



## Country News

### Uganda

CropLife Uganda concluded a contract with the "Agribusiness Development Component" (ABDC) on behalf of Danida's "Agricultural Sector Program Support" (ASPS) for the implementation of a programme termed "Decentralisation of Chemical Dealer Certification". This program was to conduct a ToT which when rolled out will certify all the dealerships affiliated to the "Uganda National Agro-Input Dealers Association" (UNADA). A total of 30 candidates underwent the designated training, 20 selected from UNADA representing the 10 regions and 10 from CropLife Uganda. The training comprised of a 10-day course of which the curriculum was developed by the Makerere University, Agricultural Faculty at Kabanyora. The training was carried out on 10 - 29 September. The budget developed for the programme was set at + - \$20,000, made up as follows: CropLife Uganda: \$5000; Danida: \$11000; National Agricultural Advisory Development Services (Government's arm for fighting poverty): \$4000. For more, contact: [les.hillowitz@icon.co.za](mailto:les.hillowitz@icon.co.za)

### Syria

The General Assembly of CropLife Syria met on 09-November-2005 and publicly announced the legal establishment of the association with 17 full members each having settled \$2000, as subscription fee and approved \$1000 as annual contribution to the finances of the association. Contact: [ali-croplife@nets.com.jo](mailto:ali-croplife@nets.com.jo)

### Mali

Bama Octave Yao, CropLife Africa Middle East's area coordinator for West Central met with Seydou I. Traore and Daniel Kelema, Director and Deputy Director, respectively of the National Agriculture, to discuss the issue of fake products in Mali. A meeting will be conducted in November to set out a specific action plan and determine the participation of key stakeholders. Contact: [bama-croplife@aviso.ci](mailto:bama-croplife@aviso.ci)

#### What's happening?

- Train-the-Trainer courses
- Country News
- Forthcoming Events
- News from West & Central Africa

## Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development

Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) informed Regional Coordinator, Ali Mohamed Ali, of their newly established specialized committees to develop regional stewardship projects in cooperation with stakeholder organizations. The first meetings of these specialized committees are scheduled to convene in Cairo between 22 and 25-January-2006. The Regional coordinator has been invited to attend these meetings on behalf of CropLife Africa Middle East.



## *ToT in Gezira, Sudan*



November saw the completion of the five day Training of Trainers course (the first part started in March, 2005) for Sudanese government personnel. The training which took place in Medani, within the Gezira Irrigation Scheme included several lady participants. CropLife has been endeavouring to include young or new employees as well as women in the Training of Trainers courses to build training capacity in the countries. [peter.mills@mweb.co.za](mailto:peter.mills@mweb.co.za)

## *West Central Africa News*

**Ghana**  
**Togo**  
**Mali**

A meeting was held with Mr. J. Pwamang of the Ghanaian EPA and CropLife Ghana to address fake products. It was decided to involve the MIS-TOWA-IFDC project to set up and organize a second training workshop for inspectors in the Ministry as well as a workshop for importers, distributors, retailers and other dealers as part of the ongoing cooperation between CropLife Ghana and the Ghana Agro-Inputs Dealers Association (GAIDA).

A meeting was held with Arokoum Ezzo, Director of Agriculture, Gogovor Yawo and Kolla Abiyo of the Ministry of Agriculture, Togo, to put in place Safe Use training plans for Pesticides Committee inspectors, as well as retailers. The National Association, AFITO, is involved in setting out the ToR's, venues & budgets for these training sessions. AFITO is also setting out sensitization & communication actions in preparation for the trainings.

Bama Octave Yao met with Dr. Brahim Kebe, of the FAO Regional Office in Accra, Ghana to discuss regional activities and future meetings on regulatory issues. This included training on IPPC for 17 countries in SSA, Rotterdam Convention for ECOWAS, a legal framework for WAEMU states and two workshops will be held in December. The current regulatory harmonisation initiative was presented to FAO, and discussion centred on cooperation with FAO to create synergy with the technical backup team of CropLife, IFDC, CSP and CPHAOC.

The National Association in Mali, ADPA will have a General Assembly meeting of their Executive Committee before year end to finalise the name change to CropLife Mali.

A workshop with AFITO, the Togo National Association set out guidelines for restructuring, action plans, name change and adoption of the CropLife name and logo. Building membership was an issue given priority.

## ***FAO meetings on ASP and Code of Conduct mark significant step forward for plant science industry***

Two meetings of significance to the plant science industry were held at the FAO earlier this month.

### **Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP)**

The first meeting of the core partners to the Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP) since the World Bank board 'signed-off' the programme in September spanned two-days and included the World Bank, FAO, WWF, PAN UK and CropLife International. This inaugural meeting effectively cleared the way for official implementation of the programme.

The meeting focussed on defining roles, responsibilities and accountabilities. Keith Jones, CropLife International Manager, Stewardship and Sustainable Agriculture and Chris Waller, International Obsolete Stocks Projects represented CropLife International. They outlined the various contributions that the industry will be providing the programme, as recently agreed with the World Bank. It was agreed that over the next few weeks these contributions will be further discussed and clarified with programme partners and participants.

The ASP is now moving ahead and the meeting agreed that regular core partner meetings will take place as necessary for effective implementation. The meeting also acknowledged that the continuing participation of CropLife in the planning and implementation of the programme will be essential to its success.

This meeting underlined the new understanding between the programme partners, and following the World Bank press release announcing the commencement of the programme, which included quotes from all core partners including CropLife, it highlights the pragmatic shift from project planning to project implementation.

### **FAO International Code of Conduct**

The second important meeting to take place was the FAO Expert Panel on Pesticide Management, which is overseeing the implementation of the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

The meeting participants included nominated experts from the governments of Malaysia, China, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Germany, USA, Tanzania, Brazil together with FAO staff, and 'observers' (PAN UK, ALINA, the generic producer associations from Latin America, ECCA (The European Crop Care Association) and CropLife International, represented by Rocky Rowe and Keith Jones.

The meeting commenced with updates on different groups' activities supporting the Code. CropLife reported on the establishment of a full CropLife team, development of training materials, awareness building and training sessions. PAN had been especially active highlighting their EU grant of 1.3m Euro under the auspices of "Pesticides and Poverty". Within this activity PAN will be looking for the effects of using severely hazardous pesticide formulations across six African countries, feeding this information back to the FAO and importantly the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC).

The Strategic Programme promoting the Code is currently under development. Communications activities under discussion include TV and Radio programmes, other media coverage, web site activity and workshops. The promotional activities will cover the range of five components including Capacity Building, Technical Guidance, Awareness building, Reporting and Monitoring and Resource mobilisation.

Substantial time was spent reviewing a range of new, and draft

guidelines supporting the Code including:

- Advertising
- Incident Reporting and Monitoring
- Pesticide Registrations, Structure and Operation
- Container Management Guidelines
- Efficacy Guidelines
- Guidelines for Government on Industry
- Proposals for Policy Development in Pest and Pesticide Management
- Guidelines on Global Harmonisation System (GHS)
- New Guideline Proposals
- Collaboration and harmonisation of pesticide registration management
- The regulation of pesticides of natural origin such as plant extracts
- Adoption and use of evaluations and risk assessments from other countries to facilitate decision-making

Industry's views and comments have been included in the drafts and outlines of all these guides. Further comment will be made on the new drafts, which will be circulated to the relevant CropLife project team.

FAO also proposed that CropLife should draft three additional guides:

- Guidelines on pesticide packaging
- Retail establishments for pesticides
- Resistance management

These will be discussed at the next CropLife International FAO implementation project team meeting.

**CropLife joins  
FAO  
implementation  
management**

## News Snippets

Insecurity, high freight charges, poor infrastructure and soaring petrol costs are threatening Kenya's flower export business. Kenya, the biggest African supplier of flowers to Europe, has already seen at least two growers each month move to neighbouring Ethiopia. Ethiopia has offered the farms tax waivers, and labour costs in the country are cheaper than in Kenya. Ethiopia's flower industry currently earns \$20m and this is expected to reach \$100m in 5 years time.

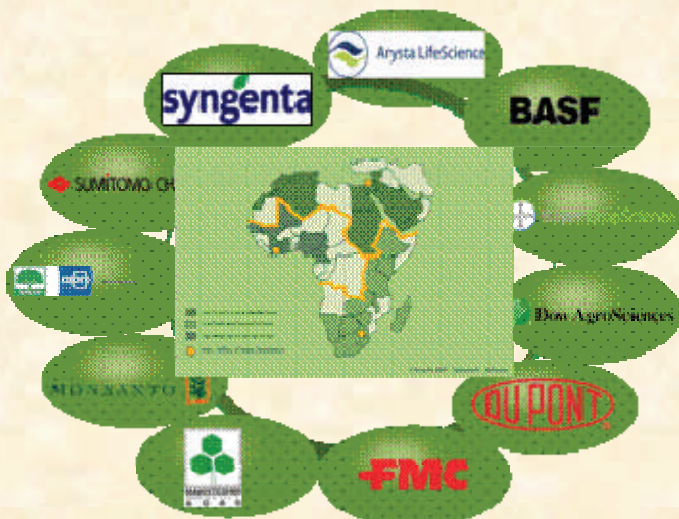
Mauritius would need \$1 billion to modernise its sugar industry if the EU started slashing prices under a proposed subsidy reduction scheme, the Director of the Mauritius Sugar Producers

The press release issued by CropLife international on "World Food Day" has been translated into French and sent to all national associations in francophone countries as well as the original English version to Anglophone countries.

Cooperation with other stakeholders is a priority issue for CropLife, and in this regard, in West Central Africa, cooperation with IFDC is going extremely well, with their involvement in the West-Central Hub meetings and Training of Trainers, as well as setting up National Associations for dealers in many West African countries. In this regard CropLife is extremely grateful to Rob Groot. Attempts are under way to cooperate with the West Africa Seed Network (WASNET) and discussions have been held with Norbert Maroya, Coordinator. An informal contact was initiated with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in Ghana to find ways of forming partnerships.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Training of Trainers for CropLife Senegal in Dakar (in French): 05 to 09-December-2005.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife Uganda in Jinja: 13 to 17-February-2006.
- West Central Africa hub and regulatory meetings in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: 11 & 12-April-2006.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife Egypt in El Mansoura-Dekernis (in Arabic): 12 to 16-March-2006.
- Advanced Training in Biotechnology in Johannesburg: 04 to 06-April-2006.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife Malawi in Lilongwe: 01 to 05-May-2006.



### CONTACTS:

Ali Mohamed Ali (North Africa Middle East)  
[ali-croplife@nets.com.jo](mailto:ali-croplife@nets.com.jo)  
 Bama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa)  
[bama-croplife@aviso.ci](mailto:bama-croplife@aviso.ci)  
 Les Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa)  
[les.hillowitz@icon.co.za](mailto:les.hillowitz@icon.co.za)  
 Peter Mills (Training)  
[peter.mills@mweb.co.za](mailto:peter.mills@mweb.co.za)  
 CropLife Africa Middle East Web Page  
[www.croplifeafrica.org](http://www.croplifeafrica.org)