

West & Central Africa

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire: Training in Banana Production



A group work during a classroom session (L) and a field visit in banana production plot (courtesy Dr K. Traoré/FIRCA)

Training in banana production took place between 5—16 September in 6 production regions, namely; Aboisso, Abengourou, Bassam, Azaguié, Dabou and Tiassalé at which 145 participants took part.

The objective of the training was to provide tools for responsible use and safe handling of pesticides. The training was conducted on request from the parastatal organization involved in research and assistance to agriculture (Fonds Interprofessionnel de la Recherche et du Conseil Agricole, FIRCA), and which is already cooperating with CropLife Côte d'Ivoire under a MoU. Topics covered included:

- Basics on pesticides, Transport and Storage
- Toxicity, Poisoning and First Aid
- PPE: What and how to choose and how to apply
- Traceability (what, how, why...)
- Regulations: national and international, LMRS and the respective trade issues

Environmental Risks

A post evaluation of the course covering content, usefulness, and ability of the trainers as well as the participants was conducted. The training was facilitated by Dr Kady Traoré, a lecturer at the University of Abobo-Adjamé, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire who attended one of our ToT sessions in 2008.



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CropLife Côte d'Ivoire cooperation with GIZ



Local authorities together with the executive secretary CropLife CI and the Regional Director of the Extension services, MinAgric. (L, L to R) and other participants (R) to the launch ceremony (Photo Courtesy CropLife Côte d'Ivoire)

On 21 December, in Abengourou, Côte d'Ivoire, 70 representatives including farmers, farmer based organizations, staff of GIZ and Etablissements Kanyane, the local retailer participating in the project, CropLife Côte d'Ivoire, insurance companies and Administrative authorities got together for the launch the business services centers (BSC) project. The launch was in line with the MoU between GIZ and CropLife Côte d'Ivoire, which aims at providing tools to the participating retailers to improve their business skills and the supply of quality pesticides and other inputs to farmers.

The presentations highlighted the importance of the project with:

- An organized retailer close to the end-users such as Etablissements Kanyane.
- The Cocoa Livelihood Programme and the Business Service Centres (BCS) backed up and funded by an international coalition mechanism led by the Gates Foundation and implemented by GIZ.
- The support of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire to the project to guide them on the importance and benefits of registered pesticides on one hand and the risks associated with the use of counterfeit and illegal pesticides in the cocoa business and other export crops on the other.

giz



North Africa Middle East

CropLife and CIMMYT Co-organize IPM Workshop in Tunisia

CropLife International supported the organization of a workshop on wheat IPM in Tunisia in collaboration with CIMMYT (a non-profit research and training centre with its headquarters in Mexico working on wheat and maize productivity).

The workshop was held in Bousalem, a suburb of Tunis on 12-14 December with the participation of 130 extension service agents representing different disciplines of the wheat-growing sector.

CropLife Tunisia (CLT) and the institute National des Grandes Culture (INGC) undertook the local arrangements for the workshop.

Facilitation of the workshop was provided by the below mentioned scientists and experts from the participating organizations:

- Keith Jones (CropLife International)
- Eva Erisgen (CropLife International)
- Hans Dobson (CropLife International)
- Amor Yahyaoui (CIMMYT)
- Mustafa El-Bouhssini (ICARDA)
- Ali Mohamed Ali (CropLife AME)
- Said Abdella (International Consultant)
- Halim Ben Haj Salah (INGC)
- Nacer Chouikh (CLT)

Held at both, the Elmouradi Hotel and at the training facilities of the INGC, the workshop outlined the basic requirements for setting up a successful IPM programme for wheat. The following needs were elaborated on:

- The setting-up of a National wheat IPM strategy
- The adoption of adequate crop rotation
- The availability of appropriate seed varieties
- The use of appropriate farm machinery
- Appropriate husbandry practices
- Timely chemical control interventions
- Good agricultural practices
- Field demonstration requirements

The following components were identified as essential elements of a wheat IPM action plan:

- Building training capacity for extension agents and farmers
- Developing tools for technology transfer from research to farm
- Technical and economic studies on wheat production
- Timely provision of wheat production inputs
- The role of farmer societies and groups
- Sensitization of pesticide risks and container management aspects
- The enhancement of media communication on wheat IPM
- The establishment of a national committee for wheat IPM

CropLife and CIMMYT Co-organize IPM Workshop in Tunisia cont.

The workshop concluded with the following recommendations and actions:

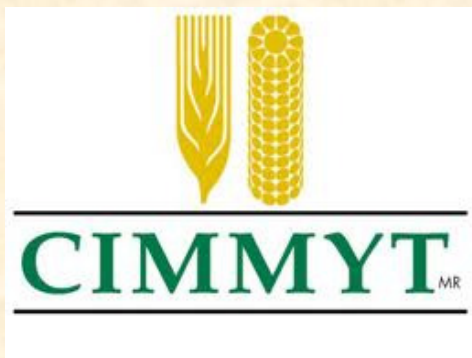
1. The establishment of a working relationship between the INGC and CropLife Tunisia.
2. Call for the establishment of a National Committee on IPM and the responsible use of pesticides to include members from the Ministry of Agriculture (general directorate of crop production – who coordinates all regional extension and developmental programs; and General Directorate of Plant Protection); COSEM (seed company), and farmers representing two major groups (Corporate farms and private farms) and will involve CIMMYT; CropLife International and CropLife Africa Middle East.

This committee will be co-chaired by the DG of INGC and President of CropLife Tunisia.

Dr. Halim ben Haj Salah (DG-INGC) and Nacer Chouikh (President of CropLife Tunisia) will make necessary contacts to establish the Committee

Ms. Samia Berraeis will be hired by CropLife Tunisia & INGC to be the focal point for the program to ensure follow-up of the Committee's agenda and contacts with all partners.

3. Tentative plans were made for a training course to include container management that would eventually be supported by the CropLife International Regional program.
4. The information provided by CropLife Tunisia on pesticide use surprised many and needs close monitoring, a task that could be led by the INGC, through an intensive awareness campaign. In the past 10 years over 20 million Euros were spent on pesticides i.e. about 2 million euro/year of which 46% were used on cereals, 25% for fruit trees, 27% for vegetables, and 2% for miscellaneous use. In 2010-2011 the cost of pesticides was about 29 million Euros where 14.8 million (51%) were for use on cereals. This shows the importance of pesticide usage in agricultural production (mostly wheat) and hence the importance to implement a program such as IPM and Responsible Use of pesticides on Wheat. Such a program already exists on horticultural crops, that unlike field crops are grown on limited areas when compared to the vast area under wheat and the implication this has over the environment.



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Pesticide Operators Qualification Program in Egypt

The CropLife/ACDI-VOCA master trainer program that is part of the joint applicator certification and licensing project in Egypt was concluded in December 2011.

A pesticide field application course was held at the West Nubaria Rural Development Project (WNRDP) where 28 master trainers received the prescribed training based on the project-approved curriculum.

The course was held on 5-8 December 2011 and was attended by participants from the following organizations:

- WNRDP
- ACDI-VOCA
- Sugar Beet Project
- Private Sector

Dr. Said Abdella facilitated the course, which comprised of skills development, practical training on IPM and pesticide application together with participative exercises, written tests, lesson planning and individual lesson assessments.

All participants passed a written examination on pesticide field application and demonstrated competence in practical aspects of training as well as adequate knowledge of technical subject knowhow.

With this program now concluded, the master trainer component of the project has been successfully accomplished. The certified trainers will now continue the field training of applicators to meet the target of reaching 1500 applicators by the end of 2012. Alongside this will be the parallel media communications campaign within the project which will disseminate awareness training to reach a further 3000 growers over the same period.



Expanding Opportunities Worldwide

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Empty Pesticide Container Management Project – Swaziland



Triple rinsed containers at Tambankulu Estates awaiting collection by the local recycler



The end product of the recycled containers

Cam Davreux, former Vice President, CropLife Canada and Chairman of the CLI Container Management Project Team, secured a consultancy contract from FAO to look into container management in both Swaziland and Botswana.

The initial visit to Swaziland took place the week of 5 December and will be followed by a formal report directly to the FAO. The visit showed the following:

- The agricultural market in the country comprises \pm 90% estates or commercial agriculture and 10% small-scale farming. Irrigated sugar cane accounts for 56,000 ha and is responsible for \pm 76% of all pesticide packaging, roughly 20,000 x 20 liter drums.
- Visits were made to all key stakeholders in government, the private sector, small-scale farmer associations, large estates / commercial growers, a plastics recycler, etc. 17 meetings in total.
- A number of the large estates and vegetable exporters (GlobalGAP) are already in contractual arrangements to “triple rinse” and recycle their empty containers through the local recycler. It will take little effort to get the rest of this group on board. The real issue lies with the small-scale farming sector which comprises of 48,000 ha maize, but generates little use of liquid pesticides, and 3,000 ha cotton, which does generate the use of pesticides.
- To reach this sector one will need to use the “Rural Development Areas” (RDA’s) centres of which there are 17 spread-out throughout the country. One will also need to engage with both government players as well as NGO’s to get messages across.
- Based on a tentative business model, the intrinsic value of the plastic is such that no subsidization will be needed by Industry in any shape or form.

Once FAO’s comments on the report are received this process will proceed further.

CropLife Tanzania: IPM Training for Mango Growers in Tanzania

AMAGRO is a local association for mango growers in Tanzania.

The association comprises of 150 members, growing improved mango varieties (hybrids and local cultivars), both for export and the local market. These farmers are located around Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and the Coastal region, and range from smallholders (± 2 ha) to medium scale farmers with slightly over 100 ha each. Total area covered by AMAGRO is 1,000 ha.

Main export markets are Saudi Arabia and EU countries, whilst for the local market; Dar es Salaam is the focus area.

Mango production is affected by various insect pests (mango weevil, thrips, scales and fruit fly) as well as fungal diseases (anthracnose, powdery mildew and scab). To ensure good quality of fruit, the farmers spray various insecticides and fungicides to protect their crop. Recently, however, a concern on pesticide residues on the export crop was raised, which threatened the business of the members. As a result of this, the leaders of AMAGRO approached CropLife Tanzania for assistance on how to reduce the number and frequency of pesticides used, in order to meet the export quality requirements.

CropLife Tanzania nominated two of its members to make a study tour of the farms to identify the reason for the residue concerns, as well as to recommend the best way to assist the growers for future production. The study revealed that most members of AMAGRO neither knew the pests or diseases that were affecting their crop, nor the right crop protection products to use. Their main sources of advice were the stockists selling them the pesticides that were also not conversant with mango production.

Following on from these findings, CropLife Tanzania appointed two resource persons to conduct IPM training to the members of AMAGRO. The resource persons were Dr. Salum Diwani from Bytrade, and Mr. A. Mkopi, Executive Officer of AMAGRO.

The training was carried out on November 10th, 2011 at Koga farm, Mwana- mbaya in the Coastal region, and attended by 65 members of AMAGRO. Topics covered included farm sanitation, scouting, pest identification and the recommended crop protection products to use. Safe handling and effective use of the pesticides were also covered.

The training lasted the best part of the day, and the participants thanked CropLife as they were made to see what they were doing wrong in their mango production programme.



Mango growers being made aware of the benefits of IPM

AfricaBio and Partners Hosts Successful IRM Workshop

An effective and functional African agricultural biotech system requires customized and readily accessible Insect Resistant Management (IRM) resources and technical backstopping for the continent's stakeholders. This was one of the conclusions that wrapped-up a two- day Training of the trainers (TOT) workshop on insect resistance management (IRM) and stewardship practices held in Pretoria, South Africa from 27 to 28 October, 2011. The workshop organized by AfricaBio in collaboration with CropLife International and the NEPAD Agency ABNE. Forty-four (44) participants, including scientists, regulators and representatives from the biotech industry drawn from Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda, attended the workshop.

Diverse stakeholders in the continent have expressed concerns about the sustainability of the economic and environmental benefits of GM crops, due to possible evolution of insect and weed resistance. Thus, the objective of the workshop were to bring together African experts to identify gaps in knowledge on IRM and come up with ways of introducing effective and long-lasting IRM programs. The workshop provided opportunity for the stakeholders to reassess the risk of resistance and to identify the most effective strategies to preserve *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) and other novel insect-resistant technologies in an African farming environment.

One of the outcomes of the workshop was the formation of the African IRM working group that will form a resource base for follow up and updating of information for decision makers and policy developers on IRM Programs. The experts will also serve as trainers in building capacity for effective insect resistance management within the agricultural community in Africa. A listserv was to be created for the group to facilitate information exchange and service delivery.

At the end of the workshop, participants agreed that there is need for an African insect resistance management (IRM) manual that adapts the existing CropLife International (CLI) manual by incorporating African examples. The African IRM manual should have chapters that are case and situation specific; by crop, country and agro-ecological zone. The need to create a mechanism that gets IRM strategies to African farmers including developing simplified pictorial brochures and messages for farmer usage was also discussed.

Delegates at the IRM
Workshop



Africa-Bio Appoints New CEO

AfricaBio announced the appointment of Dr. Nompumelelo H. Obokoh to the role of Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of AfricaBio, effective from the 1st of February 2012. Dr Obokoh is a Plant Molecular Biologist with a PhD degree from the University of Cambridge where she also served as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the Institute of Biotechnology. Dr Obokoh was previously employed by the Agricultural Research Council-Roodeplaat, Biotechnology Division as a Senior Researcher (Project Manager). She is registered as a Professional Natural Scientist (*Pr.Sci.Nat.*) in Biological Science and is a member of the subcommittee to the Advisory Committee of the GMO Act. Prior to her appointment, Dr Obokoh had a dual responsibility with AATF, as Regional Director of its offices in Abuja as well as Project Manager for Cowpea and Rice research. AfricaBio is confident that with Dr Obokoh's appointment, the organisation will have both the leadership and the staff to build on its existing strengths and develop in new directions that will guarantee future sustainability and expansion for the organisation.

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CropLife Mauritius – “Towards Self Sustainability”

Serge L'Ecluse -
Executive Secretary
CropLife Mauritius



A great deal of effort was spent during the course of 2011 to position CropLife Mauritius, both as an NGO and also as a registered “Training Institution”. These two actions originated from an earlier brainstorming on “image building” and “financial sustainability”.

At this point in time CropLife Mauritius are pleased to announce that:

They have been listed as an NGO, eligible for financial support from the Corporate Social Responsibility Fund for Stewardship programs directed towards the farming community as end users, in order to minimize risks for the environment.

That they were registered in early December 2011 as a Training Institution, with the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA), whose mission is ‘to enhance good practices and relevant expertise to safeguard public interest in quality education and training’.

CropLife Mauritius is henceforth poised to execute in a professional manner its stewardship programs, alone or in partnership with other specialized organizations.

CropLife Mauritius was represented on the “Working Group 3” workshop which was a group of consultative workshops held in July 2011 for the Mauritius Ile Durable Project and some of its recommendations on container management and the safe use of pesticides, have been retained in the final report.



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**Upcoming
Events**

**Upcoming
Events**

**Upcoming
Events**

**Upcoming
Events**

CLI Stewardship Committee Meeting-Washington

Jan 10

CLI Global IPM Project Team Meeting-Washington

Jan 11

Uganda Anti Counterfeit project with support of IFDC and Grameen Foundation

Jan 15 - 21

CleanFarms Ghana stakeholders workshop

Jan 19

CleanFarms visit to Kenya and Container Management visit to Ethiopia

Jan 30 - Feb 4

ToT training, CropLife Zimbabwe

Feb 6 - 10

CPSC Meeting in Washington

Feb 15

Meeting with “MUSIKA” (PROFIT) & COMESA – Lusaka Zambia

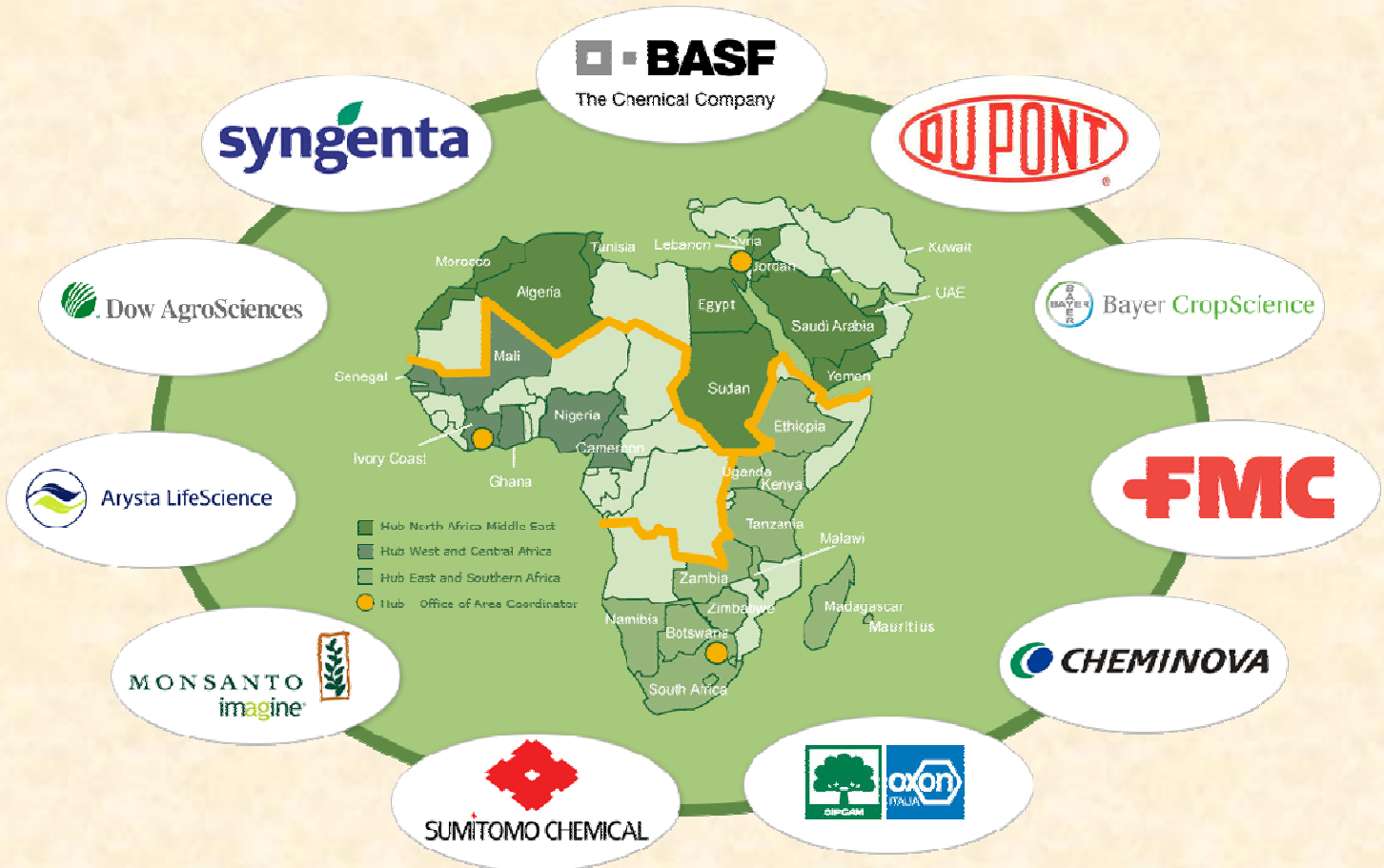
Feb 15

ToT Master Trainer Course - Bari

Feb 13 - 17

Regional Master Trainer Session in Egypt

March 19 - 23



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