



Stewardship

CropLife Uganda signs a sub-contract with USAID Feed the Future Agricultural Inputs Activity



The Chairman of CropLife Uganda (and Project Manager) Stephen Matovu, signing the contract.

Stephen Matovu, Chairman of CropLife Uganda, signed a sub-contract with the Agri-Inputs Activity, which is a USAID Feed the Future project, on 22 January 2016. The main objective of the activities to be implemented by CropLife Uganda is to improve the productivity of a total of 3,750 coffee, maize and bean farmers in 10 districts in 5 regions through a network of Spray Service Providers (SSPs). Activities will start in February 2016.

Over a period of 7 months CropLife Uganda will establish a network of 150 SSPs. In addition 200 agro dealers will be trained and linked to the SSPs so as to ensure access to quality inputs. The SSPs will sell their services to at least 3,750 farmers.

The first activity that will take place is a 6-day Training-of-Trainers program facilitated by Perry Ngoma to build capacity of a group of 12 SSP trainers. The program will be followed by a 2-day "Inception / Project Management" training for management that will be undertaken by Manon Dohmen at the end of February 2016.

Les Hillowitz



Feed the Future helps increase opportunities for smallholder farmers like Alice Monigo pictured above. (Photo Feed the Future)



CropLife Nigeria Assesses Contract Sprayers in Borno State

Contract sprayers applying pesticides for a fee for farmers in Borno state in Nigeria do not follow responsible use practices. 10% do not wear any protective equipment, 40% do not read the label, 30% do not triple rinse the empty container, and more than 60% leave the empty containers on the farm.

These are some of the conclusions of an assessment carried out by CropLife Nigeria on behalf of the N2Africa project implemented by IITA (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture). Resulting from the negative results of the assessment, N2Africa has asked CropLife Nigeria to train 45 of the contract sprayers to become proper Spray Service Providers (SSPs) and link them to member companies.

The assessment was carried out in four Local Governance Areas in the south of Borno state at the end of last year. The government extension services in Borno state has trained youth to become contract sprayers. The spray gangs are selling their services to farmers but it was not clear how many are actually trained, and whether they handle and apply pesticides in the correct manner, and if they follow the general rules of responsible use. The N2Africa project is interested in supporting this group and therefore wanted to collect information on their activities and their skills to see how best build their capacity.

For the assessment a total of 50 farmers and 50 contract sprayers were interviewed, while 20 contract sprayers conducted the application test that is normally given to Spray Service Providers as part of their CropLife training.

The interviews were conducted by extension officers after receiving instructions from Siji Ofoesuwa, the SSP coordinator of CropLife Nigeria.

The practical test was conducted by Siji. Of the group of the contract sprayers interviewed, most of them (76%) have worked for more than 2 seasons as a contract sprayer. However, 35% did not undergo any training on the application of pesticides, and for those that did, for more than half did so more than 2 seasons ago. In 94% of the cases, the training program was only 1-day intervention.

There seems to be enough work, as for most of the contract sprayers, their activities are almost a fulltime job with more than half working in excess of 20 days per month.



Siji Ofoesuwa (in striped shirt) with some of the contract sprayers



Challenges

The contract sprayers mentioned several challenges: 70% indicated that buying quality pesticides is a problem, half had problems with reading the label, while 65% mentioned a lack of knowledge on which pesticide to buy. The outcome of the practical test that was undertaken by 20 of the group, was exceptionally poor: 8 did not score a single point, meaning that they did everything wrong. Only 2 succeeded in scoring 41%, which is still not sufficient to be an approved SSP by CropLife Nigeria (one needs to score at least 60% for this).

Among the farmers that make use of the services of the contract sprayers, 90% are extremely satisfied or very satisfied with the work undertaken, and 93% indicated that they would definitely use these services again. The clearly shows that these farmers need more information on the correct use of application. Farmers use contract sprayers to apply herbicides on maize, cowpeas, soybeans and groundnuts. The knowledge of the contract sprayer on application and pesticides is mentioned as the main reasons for farmers to use their services (76%).

SSP Network

As part of the assessment, CropLife Nigeria recommended to give every contract sprayer the full SSP training course, paying special attention to the practical exercises. The main focus of the SSP training would be on herbicides, while other focus areas would be the importance of wearing PPE, handling wastewater after triple rinsing, disposal of empty containers, and the involvement of children. It would also include the need to create awareness among farmers that make use of contract sprayers, on the correct manner for the disposal of empty containers, that children are never allowed to be involved in any activity related to pesticide handling or application, and the importance of buying and using good quality pesticides. Based on these recommendations, N2Africa agreed to have CropLife set up a network of SSPs in Borno state. The first activities will hopefully start in March 2016.

The N2Africa project started its second phase in 2014 with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The focus of the project is increasing productivity through Nitrogen fixation in Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda (core countries), and in DR Congo, Rwanda, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe (tier 1 countries). The project has started activities in Borno state where it is encouraging youth agri-entrepreneurs to start business activities along the value chain of groundnut, soybean and cowpeas.

Manon Dohmen



Training of extension officers in collecting information



IPM/RU for Rice Production, Cote d'Ivoire

On 6 – 8 January, in Grand-Bassam, 46 representatives from various organizations and institutions of the rice value chain including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Environment, farmers' organizations, the national extension service (ANADER), research and academia, the Funds of the Inter-profession for Research and Counselling in Agriculture (FIRCA), and CropLife CI and the generics association AMEPHCI represented by their respective Executive Secretaries, met under the auspices of FIRCA. This was as a follow-up of a study conducted in paddy rice production under the West African Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) to discuss issues related to the use of pesticides. The main objective was to sensitize producers and other stakeholders on the risks related to the misuse and mishandling of pesticides.

The Directorate General of Production and Food Security (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) in his opening address clearly indicated the contribution of pesticides to sustainable agricultural production, while the misuse can expose man and the environment to high risks.

Following the opening ceremony, presentations were made in the plenary session to provide the framework for discussions. Presentations covered the following:

- Pesticide regulations (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) to highlight the needs to use registered pesticides and for such pesticides to be handled by trained professionals.
- Risks associated with pesticides (CropLife CI) focused on
 - The importance of pesticides in agriculture as an important tool for productivity and the protection of the environment.
 - The relationship between hazard and risk, the routes by which pesticides enter the body, some harmful effects of pesticides and some common symptoms of pesticide poisoning.
 - Reducing the risks by reducing exposure through proper handling and the use of correct PPE as per label instructions. Also the correct management of the empty containers by triple rinsing, puncturing, and collection as important aspects for the protection of human health and the environment.

Three other presentations were made the first one on the importance of PPE during measuring, mixing and application, and the care needed when cleaning this after use, the second one on waste management the focus on the operational incinerator on the RMG Concept Plant site, the third presentation covering the upcoming GEF-WB obsolete stocks project known as PROGEP-CI.

The workshop concluded with the following recommendations:

- Develop messages and communicate on the pesticide regulations, risks to man and the environment and on Good Agricultural Practices.
- Build capacity of stakeholders involved in the distribution channel.
- Develop training modules on pesticide waste management for key stakeholders.
- Develop an environment management plan linked with the PROGEP-CI.

Bama Yao



Participants listening to the message delivered by the Executive Secretary of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire

Ethiopia

The 6-month inception phase of the SNV Horti-Life project in Ethiopia has started which aims to have more than 30,000 smallholder farmers integrated in high-value horticultural production and supply arrangements for the export or high-end domestic markets.

To meet this objective an agreement was signed with CropLife Africa Middle East to introduce an IPM component to the project with the introduction of a Spray Service Provider network comprising of 272 SSPs.

In preparation for this development and a second project close to signing, CropLife Ethiopia engaged a "Field Coordinator" to be based in the Central Rift Valley. He is Dedefo Abdo. Dedefo holds a MSc degree in the field of horticulture and has been involved in development projects for several years with donors and implementers including USAID/Fintrac Inc., CIDA/Agriteam Canada plc and the EHPEA Small Veggie project. His expertise lies in both the export and domestic markets of vegetable production focusing on the smallholder farmer sector and cooperative unions in the Central Rift Valley in Ethiopia.

Time was recently spent with Dedefo to enlighten him on a number of issues relating to the two projects.

The project will start in 3 of the 5 designated regions including the Central Rift Valley and Reya valley. In the coming weeks Project Management will travel to the regions to seek acceptance of the project by various disciplines of local government. Getachew Cherinet of CropLife Ethiopia will join the team owing to his level of contact and background knowledge on the trainings that CLE has implemented over the years.

Les Hillowitz



Field Coordinator - Dedefo Abdo



L-R Melaku Tedla, SNV, Thomas Assefa, SNV, Manon Dohmen, CropLife, Gerrit Holtland, SNV, and Getachew Cherinet, CropLife Ethiopia

New Field Officer for CropLife Nigeria

Mr. Adigun Babajide is the new Field Officer of CropLife Nigeria. He has been hired to support Spray Service Provider (SSP) activities for the IFDC/2Scale and IITA/N2Africa projects in the Northern states of Nigeria.

Adigun has a BSc in Agric Economics and Extension from the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology in Oyo state, Nigeria. Following his graduation, he worked for the Fadama II in the Monitoring and Evaluation department. For the past three years he has worked as the assistant project manager at Team Electric Ltd., which gives him a profound experience in project management and administration. Although he is originally from Oyo state, he grew up in Kano and therefore speaks both Hausa and Yoruba fluently. In his free time, Adigun likes to play and watch football, and he is a great fan of Manchester United FC. He also enjoys dancing and listening to music.

Within CropLife Nigeria, Adigun will presently be involved in the SSP projects that will be implemented in Kaduna, Plateau and Borno state, and any other future SSP activity that will come about in the North. Adigun hopes to gain more experience and exposure, and acquire greater knowledge and skills in ways of developing and maintaining sustainable agriculture



Adigun Babajide - New Field Officer of CropLife Nigeria

Manon Dohmen



Map showing where SSP projects will be implemented

Association Management

CropLife Cote d'Ivoire holds General Assembly Meeting

On 28 January members of the Consultative Council (board of directors) met at the offices of Bayer CS, in Abidjan

The agenda was structured along the following lines:

- To update the members of the Consultative Council (CC) on activities since the last meeting in November and plan for the upcoming months.
- The welcome message by M Bruno Bernos, President of the CC, and Guy Liabra, President of the Executive Committee.

The adoption of the agenda with the following points covered:

- ToTs and IPM for SSP training in December 2015.
- Participation at the FIRCA in January in Grand Bassam. The Executive Secretary represented the association during the workshop and the President Guy Liabra attended the closing ceremony.
- Meeting with the Crop Protection Directorate (DPVCQ) to discuss the capacity building on "Anti-Counterfeiting" and how best to use the vehicle donated by CropLife CI to the DPVCQ. The meeting was attended by the Director of DPVCQ, the Executive Secretary of CropLife CI R. Yeboue and B. Yao Regional Director CropLife AME. Five training sessions are planned for the year, and one will be funded by AMEPHCI, the generics association.
- Meeting with the cocoa farmers' union UIREVI to discuss a possible SSP program. The UIREVI, chaired by Toussaint NGuessan is a network of 25 cooperatives with a membership of 7500 cocoa producers, 5000 of this group being certified, and supplying at least 30,000 tons of cocoa beans. UIREVI to provide some additional information before a decision on a possible SSP program can be taken.
- Meeting with the Directorate General of Production and Food Security of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development following the complaints of some cotton farmers on the low quality of inputs (fertilizers) supplied during the past cropping season and which led to significant losses in yields.
- IPM/RU regular training workshops to target 120 retailers, applicators and stockists in March and November, the five "Anti-Counterfeiting trainings as covered above for 120 pesticide control agents, the customs, forestry authorities and other border control agents and officers.
- Participation at a workshop to develop a container management scheme in the country. This to be organized by the DPVCQ as agreed during the recent meeting with the Director of DPVCQ.
- MoU with GIZ for the creation of Business Services Centers. The document is close to finalization with signature expected in the next few weeks.
- Meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Director General of the Council of Coffee-Cocoa (Conseil du café-cacao, CCC).

Bama Yao

CROPLIFE COTE D'IVOIRE

Vivre mieux avec l'Union de la profession phytosanitaire
de Côte D'Ivoire

Plant Biotechnology

Science Council okays GM Maize Trials - Uganda

Approval for trials of genetically modified (GM) maize has been granted by the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, Daily Monitor has learnt. The confined field trial is to test whether the GM maize can withstand adverse climate conditions as well as diseases.

When contacted on Monday, Dr Godfrey Asea, the project implementer, confirmed the developments. He explained that the trial, which is due to start soon, will focus on the tolerance of GM maize varieties against insects and drought.

This means that if the tests succeed as expected, the case for commercial transaction and mass consumption of GM crops, particularly grains, will gain further momentum amidst opposition from several quarters. The approval for the trial was endorsed on January 15, according to a copy of a correspondence which Daily Monitor has seen.

It reads in part: "The National Biosafety Committee (NBC) of the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) Cap 209 of the Laws of the Republic of Uganda hereby approve an application for a confined field trial of genetically modified maize..."

National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI), one of the six National Agricultural Research Institute under the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), will be charged with the implementation of the one year project. NaCRRI is mandated to conduct, carry out research and knowledge generation for beans, cassava, cereals, horticulture and sweet potatoes.

The correspondence also indicates that the application to conduct the confined trial was thoroughly reviewed and decision reached after wide consultation and eventual consensus.

"The NBC having conducted a thorough risk assessment, having considered the safety issues, risk mitigations options available, and other concerns identified, by Consensus, approved the application..." the letter adds.

The confined field trial has been approved for a period of one year from the time the research permit is issued by UNCST. Any replanting's beyond that period must be approved by NBC.

Ismail Musa Ladu



Researchers collect data from a trial from drought resistant maize. The science and technology council has approved confined trials for GM maize

Kenya Approves Bt Maize for Limited Field Release

Kenya's Biosafety Authority has granted a conditional approval for environmental release of insect resistant maize (Bt maize) for National Performance Trials. The Bt maize has been genetically modified to produce an insecticide – Bt protein – that kills certain insect pests.

The gene added to the maize comes from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), which has long been known to possess an insecticidal effect and widely used in organic agriculture. The transformed crop will be able to withstand stem borers, known to reduce maize production by an average of 13 percent or 400,000 tons of maize, equivalent to the normal yearly amount of maize that Kenya imports. This damage is valued at more than USD 80 million.

Other African countries that have already authorized the sale of GM crops including Burkina Faso, South Africa and Sudan. In 2014, South Africa grew 2.1 million hectares of biotech maize of which 28% was Bt maize.

The Kenyan approval was reached after comprehensive review of the application submitted by Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organization (KALRO) and the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) in June 2015. The review process included a public participation exercise, where stakeholders submitted written comments on the application.

Kenya has the requisite capacity for GM crop research and regulation. Members of parliament from seven committees, led by the chair of Education and Research Committee Hon. Sabina Chege acknowledged this during biotech study tours at various research facilities in the country.

"We have the capacity, technology and science to produce adequate food for our people, through biotechnology" said Hon. Dr. Wilbur Ottichilo, Kenyan parliamentarian.

Kenya developed a National Biotechnology Development Policy in 2006 and enacted the Biosafety Act in 2009. This was followed with the setting up of the National Biosafety Authority and publication of four regulations to address the governance of various aspects of modern biotechnology enterprise.

ISAAA



A section of Kenyan parliamentarians on a biotech study tour in the country (Hon. Sabina Chege in blue)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Official launch of the GEF-WB Obstocks project, Cote d'Ivoire | 2 Feb |
| DFID / MOST Phase (3) SSP training, Blantyre, Malawi | 1-5 Feb |
| CP Communications Steering Committee, Brussels | 9 Feb |
| Joint Communications Steering Committee, Brussels | 10 Feb |
| Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee Meeting, Brussels | 10 Feb |
| Crop Protection Strategy Council Meeting, Brussels | 11 Feb |
| Counterfeiting Baseline Data presentation, Nairobi | 12 Feb |
| GlobalGAP NTWG meeting, Stellenbosch | 16 Feb |
| Training of SSP Trainers for 2Scale Project in Kaduna State, Nigeria | 15 - 20 Feb |
| Meeting with CropLife Tanzania | 24 Feb |
| Risk assessment training by IUPAC, Nairobi Kenya | 23 - 25 Feb |
| Anti-Counterfeiting workshop, Yamoussoukro | 24 - 25 Feb |
| ToT workshop, Cameroon | 25 - 29 Feb |
| RRC meeting, Limburgerhof | 29 Feb 29- 1 Mar |
| ToT workshop for the SSP project, Nigeria | 29 Feb 1 Mar |
| Training of SSP Trainers for 2Scale Project in Oyo State, Nigeria | 29 Feb - 5 Mar |
| HHP Management Project Team meeting, Brussels | Mar 15 |
| Pollinator Issue Team meeting, Brussels | Mar 16 |
| RSC meeting, Brussels | Mar 17-18 |
| Anti-Counterfeiting training workshop, N-Eastern Cote d'Ivoire | Mar 17-18 |
| Mini Hub and Regulatory Meeting, Lyon | Mar 22-23 |
| CLAME General Assembly & Board Meeting, Brussels | April 4 - 5 |
| IPM/RU Project Team meeting, Brussels | April 6 |
| Stewardship Steering Committee meeting, Brussels | April 7 |
| Container Management Project Team meeting, Brussels | April 8 |
| Anti-Counterfeiting training workshop, Northern Cote d'Ivoire | April 21 |
| Hub and Regulatory Meeting WCA, Lagos | May 10-11 |
| Anti-Counterfeiting training workshop, Northern Cote d'Ivoire | May 23 |
| BEECON, South Africa | July 1-2 |
| Hub and Regulatory Meeting ESA, Dar es Salam | Aug 30-31 |



Photo SACAU



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GROWING FOOD – CREATING RENEWABLES – SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

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