



Country News

Mozambique

CropLife Africa Middle East, East-Southern Hub participated at the "Fifth Meeting of SADC Plant Protection Experts" held in Maputo on 14 & 15-November-2005. Presentations covering "An update of SEARCH" and "Obsolete Stocks / ASP" were given to delegates (seen right). An interesting development is that at the 2003 meeting we assisted the SADC Secretariat in developing a framework for an "MRL Project" which they intended to present to the EU for funding. Approximately 14 days prior to the Maputo meeting we were contacted by the EU Consultant sent to undertake an appraisal of the project as a budget had been secured for this. His report back to the Maputo meeting was that CropLife (SEARCH) must be a partner in the project for this to be a success. His official report is awaited. Contact: les.hillowitz@icon.co.za



Iraq

An official notification has been filed from the Director General of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) to the Minister of Agriculture of Iraq reinstating Iraq's membership of the North Africa Middle East regulatory initiative co-driven by CropLife AME and the AOAD. This step comes in response to the recommendations of the regional regulatory harmonization meetings held last September. in Casablanca, Morocco. It is worth mentioning that Iraq's membership was discontinued over the previous three years due to the prevailing circumstances there. The resumption of Iraq's membership comes as a result of the coordination between CropLife Africa Middle East and the USAID funded project of Agricultural Reconstruction and Development in Iraq (ARDI) who facilitated the participation of Iraq delegates to 2005 regulatory harmonization meetings. ali-croplife@nets.com.jo

What's happening?

- Train-the-Trainer courses
- Mozambique ob-stocks
- Iraq joins CropLife-AOAD initiative
- Forthcoming Events
- Container Management
- OECD & application innovations
- Regulatory harmonization initiatives

Kenya

The official launch of CropLife Kenya took place on Friday, 02-December-2006, with the guest of honour, the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. James Ongwae in attendance.

The EU recently said that it had signed a €125 million aid package with Kenya after the country introduced measures to curb corruption. The EU withheld the loan for more than a year pending a new Kenyan law to stem corruption in the procurement of goods and services in government ministries.



Container Management: RSA

CropLife Africa Middle East, East-Southern Hub facilitated a meeting of all key stakeholders covering a proposed project to erect a plastics recycling plant by which obsolete plastics (including empty pesticide containers) will be used to produce “ecowood” building materials. As background, the Local Competitiveness Fund (LCF) is a grant fund which is part of the

Limpopo LED Programme funded by the European Union. The unanimous support from the meeting will now allow the Project Team to submit application, which if granted will progress to the development of the Competitive Action Plan (CAP). Once feedback is received the group will again convene to set up a Steering Committee. Contact: les.hillowitz@icon.co.za

Second French ToT in Senegal

The second of the French ToT courses which was conducted in Dakar, Senegal, went off extremely well. The participants were of a very high calibre, 11 receiving Certificates of Competence. This French course, was again facilitated by **Raphael Vogelsperger** (seen here using participative techniques) and Manon Dohman of IFDC, and supervised by CropLife Africa Middle East Training Consultant, Peter Mills, as part of the handover of training to Raphael and Manon. Raphael and Manon have done a superb upgrade of the course, as well as updated translations on all training materials, including handouts, exercises and presentation materials into French. It is likely that there will be further co-operation & training with IFDC this year and in future. All participants in all Training of Trainers courses are presented with electronic and hard copies of IPM & Responsible Use training materials. For more, contact: peter.mills@mweb.co.za



Harmonisation Initiatives

New approach to the East Southern African Hub SEARCH initiative

A hard look has been taken by CropLife Africa Middle East East-Southern Hub, of the SEARCH initiative and a new direction will be pursued. This will be based on 2 to 3 country groupings, major and minor crops for which trial protocols will be devel-

oped, or in the case of minor crops, use of the information already developed by COLEACP. The possible linking with the EU MRL project will complement our direction.

It would seem as if the harmonisation efforts within the East African

Community are starting to bear fruit as Tanzania recently announced that registration data from Kenya would now be accepted supported with only one year's efficacy trial data. This makes a remarkable change to the system that existed.

OECD Risk Reduction Steering Group discusses pesticide application

At a meeting last week of the OECD Risk Reduction Steering Group (RRSG) in New Zealand, innovations in the application of crop protection products, as well as the proper maintenance of equipment, were highlighted. The meeting fell under the Pesticide Working Group.

The seminar, the third in a series held by the RRSg, provided a forum for member countries of OECD to exchange experiences in improvements in spray technologies that support the sustainable use of crop protection products. These discussions covered both OECD and non-OECD (developing) countries. Participants included delegates from OECD member countries, as well as observers from the plant science industry, NGOs (PAN New Zealand), application equipment manufacturers and academia. Keith Jones, Manager, Stewardship and Sustainable Agriculture, represented CropLife International. He gave a presentation at the seminar entitled: *Enhanced efficacy, efficiency and safety through improved application*. His presentation highlighted the research and development efforts that industry has supported to develop improved application equipment that enhances the targeting of pesticide sprays and minimises potential con-

tamination of operators and the environment. The presentation also provided an overview of the advances in Europe and the United States to promote Spray Drift Reduction Technologies. These technologies have provided a simple way of minimising spray drift, while maintaining efficacy, through the optimisation of spray droplet size and spray boom height. Finally, it summarised the global effort on training farmers and others in the responsible handling and use of crop protection products.

The presentation, which is available on the CropLife International web site, countered accusations from equipment manufacturers that the plant science industry has little or no interest in improving application technologies and strategy, as well as NGO assertions that application of crop protection products with hand-held sprayers could not be achieved safely. The OECD will publish a summary of the discussions and recommendations at the workshop plus all the presentations.

A meeting of the RRSg preceded the workshop, which continued the need to monitor risk factors associated with the use of crop protection products and how they can be managed. The discussions included an outline of the next risk management workshop, which will be held in Ottawa

during June 2006 that will focus on the subject of compliance.

The presence of a number of different governments and stakeholders, plus the fact that these meetings resulted in a set of recommendations published by OECD, means that the industry needs to continue to provide effective input into these discussions.

For more information, please contact :

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**CropLife
presentation
addresses
NGO
concerns
and
provides
solutions**

ToT for Jordanians & Palestinians

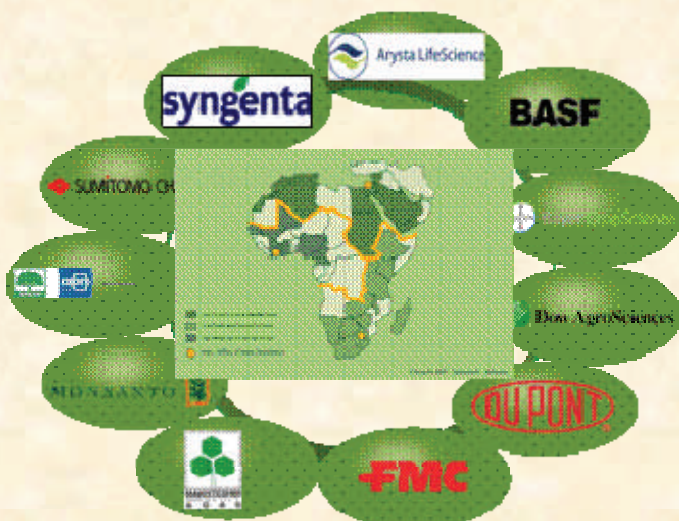
A regional Training of Trainers course for 11 participants from both Jordan and Palestine was organized in Amman in cooperation with AMATPA-Jordan and funded against Middle East North Africa Hub committee funds. This is a huge step forward for the Palestinians, who had to endure very difficult and tiresome travel arrangements to attend the course. The 11 participants are seen here with Ali Mohamed Ali (back, right), Peter Mills (back, centre) both of CropLife Africa Middle East and organiser of the course, Mahmoud Al Tabaishi (back, left) of AMATPA, Jordan. More details from:

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Training of Trainers for CropLife Uganda in Jinja: 13 to 17-February-2006.
- West Central Africa hub and regulatory meetings in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: 11 & 12-April-2006.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife Egypt in El Mansoura-Dekernis (in Arabic): 12 to 16-March-2006.
- Advanced Training in Biotechnology in Johannesburg: 04 to 06-April-2006.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife Malawi in Lilongwe: 01 to 05-May-2006.
- General Assembly for CropLife Africa Middle East for 2006 is scheduled to convene on 15th June 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya.
- East-Southern Hub and Regulatory meetings in Nairobi on 13 and 14 June-2006.



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