

East & Southern Africa

CleanFarms Project Kenya – Container Management

On Tuesday 31 January and Wednesday 1 February, the CleanFarms Team with the inclusion of Keith Jones and Peter Natkanski visited the container management pilot project devoted solely to small-scale farmers in the Nanyuki region.

The findings were extremely positive with farming groups and cooperatives actively supporting the project.

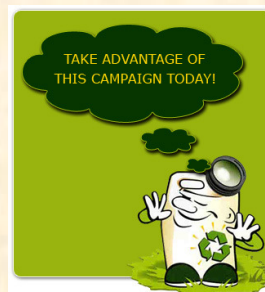
The opportunity was also taken to visit the Kabete temporary storage facility. The good news is that the first 30 tons of obstocks is likely to be packed for disposal in Europe, mid March. Discussions are ongoing with FAO on the removal of the remaining stocks.



The Team at Nanyuki



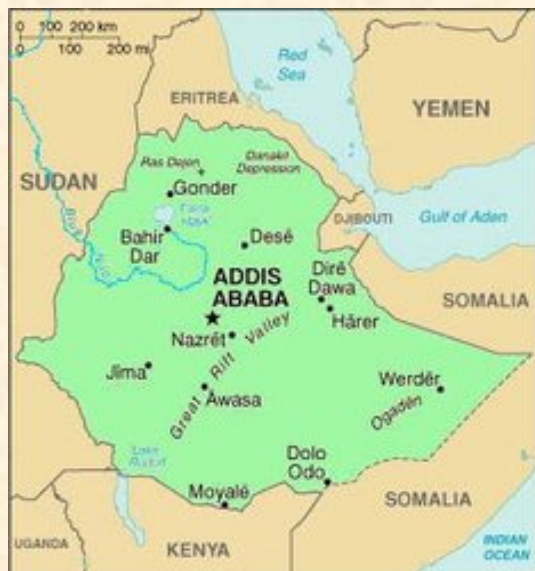
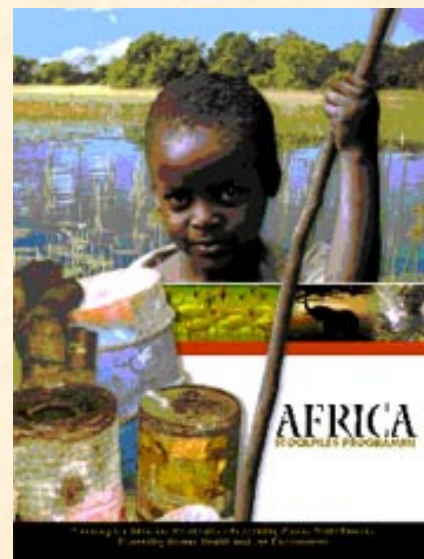
Above: Two of the many collections points



ASP Ethiopia

On Thursday 2 February a short meeting was held with Shimelis Hassan, Project Leader of ASP Ethiopia. A summary of the points covered are listed below.

- The closing date for the "disposal tender" covering 300 tons is 21 Feb.
- Submissions will be evaluated by a local committee and then submitted to an "endorsing committee". The "endorsing committee" will comprise of Directors appointed by the Minister.
- The timeline from the closure date of 21 Feb to the awarding of the tender will be one month.
- The PMU plans to have the "container management consultant" in place during the month of May; however, at present there are no funds available for the collection and disposal of the legacy containers.
- The situation covering the volume of obsolete stocks is as follows:
 - There are 450 tons of obsolete stocks inventoried.
 - Of this, 186 tons will be safeguarded as part of the tender. Local teams will undertake the remaining 114 tons, totaling the 300 tons for the tender.
 - The 186 tons are in two stores thereby making the work for the contractor that much easier.
 - The remaining 150 tons are at various points and will not be centralized until such time as funding is found for safeguarding and disposal.



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CropLife Malawi's role in the review of the Pesticides Act



CropLife Malawi Secretary, Fredric Kawalewale sharing notes on empty container management with a visiting FAO consultant, Robert L. Denny and Assistant Registrar of Pesticides Control Board, Tonny Maulana

Malawi is currently reviewing its Pesticide Act in order to incorporate key issues that have become relevant in the management of pesticides in the country.

Key to the possible amendments are issues surrounding regulations governing the registration of pesticides; the transportation sale and storage of pesticides; management of pesticide stocks; issues covering the disposal of both obsolete pesticides and empty used containers. Besides the above, the exercise also intends to propose an inclusion in the Act that all levies derived from the importation of pesticides be placed in a fund that will be used in enforcing the Act and furthering the work of the Pesticide Control Board and the industry association.

CropLife Malawi is actively participating in the review of the Act. Two meetings have so far taken place where the CropLife Malawi Chairman and Secretary were in attendance. Besides these meetings, side meetings with the legal team responsible for the drafting of the review were held at CropLife Malawi secretariat office in Lilongwe.

Biotechnology



African Teams Host First African Regional Farmers Exchange

In December 2011, Africa Harvest; the African Biotechnology Stakeholders Forum (ABSF); and AfricaBio organized the first African Regional Farmers Exchange, a one-day program held in Burkina Faso. The program, which was hosted by the African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE) and the Institute for Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA), was focused on Deepening Understanding and Strengthening the Capacity of Farmers for the Safe Adoption of Biotechnology.

Seventeen farmers from Benin, Mali, Togo, and three cotton-growing areas of Burkina Faso, as well as two newspaper journalists from Burkina Faso and Mali, participated in the program. Participants heard from biotech cotton Burkinabe farmers, as well as researchers at INERA, who shared information on the benefits of biotech crops, experiences in growing biotech cotton, as well as Burkinabe biotechnology and biosafety regulations.

Africa Gets "LEAFY" Award After Hitting Biotech Acceptance Tipping Point

CropLife International recently announced the winners of the 2011 Leadership and Excellence in Advancing Ag-Biotech and Food Innovation Award (LEAFFI Award). The Leafy Award, is given annually to the best performing program, based on activities in 90 countries.

Africa Harvest, AfricaBio, the Africa Biotechnology Stakeholders Forum (ABSF) and African Seed Traders Association (AFSTA) were some of the recipients of the 2011 award. Africa Harvest's Communication Director, Mr. Daniel Kamanga, received the award from Ms. Denise Dewar, Executive Director for Plant Biotechnology at CLI on behalf of the African team.



Mr. Kamanga receives the CropLife Leafy Award from Ms. Dewar, flanked by Mr. Daniel Otunge of AFSTA (left) and Dr. Felix M'mboyi of ABSF.

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Representing the Plant Science Industry

Fact finding mission on the illegal use of pesticides - Kenya

Deliberate pesticide poisoning of birds in Kenya has been an issue of concern, having first been brought into the public limelight as early as 1996. The issue was again highlighted in 2007 and continued to make headlines until early 2011. Under CropLife's product stewardship policy, a task force was formed to investigate the situation of bird poisoning in the Bunyala Rice Irrigation Scheme, which is situated in both the Siaya and Busia counties and overlaps with the responsibilities of the Pest Control Products Board, Agrochemicals Association of Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Service and Wildlife Direct-Kenya (African Conservation Fund).

The Pest Control Products Board is responsible for the regulation of pesticides in Kenya from manufacture through to distribution, use and disposal, as is stipulated under the Pest Control Products Act, CAP 346, 1982.

The Kenya Wildlife Service is responsible for the protection of wildlife and their habitats inside and outside the protected areas as stipulated in the Wildlife (Management and Conservation) Act, Chapter 376, 1985.

Wildlife Direct is a non-governmental conservation organization, which acts as a meeting point for various individuals, and conservation organizations. The Campaign to end Wildlife poisoning while safeguarding human livelihoods is one of their major projects. Through this campaign, the Bunyala illegal bird poisoning has been brought to the attention of the authorities and the public at large.

The objective of the fact-finding mission on the reported mis-use of pesticides for the illegal poisoning of birds in the Bunyala Rice Irrigation Schemes was to make recommendations to the Task Force in order for the problem to be addressed by both the government and private sector with a view to reducing or stopping this unacceptable practice.

The mission was carried out in August and September of last year and the report finalised in November 2011.

The mission was undertaken by Peter Opiyo (PCPB), Martin Odino (Wildlife Direct), Timothy Ikimbe (Kenya Wildlife Service) and Richard Sikuku (AAK).

The Task Force interviewed Agricultural Officers, Environmental Officers, the police, local administration and the general public and found that the most commonly killed bird is the Open-billed Stork which is consumed as food and is sold for about 1US\$. The Task Force also held a training program with the administration, opinion leaders and suspected people who kill these birds to show them the dangers involved in their practices. The discussions during the training revealed that the misuse of pesticides for the killing of the birds, aside from being illegal and dangerous to their health, could lead to heavy prosecutions.

The findings of the Task Force have been passed onto government and the private with the following recommendations:

That awareness and training of all the stakeholders in the affected areas be carried out.

That a series of farmer field days on responsible use of pesticides to be held in the affected areas.

That there is a need for a general circular from the Prime Minister's office to be sent to government departments/agencies directing them to take action on the illegal bird poisoning issue.

That fact-finding missions to be extended to other likely/affected areas such as Mwea, Ahero, Tsavo, Laikipia etc.

That culprits of the illegal bird poisoning be apprehended and severely prosecuted as a deterrent to the other poachers.

That all future communications regarding this mission be through the Chair of the Task Force only.



View of the Bundalangi Rice Scheme



The team meeting with the Siaya District Commissioner

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North Africa Middle East

CropLife Africa Middle East and ACIDI-VOCA Review Project Progress



CropLife Africa Middle East and ACIDI-VOCA held two meetings, on 2nd Jan and 29th Jan 2012 for the purpose of reviewing the progress of their joint partnership project in Egypt.

The meetings were held at the ACIDI-VOCA premises in Cairo and attended by the Regional Coordinator, Ali Mohamed Ali, and Said Abdella from CropLife AME, and Douglas Anderson and Alexandra Harrison from ACIDI-VOCA.

The meetings concluded that the implementation of the project on training and certification of pesticide operators and applicators is progressing in accordance with the basic project plan and that the following activities have been concluded:

Master trainer programme finalized with the creation of a pool of 50 master trainers.

Farmer training reached 2000 individuals in several governorates of Egypt on IPM and application training.

Preparation of the documentary video for the parallel communication campaign is due to be finalized.

That Project Taskforce meetings with the MOA have been scheduled in February and March 2012 to determine the procedures for the official certification and licensing of operators and applicators by MOA.

GLOBALG.A.P. Pushes Deeper into Global Markets

Fruit Logistica, Berlin

The total number of producers under GLOBALG.A.P Certification grew in 2011 by 9.5% from 102,300 to nearly 112,600. Europe still accounts for 74% of all certifications, with half of all producers from Southern Europe. Spain, Italy, and Greece are the countries with the most certified producers. The Americas and Africa are gaining a larger share of overall certifications. GLOBALG.A.P presented these and more figures in its Annual Report 2011 at this years Fruit Logistica.

During the news conference GLOBALG.A.P outlined its two pronged strategy to meet the needs of producers, retailers and consumers in expanding global markets. Emerging producers, many who are small sized, are facing increasing challenges to meet food safety targets from regulators and buyers alike in their national (home) markets.

In response to this GLOBALG.A.P has launched localg.a.p., an entry level Good Agricultural Practice program. Nigel Garbutt, Chairman GLOBALG.A.P said: "This program is designed around our proven and harmonized G.A.P. measures, along with our state of the art IT platform, to help producers to get on a path towards GLOBALG.A.P. food safety and sustainability certification."

A major benefit will be that producers who might not otherwise implement G.A.P. can get started and then seamlessly progress to GLOBALG.A.P. Certification when required to meet the requirements and opportunities of international trade or the national market begins to mature. The program will be fully supported by a growing network of farm assurers, approved consultants who can guide farmers and growers through the early stages of implementing G.A.P. on farm.

GLOBALG.A.P. Pushes Deeper into Global Markets (cont.)



Photo: Courtesy GLOBAL G.A.P

Examples of countries implementing this approach were outlined at the News Conference at Fruit Logistica, Berlin:

- Dr. David E. Gombas, SVP Food Safety and Technology, United Fresh Produce Association, USA: Outlined how growers are meeting food safety expectations of regulators and buyers
- Tomasz Nazar, Purchasing and contracting Manager in Uren Coldstores sp. z o.o., Poland: Described how Polish producers lay the foundation for food safety and sustainability in the frozen fruit industry.
- Stephen Mbithi, CEO, FPEAK, Kenya: Described how they are customizing GLOBALG.A.P for the East African market

The second part of the strategy turns its attention on how to meet global challenges posed by the increasing scarcity of some resources such as water. With the pressure from a growing population and an increasingly unpredictable climate these factors, unless dealt with head on, will threaten future product availability. GLOBALG.A.P lays the foundation for sustainable practices with the implementation of tried and tested Good Agricultural Practice.

Voluntary add-on sustainability modules (that is to say not affecting the GLOBALG.A.P. Certification) where based on industry best practice and agreement can go further and will provide a flexible solution in more developed markets where specific criteria can be certified without the burden of additional audits.

Nigel Garbutt added: "In establishing a new responsible water use stakeholder committee GLOBALG.A.P is demonstrating its commitment to work on further harmonized criteria for this key resource area and tackling major issues for the future well-being of our industry".

GLOBALG.A.P. Pushes Deeper into Global Markets (cont.)

GLOBALG.A.P.

The Global Partnership for Good Agricultural Practice

Smallholder Farmers in Developing Countries Continue to Benefit from Biotech Crops

Scale-neutral technology continues to improve farmer livelihoods while supporting sustainable agricultural practices

CropLife International Release: With the majority of biotech crops being grown by smallholder farmers in developing countries, plant biotechnology is playing a significant role in helping small-scale farmers improve their incomes and quality of life while employing sustainable agricultural practices. In 2011, of the 16.7 million farmers worldwide growing 160 million hectares of biotech crops, 90 percent were smallholder farmers in 19 developing countries, according to the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA).

“For the world’s farmers, biotech crops offer the opportunity to produce more food and improve incomes while being good stewards of their land,” said Denise Dewar, Executive Director for Plant Biotechnology at CropLife International. “For over a decade, farmers with access to plant biotechnology have enjoyed reduced input costs, increased crop productivity and higher incomes, which has led to improvements in the home, and for families and communities.”

In 2011, 19 of the 29 countries growing biotech varieties were located in the developing world. These countries represented the largest growth in biotech plantings, adopting the technology twice as fast as industrialized countries, according to ISAAA. “For the world’s neediest farmers, improving yields with less labour not only provides better incomes but a higher quality of life,” said Dewar. “With more than 90 percent of farmers re-purchasing biotech seed year after year — coupled with the increase in global biotech crop acreage — it’s obvious that farmers recognize multiple benefits from plant biotechnology.”

Global biotech crop acreage is at a record high and governments worldwide have continued to support the benefits their farmers, the environment, and larger populations receive from plant biotechnology. Growth of the technology worldwide includes:

Africa

- Kenya is expected to become the fourth African country to allow commercial cultivation of biotech crops, with national performance trials for Bt cotton planned for 2012.
- Nigeria and Ghana have passed biosafety bills, which are currently working towards Presidential assent and the development of regulations for full implementation.

Asia-Pacific

- Japan approved the import of biotech papaya from Hawaii.
- Vietnam has tested biotech crops including vitamin-rich rice, herbicide-tolerant and insect-resistant corn, and drought-tolerant beans.
- The Philippines reported a 20 percent increase in hectareage of biotech maize in 2011, and approved field trials of insect-resistant biotech eggplant.
- In China, 71.5 percent of cotton hectareage were planted with biotech varieties

GLOBALG.A.P. Pushes Deeper into Global Markets (cont.)**Latin America**

- The region approved a total of 17 new biotech events for cultivation in 2011, including: eight in Brazil; three in Argentina; five in Uruguay; and one in Paraguay, the country's first approval in seven years.
- The first biotech plant variety developed completely by a public research institution, a virus-resistant bean, was commercially approved in Brazil last year.
- For the third consecutive year, Brazil had the largest increase in biotech area in the world at 4.9 million hectares, representing a year-over-year increase of 20 percent.

European Union

- Biotech corn plantings in Portugal increased by 60 percent and by 26 percent of the total corn cropland in Spain in 2011.
- The EU has adopted a low-level presence policy for biotech crops in animal feed imports and approved 11 new biotech crops for import including six corn, three soybean and two cotton varieties.

North America

- The United States continued to be the lead cultivator of biotech crops globally. The country grew 69 million hectares of biotech varieties, with an average adoption rate of approximately 90 percent across principal biotech crops.
- In 2011, Mexico held its first biotech corn field trials.

"As food security and sustainable agriculture have become key concerns globally, we have seen more governments and world leaders increasingly support research, development and production of biotech crops." said Dewar, noting that governments in countries such as Nigeria, Thailand and Indonesia are publicly stating their support for plant biotechnology.

Pioneers such as Bill Gates have recently noted the key role of plant genetics in accelerating food security, declaring in his 2012 annual letter that, "It is hard to overstate how valuable it is to have all the incredible tools that are used for human disease to study plants."

CropLife International and its members are dedicated to furthering the acceptance of plant science technologies in 2012, and continuing partnerships that provide farmers with broad access to innovations, as well as the knowledge and skills to make these new tools valuable on the farm.

To learn more about farmer adoption of plant science technologies, visit the CropLife International Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/CropLifeInt, and see today's question and answers on farmer use of biotech.

West & Central Africa

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire – Anti-Counterfeiting Sensitization Plan

CropLife Cote d'Ivoire called a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture (Crop Protection Department and the Director General of Crop Production, Ministry of Commerce and Customs Services (Department of Anti-Drugs and Anti-Counterfeiting) to protest against the lack of enforcement measures to combat the recent trade of illegal pesticides entering the country from the neighbouring Ghana.

Recent seizures resulted from individual actions by the police and customs officers following the earlier information provided by CropLife Africa Middle East and CropLife Côte d'Ivoire.

At the meeting CropLife Côte d'Ivoire agreed to provide support to the Ministry of Commerce to conduct the necessary enforcement and seizures in the market in six areas of the country where pesticides are widely used. On this the Ministry of Agriculture agreed to provide storage facilities for the seized goods.

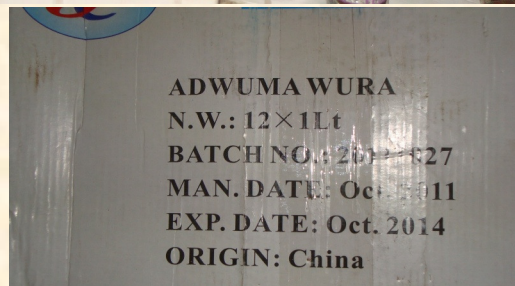
It was agreed that at these raids will be widely reported by the media.



B. Yao, WAC Regional Coordinator during the presentation (L) and J. Edmund facilitating the plenary session (R).



Left & Above: Boxes containing counterfeit, banned or illegal pesticides manufactured in China for the Ghana market which were tracked down by officials of the Ministry of Commerce who are working towards a sound pesticides market environment.



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CleanFarms Ghana - Container Management

On 19 January, in Accra, Ghana, 40 representatives of the major stakeholders met. This included the regulators (EPA and PPRSD), Industry, CropLife Ghana, the dealers association and the media. The purpose of the meeting was to update participants on the progress of the project and seek support and the necessary alliance for the sustainability of a container management project. The following presentations were given:

- CropLife's policy on Container management (B. Yao, WCA Regional Coordinator)
- Pilot Programme covering the collection of containers in Ejura (D. Laycock, Project Manager)
- Cyclus Elumunia, introduction to Plastic Recycling Ltd (Papa Miezah).
- Enforcement and Challenges of the Container Management Act (J. Pwamang, EPA).
- Discussions and subsequent recommendations stressed on the importance to:
 - Undertake sensitization activities to involve the major stakeholders in the distribution of the pesticides.
 - Consider container management as a contributory measure to the protection of the environment.
 - Consider the recycling options available.
 - Provide an intensive training on "triple rinsing"
 - Look to the possibility of a levy system as a sustainable funding source.



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| ToT Master Trainer Course Bari | Feb 13-17 |
| Regional Master Trainer Session Egypt | Feb 20-24 |
| CPSC Meeting, Washington | Feb 15 |
| ToT Training, CropLife Zimbabwe | Week 6 Feb |
| Anti Counterfeiting Steering Committee Meeting, Washington | Feb 16 |
| RG to participate at the ExCo of CropLife South Africa | Feb 23-27 |
| ToT Master training, Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire | Feb.20-24 |
| ToT Master training, Accra Ghana | Week 27 Feb |
| Container Management (FAO) Project, Botswana | Week 27 Feb |
| Container Management (FAO) Project, Swaziland | Week 5 March |
| Meeting - Regional Regulatory Committee, Casablanca | March 7 – 8 |
| AGM, CropLife Cameroon | March 7-8 |
| Public Benefits Rollout Workshop, Nairobi | March 16 |
| PoR rollout & Gap Analysis Workshops: Accra Ghana & Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire | March 23 & 26 |
| Hub Meeting West and Central Africa, Abidjan | April 24-26 |



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Representing the Plant Science Industry