



CropLife Africa Middle East
Newsletter

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Stewardship

Training of Trainers: Coastal Rural Support Program of the Aga Khan Foundation, Tanzania

The training was conducted during the period 8 – 14 December 2013, in Masasi, the district of Mtwara in Tanzania.

The Coastal Rural Support Program Tanzania (CRSPT), a project of the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), organized the training. This aims to improve the living standards of the rural population in the Lindi and Mtwara regions, through increased agricultural productivity, improved market access and linkages to value chain actors. It also aims to enhance the extension delivery system and mobilize rural finance for household development through savings.

The training was a follow-up to the earlier training of Village Based Agents (VBA's, and Community Based Facilitators (CBF's), 22 - 26 April, at which it was noted that the Aga Khan Foundation needed to undertake a Training of Trainers of their key staff and agents in the field. The training would allow staff to better understand the concept of pesticide use and who in-turn would cascade down the same message to farmers. This, on the basis of the multiplier effect where the targeted participants will be utilized by the project to carry out the trainings to as many farmers as possible, thereby significantly increasing food security, productivity and incomes for households in their regions.

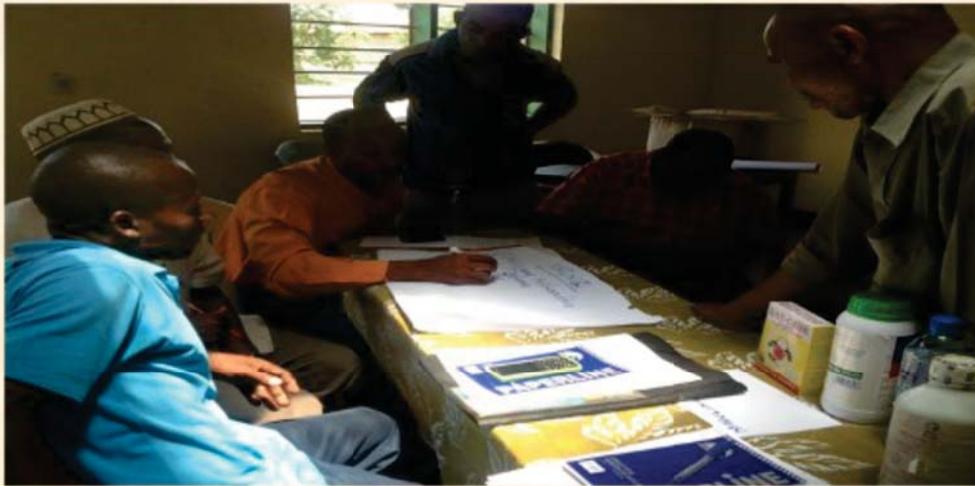
Below: Calibration Exercise



Right and above right, the program's overall goal is to improve the quality of life and social well-being of target communities in the Lindi and Mtwara regions .

Photos - Courtesy Aga Khan Foundation

Representing the Plant Science Industry



Group Discussions

A total of 26 participants (24 male and 2 female) took part in the training. They included 14 CRSPT staff and 12 VBA's and CBF's. The participants were a mix from different backgrounds, from primary school level to university degree level. All participants had experience as farmer trainers. To enable participants to benefit from the various experiences present, they were mixed in all practical sessions and group discussions. There was a further mix of CRSPT staff, VBA and/or CBF.

The participants received a 7-day training in three parts:

- Part 1: IPM / Responsible Use and anti-counterfeiting of pesticides
- Part 2: Application of pesticides
- Part 3: Training and Facilitation skills

In general the participants were highly satisfied with the program. They found it useful and interesting. Most were eager to go back and conduct trainings on the topics learnt. In their own words, "they had never been through such training and it was one of a kind".

They also noted that what had been learnt was new and relevant and this gave them confidence to use the knowledge in their day-to-day activities.

All participants undertook a written test, practical test and individual presentations. They all passed and were issued with certificates of competence.

The training was facilitated by Evelyn Lusenaka of CropLife Kenya

Individual
Demonstrations

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Meeting with IFDC Uganda: CATALIST Project

The meeting with IFDC took place with David Slane, Chief of Party on 23 January.

The CATALIST Project covers 5 crops namely: lowland rice, Irish potatoes, sunflower, soya and cassava. The project has 3 field offices, 33 staff members, (16 professional and 17-support team). The scope of the project is a 4-year term, aiming to reach 110,000 farmers with a budget of Euro 15 million.

CropLife Uganda is keen to develop a "pilot SSP" program within the CATALIST project on two fronts, the first in the south-west of the country to reach 1000 Irish potato farmers using \pm 100 SSP's and the second in the East & North of the country reaching 1000 maize farmers using \pm 100 SSP's.

CropLife Uganda, with the help of Manon Dohmen, is in the process of developing a Concept Note and budget for consideration of the above.

Les Hillowitz



Stephen Matovu and David Slane

WCF-ACI SSP Project Meeting

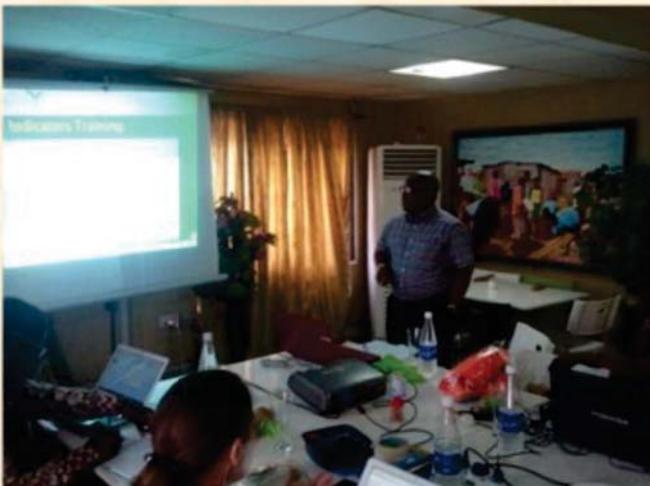
The first project meeting in the New Year took place on January 14-15, in Ibadan, Nigeria.

Participants included the 4 national coordinators of the target countries (Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria), Manon Dohmen, Technical coordinator, and Bama Yao, WCA Regional Coordinator and Project Manager.

The meeting was organized as a regular activity of the project, to evaluate and update the implementation of the first year and to plan activities for the second year. The discussions focused on:

- **Review of country activities:** Most activities were carried out in the four countries and particular attention was paid to the training of SSP's. All targets were met, and even exceeded for certified SSP's who have started marketing their services. It was noted that the spraying season was now over and therefore the number of farmers who benefited from the service was low.
- **Quality of the services offered by the SSP:** This will be better evaluated during 2014 when many of the farmers will engage in the services provided.
- **Promotion of the SSP concept:** This was covered via the media, meetings with farmer organizations, projects and programs within the cocoa sector, the cocoa and chocolate industry and more particularly, the WCF-ACI members. Other opportunities were specific events often organized by governments and/or farmer organizations.
- **Support to the SSP concept:** This includes special plans and policies for the easy supply and/or purchase of equipment and PPE.
- **Linking to the Microfinance network:** A list of country specific micro-credit institutions was communicated, and these institutions need to be contacted for possible inclusion in the program.
- **Reporting:** Data collection was thoroughly discussed for the improvement of activity reporting. Financial reporting should also take into account "in-kind" contribution from participating member companies and other stakeholders.
- **Strengthening/Building alliances:** This should be in line with the public-private partnership platform. This is an area to explore further within the WCF-ACI members.
- **Preparation of 2014 Action Plan:** Based on the overall objectives of the project and the specific objectives set for 2014, we should capitalize on the achievements of 2013, and ensure sustainability of the program.

Bama Yao



Above Left: Fred Boampong of CropLife Ghana Above Right: Kassoum Kinda of Côte d'Ivoire

Regulatory

Meeting with the Pest Control Board (PCPB) -Nairobi, Kenya - 21 January

Representatives from CropLife Africa Middle East and CropLife Kenya met with the PCPB on 21 January in order to discuss dossier requirements for the registration of plant protection products in Kenya.

A summary of the discussions were as follows:

The current legal framework in Kenya does not provide detailed and specific legislation for data protection, 10 years of exclusivity for new products and also the term and concept of CBI (defined in TRIPS agreements) is not written in any pesticide specific legislation. As with many other countries in Africa there is the standard “secrecy act” in the Kenyan law which calls for the confidential handling of data.

There is presently a new draft regulation under preparation and industry is being consulted. There is a mention of CBI and PRD in the document but the question to be asked is whether this is sufficient to provide the needed protection

Dr. Jane Njiru provided details on the Kenyan acts and regulations that are the basis for pesticide registrations. As relevant information, it was mentioned that the so called Form (A) would provide an overview and list all necessary data. Form (A1), (A2) and (A3) refer to bio-pesticides. It was also mentioned that all of the required forms are available on the website: www.pcpb.or.ke

J-P Bascou (Bayer CropScience) gave a presentation on the procedure and requirements to conduct a sound equivalence assessment. The importance of this as outlined by the so-called “equivalence assessment procedure” defined by the Joint Meeting of Pesticide management) JMPM and carried out jointly between WHO and FAO, was emphasized. At this stage it was re-emphasized that owing to the weak legal environment, member companies would be extremely hesitant to hand out such CBI data in Kenya. On the issue of the 5-batch analysis, it was emphasized that the PCPB and every employee are bound by very strict confidentiality and such data would be kept under lock and key.

In conclusion, with the introduction of the new regulation, there will be the opportunity to establish the same regulatory framework for pesticides as is in place in most developed world countries where CBI (data secret in perpetuity) and a ten year exclusive use period for new registrations is an integral part of the regulations for the registration of pesticides.



Group Discussion with the PCPB

On other regulatory matters:

- A strong call was made to replace the requirement for the registration in country of origin, with proof of registration in 1 or 2 reference countries (reference countries to be defined)
- The change of origin of the technical grade active ingredient throughout the lifecycle of an active was explained and the multiple equivalence procedures and assessments clearly covered.
- On the color band issue, it was mentioned that any change should only be considered when the new labeling guidelines from the FAO are finalized.

On the Action Program that was developed in Durban, there was no time to discuss the details during the meeting. However the respective summary was distributed and the PCPB and local regulatory colleagues agreed to take this topic up.

It was agreed that a further joint meeting should take place prior to the next hub meeting in August where hopefully some follow-up action and progress will be reported.

Before the closure of the meeting, the Chairperson of the PCPB, Mrs. Faith Mutwiri, joined and addressed the combined group. She emphasized the need for close cooperation between the private sector (CropLife in this case) and government and asked for an institutionalized regular meeting to discuss jointly, the issues on pesticide management. She also mentioned that government reform might lead to a change in structure but clearly favored the existing structure within the PCPB where close cooperation and involvement of the private sector is in place (the Chairman of AAK has a seat on the board of the PCPB).

Les Hillowitz



Faith Mutwiri,
Chairperson of the
PCPB



Above Jean-Philippe Bascoe of Bayer CropScience with Susan Njorjorge of CropLife Kenya



Right: Kuria Gatonye, Chairman of CropLife Kenya and Elaine Buss, Syngenta eagerly listening to the presentations



Association Management

Meeting with Chemonics International - Kampala - Uganda

Chemonics International is the Implementing Partner for the Feed the Future ENABLING ENVIRONMENT for AGRICULTURE activity (EEA) in Uganda. A meeting took place with Malcolm Toland; Strategic Technical Support Specialist and Paul K. Nyakairu: Senior Institutional Development Specialist on 23 January.

A summary of the discussions covered the following;

- The Activity has 4 pillars of which one reads; "Improved capacity of private sector and civil society organizations to contribute to policy decisions related to agriculture, trade, and climate change adaption".
- CropLife Uganda interacted at an early stage with the program and in November 2013 took part in an Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA). This led to the development of a Capacity Building Action Plan earlier this month, which is the forerunner to an MOU.
- Aside from the capacity building that the program will bring to CropLife Uganda, it provides the vehicle to access other USAID funding opportunities. This funding can be used for purposes such as training government officials in anti-counterfeiting activities.
- From a government perspective, key commodities were primarily cotton and coffee. This has now changed with a new focus on maize and beans. Aside from the cropping, focus has clearly shifted to the development of the smallholder sector. This has led to the creation of a "maize & bean" platform of which the first meeting was scheduled for Friday 24 January and at which CropLife Uganda had been invited to attend.

Les Hillowitz



L-R, Stephen Matovu, Betty Atto, Paul Nyakairu, Rudolf Guyer and Malcolm Toland

CropLife Mali: General Assembly Meeting

CropLife Mali held their General Assembly meeting on 23 January, in Bamako, Mali. Participants included member companies, representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Customs Services and various stakeholders. The meeting was organized under the presidency of the Ministry of Rural Development and chaired by the Technical Counselor as the Minister could not attend.

The meeting was used to report back and update participants, on the activities conducted during 2013 and the action plans for 2014. Discussions focused on:

- Anti-counterfeiting activities and the meetings and trainings that took place targeting the local agents and officers of the MRD and Customs Services in the five major areas of pesticide usage. These activities, although conducted in cooperation with the National Agriculture Directorate (Direction Nationale de l'Agriculture, DNA) and the Customs services, were funded entirely by CropLife Mali.
- The training of 180 retailers for certification by the DNA. The topics covered during the training focused on RU-SU, Transportation and Storage of pesticides, and the risks associated with Counterfeit and Fake pesticides.
- Stewardship: The training of 4550 cotton producers and extension agents on IPM/RU, Safe handling of pesticides, transportation, storage and empty container management.
- Action Plans 2014:
 - The CropLife Mali Awareness Day planned for February in the five large cities where pesticides are widely used;
 - The training of 200 retailers in April;
 - Stewardship training in June targeting the cotton producing areas;
 - The Anti-counterfeiting and Fake pesticides Awareness Day in cooperation with the Customs Services and DNA;
 - The training of the Cotton Producers Organization on responsible pesticide usage, regulatory and registration requirements;
- Other topics covered were related to the creation of a position for a Permanent Secretariat to handle the day-to-day activities of the association.

Bama Yao



Above: Partial view of the participants during the meeting

Right: Group photo at the conclusion of the meeting (courtesy: CropLife Mali)



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Anti Counterfeiting

Meeting with AGRA- Nairobi, Kenya

A meeting took place with Richard Jones; COP, Scaling Seeds and Technologies Partnership in Africa (SSTP) and Itai Makanda; Deputy COP, Scaling Seeds and Technologies Partnership in Africa (SSTP) on 21 January

In the discussions it was mentioned that USAID still talk positively about the anti-counterfeiting initiative undertaken in Uganda last year.

The current SSTP project is \$47 million over 3 years with a possible extension. The project covers six countries that were awarded special development grants at the G8 summit held in Italy at Aquila in 2009 for a new alliance addressing Security and Nutrition. The countries are: Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Senegal.

AGRA are very keen to receive a proposal from CLAME on the use of E-Verification in anti-counterfeiting measures and undertook to liaise further on the project

Les Hillowitz



Meeting with TETRA TECH, Kampala, Uganda - 23 January



Rudolf Guyer clarifying a point to Eric Derks and Andrew Gita

TETRA TECH is the USAID contractor responsible for the Feed the Future AGRICULTURAL INPUTS activity in Uganda and a meeting took place on 23 January with Eric Derks; COP / MD and Andrew Gita; Strategic Partnerships Specialist.

The Feed the Future AGRICULTURAL INPUTS Activity is a \$7.5 mil, 5-year project of which one year has already lapsed.

Outcome (I) of the project covers E-Verification and they are very keen to partner with CropLife going the Verified Brands / Product route.

They would like to have the project "in the field" by early August and will liaise further on this shortly.

Establishment of an Anti-Counterfeiting Flagship Project in Kenya, 22 January

On 22 January a meeting took place in Nairobi to launch the "Flagship Anti-Counterfeiting Project in Kenya.

The decision of the Board Meeting of June 2013 at which Kenya was selected for the Flagship Project was detailed. The proposed concept of the project was outlined and which includes:

- A starting baseline
- A desired alliance with a NGO or an external stakeholder, as a partner for the establishment of a baseline study and if possible, also for later project implementation.
- The key project target group are smallholder farmers & retailers / agro-dealers.

The 4 project activities with detailed actions include:

- Project Preparation - Set up of local operations
- Preparation of communications mix
- Execution of seasonal Media and Communication Campaigns aimed at the target groups (planned for 2014 and 2015)
- Monitoring and Evaluation

An offer was made by CLAME to maintain and update the project management tool. An updated version containing the decisions of the Kenya Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee (SC) meeting will be distributed to all SC members after every meeting.

Discussion took place on the needed governance of the project to secure smooth project management and successful implementation. In principle, the meeting fully supported that a smaller Steering Committee and a responsible Project Manager would be best suited for the new project structure.

The decision on the appointment of a Chairperson and a Project Manager to run the proposed Anti Counterfeiting Flagship Project was postponed to the next formal meeting of the Executive Committee of CropLife Kenya. This meeting is to take place on February 14th.

Membership of the Steering Committee will also be decided at the next ExCo meeting. In principle a smaller committee would be desirable as the direct involvement of too many external stakeholders could be a detrimental to the project.



Interactive discussions covering the Flagship Project

The Kenyan Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee will therefore be formally constituted at the next CropLife Kenya Executive Committee Meeting at which the following functions and roles will be decided:

- Chair
- Project Manager
- Members of the Steering Committee

The meeting agreed that the local share of the project would be fully funded by the regular budget of the national association. This budget is primarily based on the receivables of the levy system and as such is probably the best possible cost-sharing method.

The frequency of meetings of the Kenya AC SC will be decided by the Steering Committee after its constitution.

On the development of the local communications plan, the video "14 eyes" was shown. The video "Caught Up" developed for and used widely in the Uganda project with IFDC was also discussed.

The video clip "14 eyes" if used, will be broadcast on TV. The meeting did not decide on whether a helpline as established in various European countries would make sense in the context of Kenya. In any case, if a helpline were to be considered as necessary for the project, the operation most likely would need to be provided and maintained by the PCPB. The establishment of the helpline via the video clip without a decisive response and without strict legal follow up might seriously undermine the credibility of the promotion campaign; this topic needs to be discussed further in one of the first meetings of the AC SC.

Les Hillowitz



Sandra Alai of Monsanto and Evelyn Lusenaka of CropLife Kenya partaking in the discussions

Plant Biotechnology

GM Maize Made a Significant Contribution to Food Security



Pictured at Monsanto's research farm, Malelane in a field trial of GM maize are from left: Andrew Bennett, Technology Development Manager, GM crops, Monsanto; Dr Eugene Ngcobo MP, Chairperson Portfolio Committee Science and Technology; Ms Poppy Mocumbi MP, Committee Member, Portfolio Committee, Science and Technology and Ms Suzan Khoza, Research Assistant WEMA

To update themselves with the latest advances in GM crop technology, the chairperson of the parliamentary portfolio committee on science and technology, Dr Eugene Ngcobo MP and one of his committee members, Ms Poppy Mocumbi MP, visited Monsanto's GM maize research farm near Malelane in Mpumalanga.

Andrew Bennett, technology development manager, GM crops, Africa, Monsanto, explained to the delegation that since the introduction of GM maize in 1998 in South Africa, the technology has made a significant contribution to food security. In 1998 the average maize dry land yield was 2.73t/ha. In 2008 GM yield had increased to an average of 5.09t/ha – a productivity increase of 86%.

This has not only benefitted commercial farmers. Some 120 smallholder farmers near Flagstaff in the Eastern Cape, according to Bennett, increased their yields with GM maize from 1.5t/ha to 4t/ha, an increase of 160%.

He explained that promising prospects in the pipeline to further boost food security are advanced GM maize drought-tolerant trials being conducted in South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda. The trials are being conducted by WEMA (Water Efficient Maize for Africa), funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and USAID. Other research partners are the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) and Monsanto. Monsanto is donating the technology free of charge.

According to CIMMYT, under moderate drought conditions yields are expected to increase by 20 – 35% over current varieties. An additional two million metric tons will be available in drought years to feed between 14 and 21 million people in these five countries.

"This will be a tremendous boost for smallholder maize farmers. They are the hardest hit as they cannot afford irrigation. Drought during the flowering stage of maize can cause yield losses of between 50% and 100%. Drought-tolerant maize is expected to be commercialised by 2016," Bennett said.

"As far as food safety is concerned, all the academies of science and medicine in the world have given GM food a clean bill of health. This was endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), saying: 'No negative effects on human health have been reported as a result of the consumption of such foods by the general population of the countries where they have been approved'," Bennett added.

Kenya

Nairobi — Education, Science and Technology Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi has revealed plans by the government to lift a ban on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and commercialise them by year's end.

In a statement during celebrations to mark the National Biosafety Authority's ISO 9001:2008 certification, Kaimenyi urged the Authority to step up its efforts at sensitising Kenyans on GMOs.

"I urge the Authority to create more public awareness on biosafety especially at this time when the country is preparing to commercialise GM products in Kenya. Many people in Kenya do not yet differentiate between a big tomato and a GMO," the statement read on his behalf said.

The Principal Secretary for the Department of Science and Technology, Collette Suda, joined the Cabinet Secretary in urging the Authority to demystify GMOs as the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute prepares to launch genetically modified cotton into the Kenyan market.

"Some of the medicines being used in hospitals are also genetically engineered. Why is it that we have a lot of controversies in GM crops?" she posed.

The NBA Chief Executive Officer, Willy Tonui, sought to allay fears surrounding GMOs and called on the Executive to hasten the lifting of the ban on GMOs as scientist have been unable to conclusively establish a link between them and cancer.

"Resistance to GMOs is too much and it's based on lack of evidence. NBA has provided them (the Executive) with evidence about GM foods so I think in future there'll be need to reconsider the ban by lifting it and we hope that it'll happen very soon," he said.

He added his voice to that of various millers and scientists who argue that genetically modified maize would help Kenya achieve food security pointing out that countries such as Uganda and South Sudan have already embraced the technology.

"The products have been around for a while and consumed for a while and there has not been a legitimate case of humans or animals affected as a result of consuming the modified foods," Zhulietta Willbrand, an International Trade Specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture, told Capital FM Business.

The government position on GMOs in the past has been contradictory with Former President Mwai Kibaki's government in 2011 first permitting the importation of Genetically Modified maize for millers before banning it in November of 2012.

By: Olive Burrows 15 January 2014



Education, Science and Technology Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi

UPCOMINGevents UPCOMINGevents UPCOMINGevents

RU-SU training for retailers, extension agents and applicators by CropLife Côte d'Ivoire	Feb 10-14
Meetings with CropLife Cameroon	Feb 17-20
IDH (WCF-ACI) Cocoa country meeting Côte d'Ivoire	Feb18-20
ICCO SPS -CropLife Côte d'Ivoire Training workshop on SPS measures & Combating illegal pesticides, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire	Feb 27-28
Official launch of the Egyptian Anti-Counterfeit Flagship project with MINAG	Mar 3
AfricaBio / SADC workshop, Pretoria	Mar 3-5
CropLife Uganda AGM	Mar 7
RRC meeting, Tunis	Mar 10-13
Visit to Morocco with Hans Dobson to discuss disposal of obsolete stocks	Mar 14
African Partners Biotech Meeting, Lilongwe, Malawi	Mar 17-21
CropLife South Africa AGM,	Mar 18
INTERPOL Operational Planning Meeting, Kigali, Rwanda	Mar 25-27
CropLife Kenya AGM	Mar 28
CropLife Zimbabwe AGM	Mar 28
WCA Hub & Regulatory Workshop	Apr 23 - 24



GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

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CropLife Africa Middle East
Avenue Louise 326, Box 35
1050 Brussels
Belgium

www.croplifeafrica.org

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Contributors:

Bama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa) bama@croplifeafrica.org

Les Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa) les@croplifeafrica.org

