July 2011 at the ACDI-VOCA offices in Cairo.

The course was lead by Dr. Said Abdella and was attended by 14 master trainers from different governorates.

The course, over 4 successive days, addressed facilitation skills exercises together with technical training on IPM and pesticide application. This was undertaken together with the incorporation of both theoretical and practical components as well as participative exercises and individual lesson assessments.

All participants passed the prescribed tests and demonstrated their worth and were duly awarded certificates of competence.

This first master trainer course will be followed by two subsequent master trainer courses that will raise the number of trainers within the project to 50.

It is worth noting that the awareness training component as well as the applicator training have also started in different governorates and will continue in line with the basic project plan.

CropLife Regional Coordinator, Ali Mohamed Ali, and Alexandra Harrison of ACDI-VOCA addressed the opening and closing sessions of the program whilst pledging to continue their mutual cooperation within the project.



Photo courtesy ACDI VOCA



ACDI VOCA Egyptian Staff

ali@croplifeafrica.org

5th International Conference on GM in Jordan



Above: HE Samir Habashneh

Below: GMO Conference—Jordan



Held under the auspices of HE, Samir Habashneh, Minister of Agriculture of Jordan, the 5th International conference on Genetically Modified Food convened in Amman, Jordan on 6-7 June 2011 with the broad participation of local and foreign stakeholders on the issue of GM food.

Deliberations focused on the prospective utilization of the GM technologies in boosting safe food production in Jordan and the entire Arab region.

The following recommendations were announced by the conference secretariat:

- The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) would assume a leading role, together with Arab funding organizations in promoting scientific research in the area of GMOs.
- A specialized GMO unit will be constituted in every ministry of agriculture in the Arab region.
- Involvement of the private sector will be the promotion of GM law and legislations.
- There will be the promulgation of relevant regulations whereby GM ingredients in foodstuff would be duly declared and publicized.
- The upcoming conference in 2012 will focus on the legal and legislative aspects of GM production.

OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook Predicts Higher Food Prices

On 17 June 2011, The Agricultural Outlook 2011-2020, produced jointly by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), predicts that prices for agricultural commodities will fall in the short run but increase over the next decade to average 20-30% higher in real terms than over the 2001-2010 period.

According to the report, agricultural production is expected to increase in the short term leading commodity prices to fall from the highs of early 2011, but in the long run, prices are expected to increase due to slower annual growth in agricultural production, in particular for oil seeds and coarse grains.

Higher prices for commodities will exert pressure on consumer prices and lead to higher aggregate consumer price inflation, which may reduce purchasing power of the poor and increase risks for economic stability and food security in some developing countries.

The report also investigates the key driving forces affecting food price volatility, which can have significant negative effects on the agricultural sectors, food security and the wider economy in developed and developing countries, noting that climate change and unpredictable weather is the most frequent and significant factor causing volatility. Other factors include stock levels, energy prices, exchange rates, growing demand, resource pressures, trade restrictions and speculation.

The report identifies the following policy challenges: mitigating volatility through enhanced market transparency and removal of policy distortions, such as import and export restrictions or bio fuel subsidies; and managing volatility through safety nets for low income consumers, emergency food reserves and market-based risk management. [Publication: OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2011-2020] [OECD Press Release]



ali@croplifeafrica.org

Representing the Plant Science Industry

East & Southern Africa

Association Management Training: Malawi & Zambia

In line with the directive taken at the ExCo Meeting in Paris earlier in the year, emphasis is being placed on developing the capacity of the national associations. A start in the region was made last year with the restructuring of the national association in Tanzania.

This continued during the week of 4 July in which "association management" training was undertaken in both Malawi and Zambia. The training was facilitated by Manon Dohmen.

In the case of Malawi the 2 day programme comprised of the following:

- * Welcome and "scene setting"
- * What is an association?
- * Results of the assessment undertaken earlier in the year in line with the CleanFarms project
- * Membership
- * Activities of an association
- * Financial sustainability
- * Setting up a container management program
- * Managing an association
- * Building partnerships
- * Plan of action
- * The next step

Under "the next step" it was recommended that CropLife Malawi holds a Special AGM before November at which to ascertain the direction of national association.

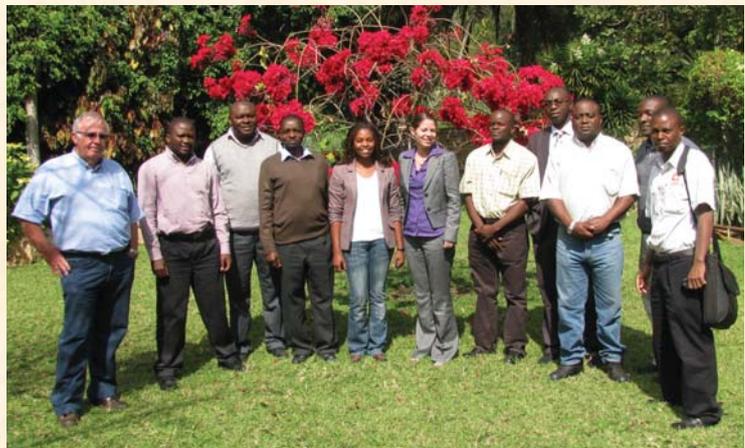
For Zambia, the 2 day programme comprised of the following:

- * Welcome and "scene setting"
- * What is CropLife Africa Middle East
- * What is an association?
- * SWOT analysis
- * Membership
- * Activities of an association
- * Setting up a container management program
- * Financial sustainability
- * Presentation by ZEMA
- * Building partnerships
- * Plan of action

In summary, CropLife Zambia is going from strength to strength.



Above: The Malawi Group



Above: The Zambia Group



les@croplifeafrica.org

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Meeting with FAO on the CleanFarms Safeguarding Project and Container Management

A two day meeting with FAO took place in Johannesburg. On 26th July the focus was on the cooperation within the CleanFarms Project whilst on the 27th July, container management in general in East & Southern Africa was discussed.

Malawi

- * The tender for the safeguarding of Methyl Bromide had been granted to Tredi Seche and this task should be completed by the end of September to meet with EC project reporting.
- * Details were shared on the FAO project in the country.
- * FAO would like to visit Malawi to inspect progress of CleanFarms project.
- * The CleanFarms team is to centralize the Methyl Bromide stocks to help reduce Tredi costs
- * Information on contaminated sites will be shared with FAO.
- * CLI will receive a copy of the signed TCP document.
- * Photos of "postharvest loss control products" together with some background history will be shared with FAO.
- * The CleanFarms team to clear the Limbe ADMARC store in order to gain access to the Methyl Bromide stocks.
- * The FAO TCP "container management" project to be completed by the end of the year.
- * It was confirmed that the TCP project is on track, the only issue being is the potential civil unrest in the country.
- * It was noted that the Government of Japan will no longer fund the disposal of products in Malawi; this will now need to be written up as a GEF request.

Kenya

- * It was noted that the tender for the disposal of safeguarded stocks had been awarded to Veolia. The work should be completed by the end of September to fit in with EC reporting deadlines.
- * Photographs of new stocks in Kabete will be sent to FAO to see whether these can be included in the tender.
- * Veolia will be asked about the processing of empty pesticide containers as these cannot be packed for transport in a way that odour can be detected. A possible solution is maybe shredding and placing into over-drums. Both parties to try and work these containers into the tender document.
- * The official launch date for the national safeguarding project will be communicated to FAO.
- * There is a definite need to get good integration of the TCP container management project and the CleanFarms pilot collection and to use CropLife Kenya as the central contact.
- * Background information on contaminated sites. Will be communicated to FAO

Other and future activities

- * PSMS training for Kenya, Malawi, Swaziland, RSA and Botswana is planned for October or November. Training will be in RSA.
- * For Mozambique a GEF project has been approved. This will include pesticide burial sites plus the development and implementation of a container management programme. This will be a 3 – 4 year project.
- * Botswana has 60 + tons of obstocks identified, some of which will be CLI member products. This may possibly require the appointment of a TAD, There is also an issue with container management. Key focus for FAO will be on the two heavily contaminated sites. The project will be jointly funded by GEF and the EC.
- * Eritrea safeguarding is currently underway and will include some CLI products
- * Swaziland has 100+ tons of obstocks, 80 of which are arsenic based cattle dips, very little CLI material involved.
- * Mali; the disposal tender is under construction and the CLI contribution will be developed.
- * Morocco and Benin, potential collaboration with CleanFarms projects with some expected stocks from the private sector.
- * Uganda undertook a self clean-up approx 3 years ago and is thought to be clean.
- * Zambia; a USAID project is currently in progress which includes Responsible Use. This expires later this year and the chances are good that this will be followed by a Swedish Aid programme in which container management may be included. A check is to undertaken with CropLife Zambia to see whether CleanFarms support would be required for obsolete pesticides bearing in mind that the last obsolete stocks project was in 1996.
- * It was stated that if projects are contemplated in Rwanda and Burundi, the DRC should be included.
- * Discussions included the concerns of container management issues in both Ethiopia and Tanzania, particularly with the legacy stocks and that this issue should be dealt with under the ASP.

CropLife Ethiopia

Launch of the Pesticide Stewardship Association

The idea of a Pesticide Stewardship Association was the initiative of USAID back in 2008. From this point two workshops followed at which the decision was taken to give the venture a sub regional approach by the inclusion of Djibouti, Sudan and Eritrea. Owing to the turn of political events in the region, it was decided to kick-off with the Association only in Ethiopia at this stage.

The launch took place in Nathereth on 26 + 27 July. Amongst the participants were two professors from Obsala University, Sweden and one from the US. There were 25 participants who formed the foundation of the General Assembly. CropLife Ethiopia was elected as a member of the Board.

Following the meeting the Board Members visited two potential areas for the start-up of the project and met with groups of farmers. In Zeway a one-day workshop was held at which 27 farmers participated. In Arbamech at which a second one-day workshop took place, there were a total of 30 farmers.

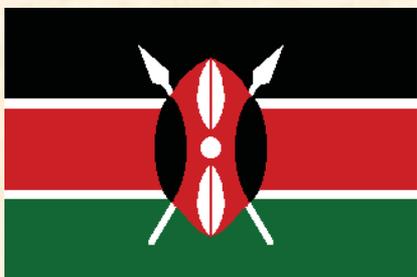
The project is planned to start in earnest later this year.



Group Photo



Agrochemicals Association of Kenya Meets With Architectural Association of Kenya



A K Otieno

The Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK) together with the manufacturers of termiticides have been lobbying the Architectural Association of Kenya on the use of registered termiticides in the Construction Industry.

This lobbying has been ongoing for several years through the Pest Control Services Sub-Committee of AAK and the Pest Management Association of Kenya (PEMAK – an association for service providers for pest control affiliated to AAK). A meeting was finally organized with members of the Board of Management of the Architectural Association of Kenya on 5th July 2011.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of AAK, Mr. A. K. Otieno, and the Chairman of the Architectural Association of Kenya, Mr. Stephen Oundo and officials of the Board which included the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Mairura Omwenga.

Issues discussed included the following:

The Agrochemicals Association of Kenya would provide a list of all registered termiticides to the Architectural Association of Kenya to be used by Architects, Quantity Surveyors, Town Planners, Landscape Architects, Engineers, Construction Project Managers and Environmental Design Consultants, during construction.

In addition, a list of Pest Control Service Organizations who are members of the Agrochemicals Association of Kenya will be given to the Architectural Association of Kenya to be used during construction.

The Agrochemicals Association of Kenya was invited to make a presentation on these matters to the Architectural Association of Kenya at a Convention of Architects, surveyors etc on 24th to 27th August 2011, in Mombasa.

The AAK feels this interaction will help the Agchem Industry fight counterfeit products and ill-trained service providers who have flooded the building industry

les@croplifeafrica.org

Representing the Plant Science Industry

West & Central Africa

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire – Anti-Counterfeiting activities

On 6 July, in Abidjan, 10 representatives of the member companies together with the Executive Secretary, and WCA Hub Coordinator met to drive the anti-counterfeiting process in the country.

Against the background of increasing proliferation of illegal pesticides and the weak countermeasures taken by the authorities, the General Assembly at their June meeting urged the Anti-Counterfeiting Project Team to organize a meeting to address this process. The meeting developed the following objectives and actions:

- * Reactivate the convention with the customs services and the draft decree with the Crop Protection Department, with the inclusion of the Ministries of Environment and Justice on the Anti-Counterfeiting Committee.
- * Strengthen the capacity of the major stakeholders including retailers, dealers, customs, police, cocoa industry, produce exporters, transporters etc.
- * Strengthen cooperation and communication among enforcement and prosecuting entities;
- * Strengthen communications with the use of TV, rural radio stations, signage, flyers etc.
- * Set-up seizure and incineration procedures and the subsequent funding to meet these activities.

CropLife Cameroon, IPM / Responsible Use Training



Sessions facilitated by a trainer (L) and a participant during a feedback session (R) were supervised by Mrs. G. Etoundi, the training facilitator (blue, back). (Courtesy: CropLife Cameroon).

In late June and mid July, three training interventions were undertaken in Mbouda, Bamenda and Mbouroukou respectively

In total there were 141 participants comprising 96 farmers (vegetable producers), 8 trainers, 6 retailers and 31 agronomists / extension agents.

The sessions were aimed at providing tools and strengthening the capacity of the participants focusing mainly on specific topics grouped under the following:

- * Safe handling of CPPs.
- * Responsible use of CPPs.
- * Imperatives for competitiveness and sustainability for vegetable production.

All sessions were organized under the framework of the partnership between CropLife Cameroon and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The training was facilitated by Mrs. Gisèle Etoundi.



bama@croplifeafrica.org

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Ghana - CleanFarms Initiative Training Workshop.



Participants to the CleanFarms training workshop during a classroom session (L) and field exercise at the Pokuase TSF (R). (Courtesy: CropLife Ghana).



During the week of 4 July, 14 representatives from the EPA, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, CropLife Ghana/GAABIC and Zoomlion/ZOIL Waste Company Ltd. met in Accra.

The workshop was facilitated by Veolia Environmental Services (Nick Morgan) and the CleanFarms Project manager (David Laycock) and was aimed at strengthening the capacity of the officials engaged in the safeguarding and transportation of the obsolete materials in the country.

The training comprised of 2 days indoor training and 3 days of field exercises.

The indoor session focused on the following:

- * Obsolete Pesticides.
- * Health and Environmental Hazards.
- * Personal Protective Equipments;
- * The Safeguarding Process.
- * Selection & Management of collection centres.
- * Transport of obsolete pesticides.
- * Manual handling.

The field exercises were conducted at the Pokuase Temporary Storage Facility (TSF) at the PPRSD office in Pokuase. The exercises were conducted effectively and efficiently with the use of proper protective equipment and other relevant materials procured by the project for the exercise in the country.

The exercise benefited from the support of Mr. Vesper Suglo, Director of PPRSD/MoFA with filming/coverage by the Information Service Directorate (ISD) of the Ministry of Food & Agriculture.

ICCO/Cocoa SPS Africa – Meeting in Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire

On 5 July, representatives and stakeholders involved in production namely FBOs, research institutes, agri-inputs suppliers, registrars/regulators, projects etc. got together to discuss the project.

The meeting covered the following:

Presentation of the Cocoa SPS Africa project and implications on markets access.

Presentation on contribution from CropLife AME to the project.

Setting up of the steering committee and the election of a president of the committee;

Discussion for the preparation of the launch of the project for Côte d'Ivoire, planned for August 25.



bama@croplifeafrica.org

Representing the Plant Science Industry

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire signs MOU with GIZ



Signing and presentation of the MoU by CropLife Côte d'Ivoire (L: 2nd and 3rd) and GIZ representatives (R: 1st and 3rd).
(Courtesy: CropLife Côte d'Ivoire).

On 6 July in Abidjan, CropLife Côte d'Ivoire represented by the president, a representative of the Consultative Council and the Executive Secretary, signed a MOU with Mrs. Zambo, Projects Manager, and J-B. M'BO, Technical Counselor, Sustainable Cocoa Business of GIZ.

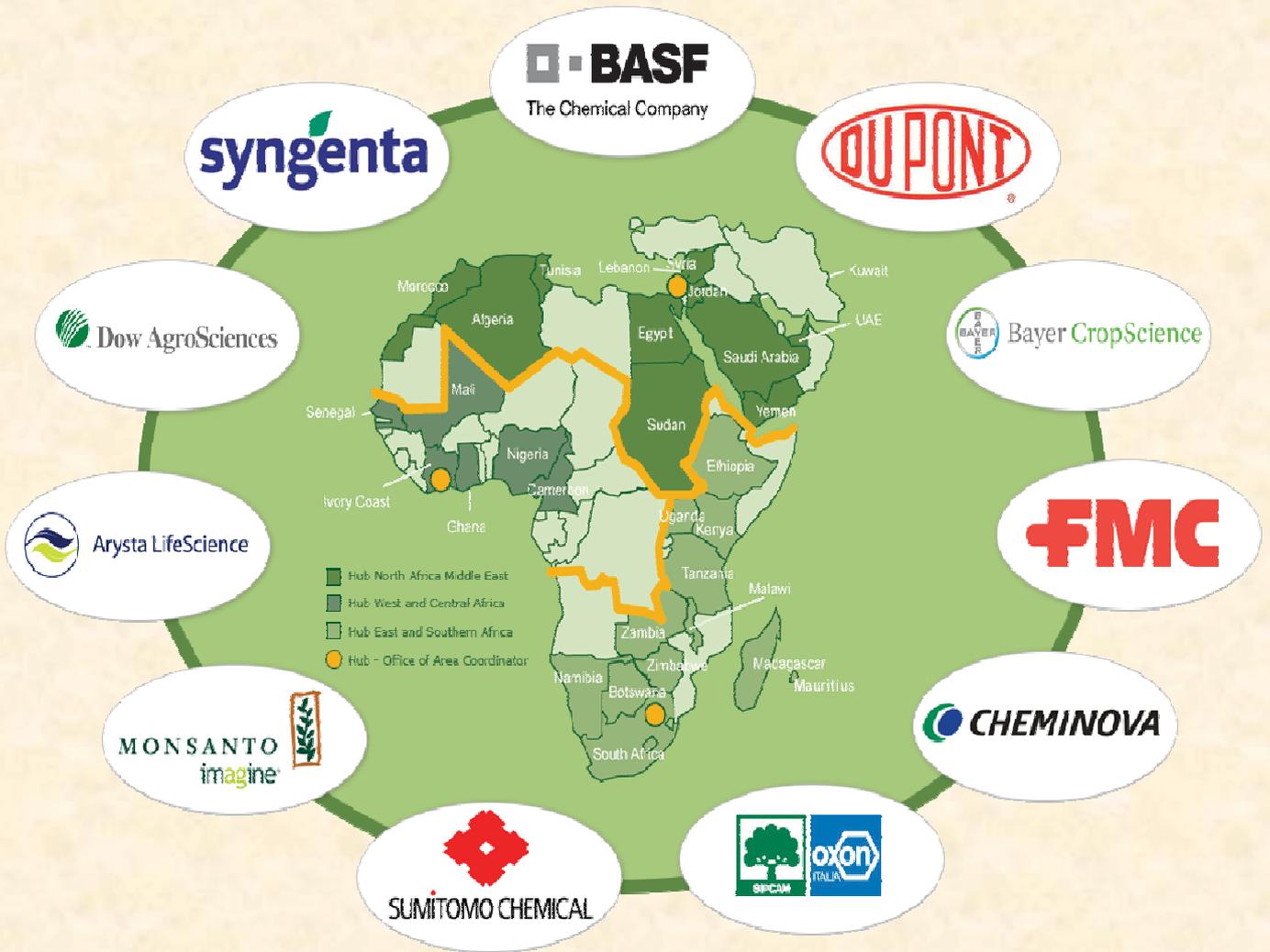
The signing of the MoU between CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and GIZ culminated the formal cooperation on the "Business Center Services (BCS)" to contribute to improving competitiveness of cocoa farming and quality of beans through the appropriate supply of registered quality pesticides to farmers. This cooperation is intended to bring about the following:

- * Improve and secure the business share of member companies;
- * Strengthen the adoption and use of registered quality pesticides;
- * Contribute to Anti-Counterfeiting activities;
- * Contribute to the adoption of BPA through training provided by CropLife Côte d'Ivoire;
- * Improve farmers' income and contribute to the sustainability of cocoa farming.

bama@croplifeafrica.org



Launch and implementation of the Quality Scheme in East Africa. Possible Pilot Project in Uganda	Aug 10-13
Discussion/ training on budget structure, expense reporting, & project management implementation	Aug 14
Hub and Regulatory Meeting East and Southern Africa	Aug 16-17
POR training for AME team	Aug 18
Anti-Counterfeiting Training – Uganda/ Kenya/ Tanzania	Aug w/c 29
ACDI-VOCA project launch event in Cairo	Sept 18
Global Container Management project Team Meeting in Lyon	Sept 20-22
Obsolete Stocks Project Team Meeting in Lyon	Sep 20-22
Global Stewardship Workshop Berlin	Oct 18-19



Contributors:

Ali Mohamed Ali (North Africa Middle East) ali@croplifeafrica.org
 Bama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa) bama@croplifeafrica.org
 Les Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa) les@croplifeafrica.org

GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

Representing the Plant Science Industry