

Stewardship

SSP ToT & Responsible Use Training: Uganda

A SSP Trainer-of-Trainers & Responsible Use Training took place in Kampala, Uganda 3 – 7 December. Evelyn Lusena managed the training program.

The objectives of the training were met. Participants were pleased with the refresher on Adult Training and expressed their satisfaction with the new information of how to train farmers in the field. Most indicated that the training had simplified what they otherwise thought was difficult work in the training of farmers. They especially appreciated the use of the training instructions developed in training farmers.

The content of the course covered 16 topics in the initial 2 days.

In the individual presentations – topics covered included:

- What are counterfeit and illegal pesticides
- Identification of counterfeit and illegal pesticides
- How and why to scout
- The pesticide label
- Buying pesticides
- Transporting pesticides
- Storing of pesticides
- Protecting the applicator
- Mixing of liquid pesticides
- Mixing of wettable powders
- Disposal of the empty pesticide container
- Applying pesticides (Do's and Don'ts)

On the final day participants took part in a field visit on counterfeit and illegal pesticides. Participants were able to relate to what they have learnt in the classroom to what takes place in the field. They were able to see the following:

- Structure and organization of an agrochemicals company
- Warehousing and storage
- Repacking of pesticides
- How companies protect their products from counterfeiting and packaging infringements.

Evelyn Lusena - CropLife Kenya



Above: One of the steps in "container management"



Right: Learning about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



APOLOGY



Dear Readers, please note the incorrect photo of the Minister of Agriculture, Mali was featured on page 10 of issue no 85.

Dr Yaranga Coulibaly featured alongside chaired the 31st session of the CSP.

Our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Meetings with Ministry Officials in Cameroon



- Gisèle Etoundi, MINADER-Crop Protection Directorate, and Master Trainer of CropLife Cameroon and CropLife AME assessed the training that took place in 2012, and developed plans for 2013.
- Discussions with J-C Ngongang Nono, Coordinator, ICCO SPS African Cocoa for an update on activities. It was noted that only a few of the targets have been completed due to the fact that the Cameroon government only released funds recently. Contact will be reactivated with CropLife Cameroon (and Gisele Etoundi) for their involvement and participation in the project.

Bama Yao

Training video for Applicators Project Produced in Egypt

CropLife, together with ACDI/VOCA, have produced a field training video to be used in the Applicators Project in Egypt. The video matches safety standards with high quality measures of pesticide responsible use.

The 30-minute video covers the reading of a pesticide label, the toxicological band, wearing of Personal Protective Equipment, using different types of sprayers and nozzles and correct measuring and mixing of pesticides in the field.

The video was produced in an open field with Arabic commentary to explain all necessary steps. It is intended to produce both an English and French versions to be used in other countries for possible television usage.

The video is also intended to be broadcasted intensively in a media communications campaign to provide for awareness raising in the application of pesticides. The campaign will include coverage on the agricultural satellite station of Egypt. The awareness campaign is expected to reach 3000 growers and 1500 applicators.

Ali Mohd Ali



Alexandra Harrison - ACDIVOCA



Seed Treatment Working Group Meeting: South Africa



The Seed Treatment Working Group in South Africa met at the CropLife South Africa offices on Friday 14 December.

The agenda items covered the following:

- Labeling of Treated Seed
- Management of dust levels
- Review of Seed Treatment Stewardship
- Empty Container Management

CLAME was asked to act as the link with CropLife Canada who is extremely advanced in the area of Seed Treatment Stewardship.

Les Hillowitz

Regulatory

Meeting with the MD of the PCPB, Kenya

On Monday 3 December a meeting took place with Gladys Maina, MD of the PCPB, regarding the "Quality Mark".

The introduction of a Quality Mark on ALL consumer goods was legislated about four years ago. The implementing agency is the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and for the majority of consumer products the KEBS mark is already found on most labels. This new legislation was challenged jointly by AAK (CropLife Kenya) and the PCPB (Pest Control Products Board) as in their view the KEBS mark would not bring any added value in the improvement of quality of CPP's on the market. They were successful in convincing KEBS that the pesticide sector would develop their own Quality Mark and as such were given a timeline to do this. The PCPB / AAK task team opted to go the route, using the services of Sproxil and this is now at an advanced stage.

The Pilot Phase is scheduled go ahead as soon as possible and is likely to take place early in 2013.

The PCPB see the value of the Quality Mark as follows:

- The Mark should not be seen solely as an anti-counterfeiting measure. This is only a side benefit in the whole scheme of improvements.
- Use of the Mark will be an upliftment in mandatory standards.
- The Mark must have both a value, and give confidence to the consumer.
- That the Mark will move the product "from a registration number on a label through to a complete info package"
- That the Mark introduces a new level of control. (Ms. Maina mentioned that in cooperation with PIP, a number of recognized products were analyzed and surprisingly a large percentage were found to be out of spec)
- That for Industry, "competition will be increased quality" and a plea was made for CropLife member companies to become involved in the Pilot Phase.

Les Hillowitz



Gladys Maiana—PCPB

CEMAC-CPAC REGULATIONS

On 6 December, the CAPC office, and the Plant Protection Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, met in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Two separate meetings by the Regional Coordinator took place with:

- The Permanent Secretariat of CPAC (B. Bouato, and 6 regulators).
- Syxtus Nuza, Director of Regulations, Quality Control of Agricultural Inputs and Products (Réglementations et Contrôle de la Qualité des Intrants et Produits Agricoles).

The purpose of the meeting was the following:

- To exchange on the planned activities of the CPAC as indicated during the WCA Hub Meeting in April. The Permanent Secretary indicated that most documents needed for the submission dossier would be available by early 2013. However the "fast track registration procedure" planned for the first registration could not be initiated, as the few dossiers received could not justify the move towards this process.
- The Permanent Secretary and S. Nuza, recognized the difficulties for implementing the CPAC framework. The CPAC Secretariat and MINADER are working together on developing an improved framework and are looking forward to the future Director General to be in office by early 2013 to support this process.
- The planned activities of CropLife Africa Middle East in support of the CPAC for 2013 were presented to both parties. They both indicated their availability to participate and provide the needed support to such activities. These activities will focus mainly on the registration procedures (labeling, trials protocol, etc.) for the effective implementation of the CPAC framework.

Bama Yao

Intellectual Property Rights / Anti-Counterfeiting

Anti-Counterfeiting Training of Customs Officers - Côte d'Ivoire



Col Baillet, Regional Director of Customs in San-Pedro who attended the programme was presented a certificate (A) which he proudly displayed (B) to other participants.



On 19 December, in San-Pédro, a South Western region of Côte d'Ivoire, 27 operational customs agents of whom 21 were from the San-Pédro Regional Directorate (city and neighboring cities), and 6 from Man and Daloa regions, approximately 450 Km and 300 Km from San-Pedro respectively were trained.

The training was a continuation of the rollout of the anti-counterfeiting course to sensitize customs authorities on the issue, and to provide knowledge and tools to combat the illegal trade in pesticides. San-Pédro is an important port for cocoa exports besides being the capital of the south western region, the largest cocoa growing area in Côte d'Ivoire. Both Man and Daloa are also important cocoa growing areas. Illegal pesticides are usually found in these 3 important cocoa growing regions whilst cocoa is a strategic crop for Côte d'Ivoire, the world's largest producer and supplier of around 40% of dry cocoa beans. Combating illegal pesticides will improve cocoa productivity and quality thus impacting positively on the income of farmers and the economy of the country as a whole.

The training was facilitated by Roger Yeboué, Master trainer of CropLife Africa Middle East and Executive Secretary of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire. The course was conducted using an interactive approach to ensure full participation of the participants. Discussions covered:

- Pesticides and pesticide regulations in Côte d'Ivoire focusing on the registration procedures.
 - Basics on pesticides covering toxicity.
 - Reading a pesticide label.
- Illegal and counterfeit pesticides with a focus on the impact on productivity and health, and financial and losses.
 - Inspection of shipping documents.

Copies of the appropriate pesticide regulations related to the registration, production, and distribution of crop protection products as well as the list of registered products in the country was distributed to each participant.

The Regional Director of Customs Services attended the full programme and at the end stressed the importance and value of the programme. The participants shared this view and requested that such programs be carried out often, allowing for frequent meetings and exchanges between the industry and the customs services.

Bama Yao

Participants focusing on the facilitator covering the issue of the illicit pesticides trade



Representing the Plant Science Industry

Association Management

CropLife Kenya

Time was taken to meet with Richard Sikuku, CEO, CropLife Kenya and Kuria Gatoyne, Chairman, CropLife Kenya. Discussions focused on the following:

- Stewardship issues including "training plans for 2013", the closure of the CleanFarms project, the pilot container management program and the possible development of an SSP project.
- Regulatory, included the need to hold a POR workshop before the Hub Meeting in August.
- IPR / Anti Counterfeiting, included details of what was accomplished in 2012 and plans for 2013. Also covered were the training needs for 2013 and the resources needed from CLAME to accomplish this.
- Under the topic, Association Management, there is a need to re-strategize and to achieve this; Association Management training will be arranged.
- The use of Evelyn Lusenaka as a training resource for the region.

Les Hillowitz

CropLife Uganda

Discussions with Stephen Matovu, Chairman of CropLife Uganda and Betty Atto, Secretariat yielded the following:

- CLU see the IFDC "Scratch Card" anti-counterfeiting pilot project as being a success.
- The aBi project, which is now in its final phase, is going extremely well and all the targets set will be met. What has emerged from this project is that CropLife Uganda have developed a valuable resource in their 12 Field Coordinators. This is now a refined group of multi-skilled trainers, all located in the North, which is the focal point for donor funding.
- The Feed the Future Agricultural Inputs Activity (FTF Ag-Inputs) has been awarded to Tetra Tech ARD.
- Tetra Tech ARD is presently managing the LEAD project in the country. (The LEAD project is the successor to APEP that was managed through Chemonics and of which the Chief of Party (COP) was Clive Drew supported by Mark Woods. Clive Drew is presently the COP of the aBi Trust). Eric Derks is the newly appointed COP of the LEAD project and who will be responsible to kick-start the FTF Ag-Inputs project. The LEAD project closes at end March 2013 suggesting that the FTF project can at the earliest start April or later in the year. The FTF Ag-Inputs project will cover the North of the country and in many cases overlap with the districts covered by the aBi Trust project. This means that CLU has the capacity to support the project.

Les Hillowitz

CropLife Cameroon

On 5 December, at the Sofitel Méridien, Douala, Bama Yao conducted an Association Management intervention at which 6 member companies of CropLife Cameroon were represented.

The key points covered were:

- Feedback on the activities conducted in 2012 focusing mainly on the fight against the illegal trade in pesticides and the continuous training on IPM/RU conducted jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development. The sensitization tour to the major agricultural regions to see firsthand the illicit pesticides trade was well received by stakeholders. This led to the continued support and links with other sectors and organizations having the same objectives. The joint stewardship training programme with MINADER benefited 318 participants, a 50% increase compared to the previous year. Participants expressed great interest in the sessions, but financial constraints limit the possibility of increasing the number of interventions.
- To brief CropLife Cameroon on the outcome of the CropLife AME Board meeting, particularly on the commitment and alignment to the policies and standards of CropLife AME by the national associations. CropLife Cameroon is currently revising their Articles of Association to include a clause on a Code of Conduct and related sanctions against misbehavior cases.
- The implementation of the WCF-ACI programme (component 4) by CropLife Africa Middle East through the national associations in the target countries and CropLife Cameroon is expected to implement these activities in Cameroon. There is obvious enthusiasm from CropLife Cameroon to support the programme. They will link and seek participation with some partners, particularly the coffee-cocoa development funds (Fonds de développement du café-cacao, FODECC) in charge of the implementation of a national programme to improve production and the quality of coffee cocoa. The SPP trainers and SSPs are expected to be selected by FODECC under the supervision of CropLife Cameroon.

Bama Yao

Communications

CropLife Morocco Communicates Via Rural Radio

Photos: Medina FM



For the first time, CropLife Morocco is using rural radio to spread key messages on the responsible use of pesticides among farming communities. The reaction has been extremely positive and therefore CropLife Morocco plans to make more use of local radio stations in the future to reach small-scale farmers.

The choice of rural radio to reach farmers was obvious for CropLife Morocco since the majority of farmers live in remote areas with limited access. By using rural radio, most farmers can be reached without logistical challenges.

A total of ten different radio spots were aired over a period of three months at the end of 2011 and in early 2012. The items focused on different aspects of responsible use of pesticides, including Integrated Pest Management, application, storage, and the transportation of pesticides. Each spot took between 60 and 90 seconds in which only key messages were covered.

The spots were broadcasted via Radio Medina FM, based in Meknes, which is in the centre of the country and in the middle of the most important agricultural region in Morocco. It is also the region where most incidents occur with pesticides. The languages used were Arabic and Berber, which are the most common languages used by small-scale farmers in Morocco. The radio spots could be heard five days a week, twice per day at 7h45 in the morning and 6h45 in the evening which is the time that most farmers are back from their fields and listen to the radio.

The making and airing of the radio spots were self-financed by CropLife Morocco.

Ali Mohd Ali

Farming First in Progress

As a co-organiser, Farming First partnered with the Agriculture, Landscapes and Livelihoods Day consortium, bringing together the CGIAR, FANRPAN, WFP, IFAD, the World Bank, FAO, World Farmers Organisation and others - to promote agriculture within the broader policy discussions at the Climate Change Conference (COP18) in Doha.

As part of this effort and in partnership with the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Farming First has launched its newest infographic, "The Story of Agriculture and Climate Change: The Road to COP 18". Unveiled ahead of the opening session of Agriculture, Landscapes and Livelihoods Day 5 (ALL-5 Day), it tells the history of agriculture and climate change in the UNFCCC, highlighting how discussions on agriculture are spread across the convention and the growing consensus on the need for cohesion to leverage efforts in research, knowledge sharing and financing for adaptation and mitigation.

Farming First also hosted a roundtable session at ALL-5 Day on the role of public-private partnerships in reducing emission across the agro-food chain. The session highlighted best practices and technologies, with speakers discussing how farmers, businesses, NGOs and governments are collaborating to develop reliable metrics to measure how mitigation and adaptation goals are being met from farm to fork. The panel included:

- Dyborn Chibonga, Chief Executive Officer, National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi
- Simon Aumonier, Partner & Head of Waste Management, Energy and Climate Change Teams, Environmental Resources Management
- Keith Wheeler, Co-founder of Foundation for our Future, President of IUCN Board of Directors, and Field to Market Board Member
- Belinda Morris, American Carbon Registry California Director

Lastly, Farming First worked with other leading agricultural organisations to promote a joint call-to-action for further consideration at the COP18 meeting for a dedicated SBSTA Work Programme on Agriculture. Other endorsers include CGIAR Consortium, World Farmers' Organisation and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) among others.

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Plant Biotechnology

Tanzania

Tanzania has joined neighbours Kenya and Uganda in a novel project to farm drought resilient maize called WEMA, which is acronym for Water Efficient Maize for Africa. The preparatory stages, scientifically known as confined field trials (CFTs) are done and our scientists are confident that we have what it takes to move on to the next stage – of doing actual research with transgenes from genetically modified seeds.

Apart from maize, cotton could also be headed for a major, fresh comeback to abandoned fields across traditional cotton-growing areas as well as 'no-go' regions to the south of Tanzania when current research produces a new seed resilient enough to thrive under harsh drought conditions and insect attacks.

But there's also a big "if" into the equation. So far field trials on Bt cotton, the new variety that is genetically enhanced to withstand drought and insect pests, are now being carried out in neighbouring Kenya, where biosafety rules are less stringent.

However, our experts at home, such as Dr Roshan Abdallah, who heads the country's plant biosafety centre of excellence in Tanzania, says such trials still cannot be done at home because of the country's 'strict liability' clause in the 2009 biosafety regulatory regime that holds everyone down the supply line liable to legal sanctions should anything go wrong.

The 'Strict Liability' clause provides, among other things, that 'a person who imports, arranges transit, makes use of, releases or places on the market a GMO or a product of a GMO shall be strictly liable for any harm caused by such a GMO "and that "the harm shall be compensated"

That's where we remain stuck as a country; we are still debating on how to compensate people in the event of possible harm from largely hypothetical dangers. The world has been consuming GM foods for nearly three decades now without any scientific evidence of harm to either human or animal health.

And, as we keep talking, our neighbours have joined the rest of the world and could soon be producing GM maize and Bt cotton commercially—in the next two years or so in the case of Kenya. Given our porous borders and truly inefficient border patrols we could soon be eating GM food produced next door, all the while pretending to be "protecting" our people imaginary harm.

The economic cost behind our lack of resolve is all too familiar. Cotton, for instance, is Tanzania's largest export crop after coffee, bringing in a handsome \$90 million to export earnings and sustains, directly and indirectly, the lives of some 48 percent of the country's population currently estimated at 38 million.

Primarily, cotton is produced by about 500,000 smallholders in 42 districts on farms ranging from 0.5 to 10 hectares – national average 1.5ha – in 13 of the regions in mainland Tanzania. Most farmers do not use fertilizer or other chemicals, mechanized (or even animal) power, or irrigation.



Photos Courtesy Monsanto

Representing the Plant Science Industry

Tanzania cont..

More than 90 percent of the cotton is produced to the south of Lake Victoria in Mwanza, Shinyanga, Mara, Tabora, Kigoma, and Singida region, with just three of them – Singida, Mwanza and Shinyanga – accounting for over 80 percent of the crop; the rest comes from the Eastern parts of the country.

With Bt cotton, we will be talking about more than the miserly 410,000 ha which are currently being sown to cotton during most farming seasons, and at almost zero risk from pest infestation.

In the meantime, climate change is also for real – and ‘going biotech’ is about the best policy decision we could be making at the moment.

Elsewhere across the world, biotechnology is proving to be the best way to providing food for a hungry tomorrow. The most compelling testimony to biotech crops is that, in the period 1996 to 2011, millions of farmers in 29 countries worldwide, made independent decisions to plant and replant biotech crops.

One principal reason underpins the trust and confidence of risk-averse farmers: biotech crops deliver sustainable and substantial, socioeconomic and environmental benefits.

As a resource-poor country, Tanzania cannot afford to feed on the fears of a largely uninformed anti-GM lobby – some of whose opponents eat GM food or survive on GM medicinal products even as they bad-mouth them.

SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN - TANZANIA

Malawi

Scientists at Malawi’s leading agricultural college, Bunda, have disclosed that the first-ever genetically modified cotton ‘confined field trial’ will start this growing season at college located on the outskirts of the capital Lilongwe.

One of the scientists Dr Moses Maliro said that the genetically modified cotton, commonly known as BT cotton, would be planted once Bunda receives sufficient rains for planting.

“By now we are at a stage whereby the seed for this variety is already in the country”, he said. “It is being kept under the custody of the Department of Environmental Affairs waiting for the next steps to treat it and then planting as soon as the rains come at Bunda.”

The seed was procured from South Africa, which is now celebrating 15 years of growing and commercialization of genetically modified crops including cotton.

The BT cotton trial at Bunda commences this year after it failed in the last growing season due to delays in procuring the seed, among other bureaucratic problems.

It took almost two years since Bunda made the application to the bio-safety regulator hosted by the environmental affairs department for the trial to be approved on October 7, 2011.

As the trial for the genetically modified cotton starts, some modifications have been made, according to Dr Maliro, a member of a seven-man team overseeing the research at Bunda College.

Instead of conducting a trial for a variety of cotton that will both be resistant to bollworms and tolerant to herbicides, only one trait - the bollworm resistant (Bollgard II) - will be tested.

“With the delay in mobilizing the resources, it become cheaper to just look at one event instead of looking at the two events and at the moment the pest is the major problem and should herbicide tolerant variety be necessary, I am sure that could be implemented later on,” disclosed Dr Maliro.

The seasoned crop breeder said by the end of this growing season Malawians will be updated on initial results of the trial which might take up to three years to come up with conclusive results.

“Stakeholders will be briefed on how the crop is performing and what has the data shown because the BT cotton will be compared against the local variety. So, yes, every stakeholder needs to know how it has performed; is it beating our local varieties and can we take it for further trials in other locations?” he alluded to some of the aspects on which the public will be updated



Malawi cont..

The trial at Bunda is expected to improve cotton output in the country by over three fold due to reduced costs of on-field chemical use which is the most costly part of cotton production based on estimates collected in South African where BT cotton is widely grown.

"In my first year in 2002, I managed to produce 2500 kg/hectare," said Frans Malera, a South Africa farmer from Limpopo Province who was in Malawi recently.

Currently the average cotton yield in Malawi is 1000 kilograms per hectare.

Caroline Theka, a senior official in the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) told an outreach-planning meeting hosted by South Africa's based AfricaBio in Lilongwe on Friday, December 7, that the trial sponsored by the global seed producer Monsanto will closely be monitored by the authorities.

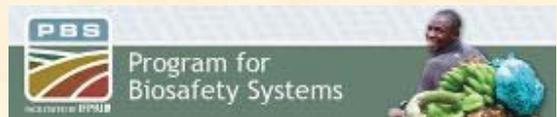
According to Dr Nompumelelo Obokoh, the CEO of AfricaBio, the meeting was convened to draft a holistic outreach and public awareness program, which she said is essential as the confined field trial, starts at Bunda, saying her organization will provide support where necessary.

Apart from scientists from Bunda and EAD, officials attended the meeting from the Programme on Bio-safety Systems (PBS) under the National Commission for Science and Technology, Farmers Union of Malawi, Monsanto and fabric producers Mapeto David Whitehead and Sons.

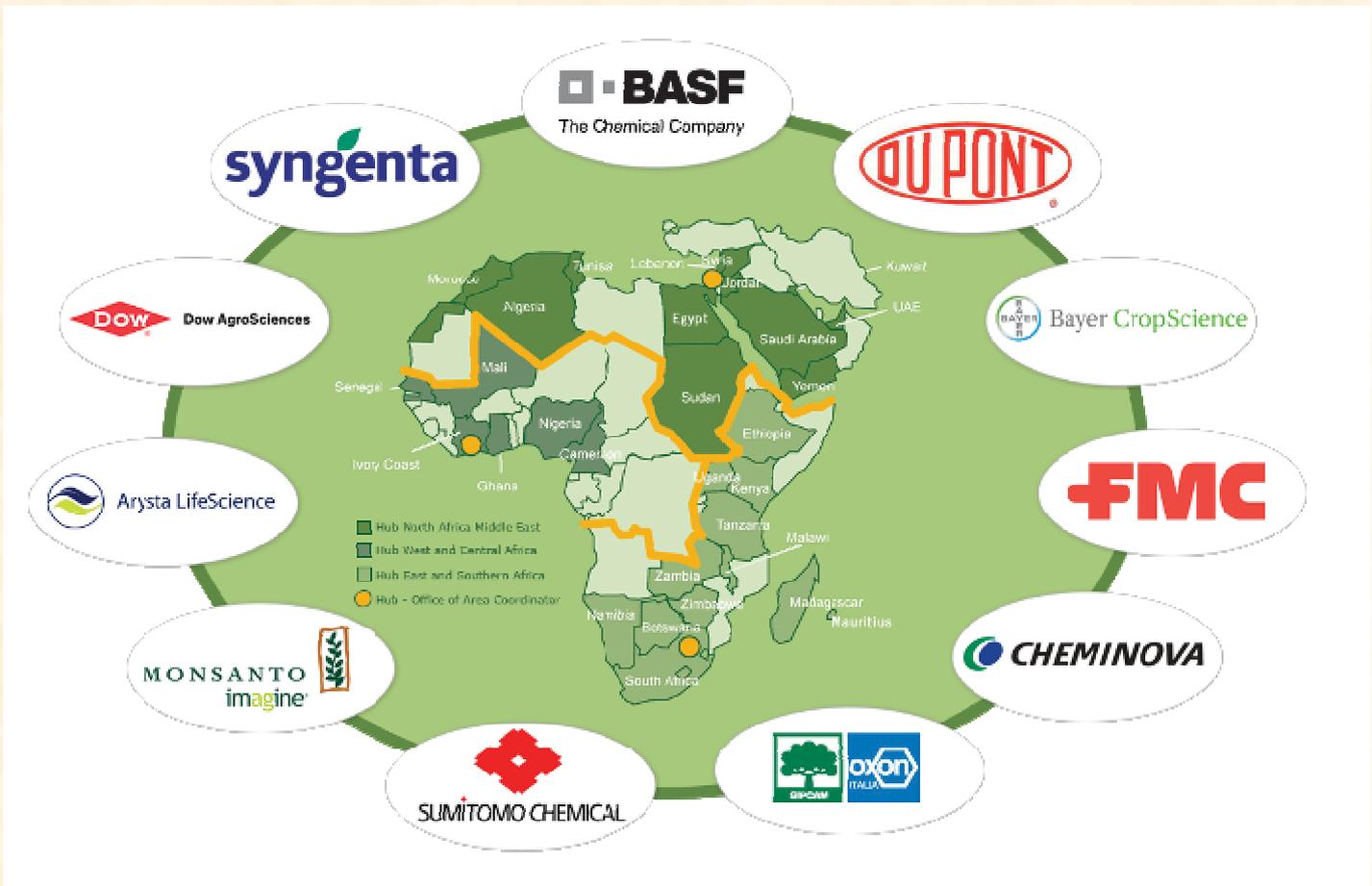
BT cotton is named as such because it contains a bacterium called bacillus thurengiensis (bt), which produces chemicals that kill bollworms when inserted into the cotton gene. This reduces the need for chemical spraying by almost half of the required eight times in a rainy season. — **Zodiak Online**



Moses Kwapata Principal Bunda College



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| CleanFarms "Handover workshop, Nairobi | Jan 28-30 |
| Anti-Counterfeiting Training, Zambia | Feb 8 |
| Meeting of the CPSC in Washington | Feb 12 |
| Meeting of the Anti Counterfeiting Steering Committee | Feb 13 |
| Association Management Training, CropLife Zambia | Feb 25-26 |
| Container Management Workshop, Zambia | Feb 27-28 |
| Africa Region Plant Biotech Workshop, Ghana | March 4-8 |
| Meeting of the Regional Regulatory Committee | March 13-14 |
| Hub and Regulatory Meeting, West and Central Africa | Apr 16-17 |



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GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

Representing the Plant Science Industry