



Stewardship

Obsolete Stocks Project: Cote d'Ivoire

On 20 January the following representatives met in Abidjan to discuss the development of an obstocks project:

- Ministry of Environment: Pr Gustave Bedi, Focal Point of the Stockholm Convention, Kouassi V. Brou and Martial Venance Say.
- Ministry of Agriculture: Bah Boni, Crop Protection Directorate
- World Bank: Douglas Graham, Senior Environmentalist Specialist, Africa Region.
- CropLife Cote d'Ivoire: Guy Liabra, President, M. Diallo, Vice-President,
- B. Bernos, President of the Board of Directors, R. Yeboue, Executive Secretary, Mariame Dosso, Consultant.
- CropLife AME: B. Yao, Regional Director WCA.

The meeting was organized to formalize discussions for the preparation of a Pesticide Obsolete Stocks Project for Cote d'Ivoire and to engage the participation of CropLife d'Ivoire in the venture. The project concept note submitted in 2013 and approved by both the World Bank and the GEF needs to be finalized and transformed into a formal project document for final submission.

Below: Participants at the Obstocks Meeting



Discussions focused on

- The design of the project to target the key areas and appropriate activities. It was therefore recommended that the initial project aiming at POPs should cover all obsolete pesticides, and also consider the management of empty pesticide containers.
- The contribution of the World Bank/GEF of US\$ 7 million with co-funding from Cote d'Ivoire equivalent to US\$ 21 million, over a period of 5 years.
- The expected participation of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire in the implementation of the project. The in-kind contribution of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire is estimated at around US\$ 2 million for the 5 years.
- It was noted that other organizations should contribute towards the project and participate in activities.
- The contribution and activities of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire for this project should fall under "Component C" of the agreement which aims at the promotion of IPM, strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders, develop communication strategies and sensitization on safe and responsible use of pesticides

Bama Yao

Above: Meeting Participants

Left: Douglas Graham of the World Bank
and Pr Bedi, Ministry of Environment**Representing the Plant Science Industry**

Regulatory

EU Public Consultation on Defining Criteria for Identifying ED's - Pretoria 12 January

The meeting took place at the offices of the AgBiz chamber and was facilitated by Prof Mary Gulumiam.

There were four new faces following on from the December 15 meeting. They were: Prof Riana Bornman, (University of Pretoria), Dr. Dharmarai Naicker (PPECB), Wilna Stones, (Subtrop) and Thilivahli Nepfumbada (Dept. of Agriculture)

Prof Gulumiam kicked-off the discussions with an excellent presentation bringing everyone up-to-date as to where we are with the issue. This proved to be very effective in getting everyone on the "same page" leading to constructive discussions.

It was left to all the stakeholders present to decide whether or not to make a submission.

Les Hillowitz



Above: Prof Mary Gulumiam.



Several of the participants at the meeting

Participation at the IITA COMPRO II Projects Workshop

IITA brought together project partners and stakeholders during their annual review and planning meeting in Addis Ababa on 27 – 29 January 2015. Among the highlights were the developments made towards the fulfilment of 'Objective (3) of the project charter which covers the establishment of and institutionalization of Quality Control Procedures and regulatory mechanisms for biopesticides and biofertilizers. The project is being implemented in 6 countries, namely ; Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and Ghana. Representatives from the regulatory authorities of these 6 countries provided highlights of their respective achievements in 2014 and planned activities for 2015 focusing on the development of biopesticides.

Tanzania's policy for pesticide management is enshrined in their Plant Protection Act (1997). This law covers the regulation (registration) of biopesticides, although there is no overarching biopesticides policy.

Ethiopia on its part highlighted that the new pesticide regulation had been finalized and was awaiting proclamation (Pesticide Registration & Control Proclamation No.674/2010). The law addresses various issues including registration, inspection, competence assurance for pesticide business, disposal, safety measures, reporting on pesticide misuse and penalties among others. The Pesticide Registration & Control Regulation is still in its draft phase and this is expected to be finalized during 2015.

Other countries including Uganda, Nigeria and Ghana have similarly, finalized the development of revised registration guidelines for biopesticides pending endorsement respectively.

Kenya on its part has reviewed the PCP Bill 2013, in which biopesticides are included and regulations will be developed after the Act has been published

During the current year, countries will place their efforts on harmonizing registration guidelines; specifically efficacy requirements; safety requirements; quality requirements and labelling/packaging requirements in collaboration with various partners. The meeting highlighted that engaging in an exercise to achieve harmonization will benefit the countries immensely, notably;

- Agreement at regional level on standards for high quality products will protect farmers against counterfeit and fake products.
- Minimizing the negative impacts of porous borders in terms of product quality (consumer protection)
- Timely access to competitive technologies for increased yield and potential food security
- Easy access to technical and human capacity at regional level

Stella Wafukho

Group Photo



IITA
Research to Nourish Africa

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Association Management

Meetings with CropLife Cote d'Ivoire: Update and Planning

Several meetings took place with the newly elected executives of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire to discuss major issues and updates.

This covered:

- The organization, the strategic imperatives and strategic objectives of CropLife Africa Middle East. Participants were briefed on the new Board directive on the prioritization of certain national associations.
- Partnerships for the implementation of projects. Some institutions, such as the Funds of the Interprofession for Research and Counselling in Agriculture (FIRCA), the Council of Coffee and Cocoa (CCC) and ongoing projects should be contacted for joint activities on IPM/RU-SU. The Anti-counterfeiting program covering sensitization and awareness creation needs to be furthered with other organizations and programs.
- Participation of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire at the forthcoming Agricultural and Livestocks Fair (SARA '15).
- Participants were briefed on the capitalization and appropriation of the SSP program. The CCC could participate in a continuation program for a broader implementation. The member companies of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire should therefore engage in such a program to promote their products in cocoa and also to introduce the concept in other crops.
- Monitoring of the activities will be done through regular monthly meetings of the executives with the participation of the President of the Board of Directors.

Bama Yao



Meeting with CropLife Ghana: Update and Planning

The meeting was held alongside the information session with Ghana stakeholders on the EU/ED public consultation process. It was aimed to guide CropLife Ghana on:

- The organization, the strategic imperatives and strategic objectives of CropLife Africa Middle East. Participants were briefed on the new Board directive on the prioritization of certain national associations.
- Partnerships for the implementation of projects must continue. Many organizations are involved in agricultural development in Ghana and can contribute greatly on issues and programs covered by CropLife Ghana.
- Benefitting and going forward from the success of the SSP program by member companies of CropLife Ghana is a priority.
- Sharing of the training plan under finalization so that the member companies are prepared for their participation and contributions.

Bama Yao

Plant Biotechnology

ISAAA Launches 2014 Report on Global Status of GM Crops



Dr. Clive James, Founder and Emeritus Chair of ISAAA.

The Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2014 was launched on January 28, 2015 at China World Hotel in Beijing, China during a press conference attended by 34 media practitioners. The following day, January 29, a seminar was also held at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, organized by Chinese Society of Biotechnology, Chinese Society of Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology, The Crop Science Society of China, China Society of Plant Protection, Chinese Society of Agri-biotechnology, and ISAAA. This was attended by 200 stakeholders from the government, academe, research institutes, media agencies, and private companies.

The report was authored by Dr. Clive James, Founder and Emeritus Chair of ISAAA. According Dr. James, 18 million farmers in 28 countries planted 181.5 million hectares of biotech crops in 2014. The latest addition in the countries planting biotech crops is Bangladesh, which adopted insect resistant eggplant (Bt brinjal) in 2014. The top 5 countries planting biotech crops in 2014 were US, Brazil, Argentina, India, and Canada.

During the seminar, Dr. Chen Zhangliang, Vice President of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) introduced agricultural economic restructuring and GM technology development in China and encouraged the vigorous expansion of GM science education. Dr. Paul Teng, ISAAA Chair and Dean of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, presented ways on how to address food security challenges in an inter-connected global food system. Dr. Randy Hautea, ISAAA Global Coordinator and SEAsia Director, discussed the adoption and impact of biotech corn in the Philippines.

Crop Biotech Update 4 February 2015

The EU Lifts its Ban on GM Crops

Europe has long been defiantly GM free. The Americas and most of Asia grow stuff without fuss. But crops whose genes have been modified in some way may not (with a few exceptions) be grown in the European Union. Until now. On January 13th the European Parliament lifted the EU-wide ban, instead allowing national governments to impose their own restrictions. The plan has already been approved by governments, so the change should come into force this spring.

It will still not be a breakthrough for GMO's as most European governments remain firmly against them. In the past, they would not (in theory) have been to stop GM crops being grown on their soil if the EU approved them – and the EU was supposed to consider scientific evidence in its ruling. Now governments will be free to impose national bans for almost any reason.

Eight GM modified crops await EU approval but only one variety of maize has been grown commercially. Some countries may now allow more. These include Britain, which does a lot of plant science, and Spain, which has over 130,000 hectares of GM maize. In the rest of the world GM crops are spreading and GM vegetables are appearing. America has approved a new modified potato. Europeans may soon learn what the lack of fuss is all about.

The Economist—Jan 2015

USDA Deregulates Dicamba-Tolerant Cotton and Soybean

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has announced its decision to deregulate Monsanto's Dicamba-tolerant trait technologies –Roundup Ready 2 Xtend™ soybeans and Bollgard II® XtendFlex™ cotton. The decision will be published in the Federal Register in the near future.

Robb Fraley, Monsanto's chief technology officer, said "This announcement marks an important milestone for farmers around the world. Weeds represent a key pest to agriculture operations around the world and limit crops of much-needed nutrients, sunlight and access to available water resources. We're excited to provide additional tools that can help improve efficiencies on farm and support farmers in bringing more food to harvest for consumers."

ISAAA February 2015



Upcoming Events

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Meeting of the ED Issue Team, Brussels	Feb 4
Meeting with Ministry of Environment, Kenya	Feb 10
Meeting of the Crop Protection Strategy Council, Washington	Feb 10
Communications Steering Committee Meeting, Washington	Feb 11-12
Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee Meeting, Washington	Feb 12
Pollinator Issue Team meeting, Washington	March 3
Africa Partners & Stakeholders' Meeting on Biosafety Capacity Development, Maputo, Mozambique	March 10-11
RRC Meeting, Casablanca, Morocco	March 10
NAME mini-Hub Meeting, Casablanca, Morocco	March 11-12
CropLife South Africa AGM	March 17
Container Management Project Team Meeting, Brussels	March 18



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GROWING FOOD – CREATING RENEWABLES – SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

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