

East & Southern Africa

Plant Biotechnology—SACAU Conference



Dr. John Purchase, CEO, Agricultural Business Chamber

The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) held its annual policy conference on the 16 and 17 May in Johannesburg.

The event was attended by the leadership of national farmers' unions from 14 Southern African countries, the leadership of sub-Saharan regional farmers' unions, as well as representatives of other stakeholders including COMESA, SADC, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, and other development agencies, the private sector and NGO's involved in agricultural development.

The theme of the conference was "GMO's in agricultural development – Perspectives of farmers in Southern Africa". Leading experts addressed the conference on GMO issues from different perspectives (e.g. agronomic, economic, environmental, legal, food safety) whilst a number of contentious issues were also covered.

The agenda included the following:

- The Role of Biotechnology to Enhance Sustainable Agricultural Production, Productivity and Farmer incomes.
- GM agriculture – promises or problems for farming in Southern Africa
- Developments in Agricultural GM Technologies for Africa
- International trade and market access issues related to genetically modified organisms: a developing country perspective.
- Fourteen years of GM crops in South Africa – lessons for the rest of Southern Africa
- Agricultural Finance and GMO's – Agricultural Finance within an Ever Changing Technology Environment.
- The existing policy framework on GMO's in the region.



SACAU—Media Release—30 May 2011

SACAU Adopts a GMO Policy Framework

“The Southern African Confederation of Agriculture Unions (SACAU) has adopted a policy framework on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's). The framework was adopted at its AGM which was recently held on May 18, 2011 in Vereeniging, South Africa.

The policy framework emanated from a policy conference which preceded the AGM, where farmers engaged with researchers and leading experts on the subject of GMO's in agricultural development in Southern Africa. Particularly highlighted in the framework is SACAU's acknowledgement that GM technology is one of the options that can increase production, improve productivity and incomes of farmers, and contribute to addressing food security challenges in the region.

Among others, the framework recognizes the need for evidence-based decision-making; the right of consumers to chose whether or not to consume GMO products; the need for more research and development as well as the widespread dissemination of the results of such research; the importance of directly involving farmers in R&D in GMOs and in related standards setting process and structures; that cost benefit analysis should also look at the costs associated with non adoption GMOs; the need to monitor trade in GMOs in the region; the importance of political will and harmonization of policies in the region, including the urgent need for a bio-safety framework for the region which ensures responsible development and regulation of GMOs in the region.

Following the adoption of the framework by the AGM, specific details of SACAU's key messages and position statements on GMOs are now being developed and will soon be published”.



Dr. Simon Mwale, Senior Programme Manager – Crop Development, SADC Secretariat and Dr. Cris Muyunda, CEO, ACTESA

Biotechnology—AfricaBio

Understanding the challenges and opportunities for applying science to food production”

Guest Speaker: Dr. Gebisa Ejeta.

Dr. Ejeta is President Obama’s envoy for science, who is on a tour of South Africa and two other countries in the region to promote cooperative exchanges in the sciences.

In his opening introduction, Dr. Ejeta said that he cannot see Africa getting out of their food problems without the use of science and technology. That this must be coupled with capacity building and that governments must put in place the right policies to make this all happen.

His presentation covered “Sorghum Research with a Mission at Purdue University” with the focus on the success of the breeding programmes for Striga resistance.



Dr. Gebisa Ejeta with Wally Green Acting CEO, AfricaBio

ASP—South Africa



Back: Nomphele Daniel, DEA, Kevin Helps, FAO Front: Dee Fischer, DEA, Fuziwe Mkuthi, DEA, John Sikazwe, World Bank

On 11 May representatives from DEA, FAO, World Bank and CropLife met to discuss the tender process for “Phase (2)” of the project in South Africa.

During the meeting, the World Bank Non-Consulting Service Document was covered that will be used for the Tender for collection & disposal of pesticide wastes for the next phase of the ASP to be conducted in the Western Cape and Free State provinces . The purpose of the meeting was to ensure that there is a common understanding taking into consideration both the World Bank and DEA requirements on the procedures to be followed for the tendering process.

Other points that require follow up are:

- * Contacting with the World Bank disbursement office to check or confirm the possibility and requirements for the direct payment of the waste contractor.
- * The validity of the trans-boundary movement approvals granted for the Limpopo pilot waste movement (UK Environmental Agency DRR and Basel notification), and whether these are still valid for the intended collection and disposal of the obsolete pesticides in Phase (2).
- * Consulting with the SA Council for Adjudication to notify them of the upcoming adjudication.
- * Consulting with DEA Finance and Legal Services on the possibility of the submission of the Financial Guarantee by the companies intending to express interest in the tender.
- * Discussion and confirmation of the dates for the next PMU, PSC and World Bank Supervision Mission.

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Representing the Plant Science Industry

UGANDA

Anti Counterfeiting Campaign

In early May, CropLife Uganda conducted an anti-counterfeiting workshop at which their proposed “scratch-card” initiative was tabled.

Present were representatives from:

- Uganda National Agro-Dealer Association (UNADA)
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Magezi Solutions
- IFDC
- Monsanto
- Uganda Seed Trade Association (USTA)
- Consumer Trust Education (CONSENT)
- Grameen Foundation
- CropLife Uganda



Participants at the Anti-Counterfeiting Workshop

The opportunity was taken for Rudolf Guyer to detail the “Quality Scheme” and after lengthy discussions it was left to Rudolf to discuss this further with participating companies and to revert further.

The workshop was both well organized and well attended.

Added to this, the Anti-Counterfeiting Bill was tabled in parliament for a second reading on 24 March with legislators passing a 20 year jail term for counterfeiters found guilty.

Container Management /Triple Rinsing Campaign Project

The first “draft production” of the CropLife Uganda film on Triple Rinsing has been made and comments are now awaited.

Training of workers in the flower sector will be undertaken in partnership with the Uganda Flower Export Association (UFEA).

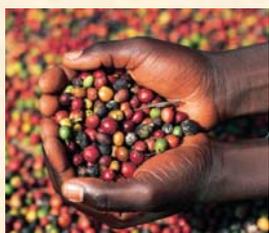
Training of workers on the tea estates will be undertaken in partnership with the Uganda Tea Growers Association (UTGA)

CropLife Uganda in partnership with the Uganda Sugar Association will organize training in the sugar sector.

The training modules will comprise of the following:

- Responsible use promotion
- Triple rinsing and the disposal of empty pesticide containers
- Counterfeit awareness

CropLife Uganda: Responsible Use Training for Arabica Coffee Farmers



Training was undertaken in Eastern Uganda on the slopes of Mount Elgon. A total of one hundred ninety two (192) leader farmers were trained on application techniques in coffee production during the month of April.

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Representing the Plant Science Industry

North Africa Middle East

CropLife Egypt Holds Anti-Counterfeiting Workshop

CropLife Egypt held its 1st Anti-Counterfeiting workshop for the current year on the 23 of May at the Safir Hotel in Cairo, Egypt.

The workshop aimed at concluding a summary of the recommendations made at the 5 earlier workshops undertaken in 2010. This was with the coordination of law enforcement agencies for the practical implementation of anti-counterfeiting measures by the concerned authorities.

The workshop was attended by a number of public and private stakeholders including:

The Ministry of Agriculture with broad representation from its different departments including Crop Protection Services, Extension Services, Agricultural Pesticide Committee and Veterinary services. The Ministry of Finance represented by participants from customs and taxation authorities. The Ministry of Interior represented by participants from its different departments and disciplines. Representatives of the Ministries of Trade and Industry, Environment, Health and Investment, together with pesticides trading and industry stakeholders.

The following recommendations were agreed to for submission to the law enforcement bodies at the various concerned ministries:

- * Set-up of a baseline data base on counterfeits and Frauds.
- * Promulgation of the respective ministerial decree for back-up of the Surveillance Department at the Central Pesticide Laboratory (CAPL).
- * Approval of relevant training programmes for customs and CAPL personnel.
- * Approval of specific awareness workshops in different governorates for different audiences with the participation of CAPL and agricultural extension services of the MOA.
- * Establishment of a national Anti-Counterfeiting council with representation of the various concerned organs via a ministerial decree.
- * Intensification of control measures on the smuggling of pesticides from neighbouring countries in coordination between the Customs Authority and the Interpol.
- * Enforcement of IPR laws with relevant sensitization of existing laws and legislations.
- * The issuance of a brochure comprising all laws and penalties related to counterfeiting and illegal trade for distribution to law enforcement authorities countrywide.
- * The establishment of a telephone hotline for communicating cases of fraud and counterfeits.
- * The production of a brochure comprising all laws and regulations related to the importation and exportation of pesticides.
- * The implementation of the existing MOU between the Egyptian and Chinese surveillance authorities in managing pesticide imports from China.
- * The approval of coordination measures and procedures between the various law enforcement agencies in Egypt.



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Representing the Plant Science Industry

CropLife Egypt Holds Anti-Counterfeiting Workshop

Policy and decision-makers from across the Middle East and Gulf region gathered in Amman, Jordan on 9 and 10 May for a seminar on high food prices and their implications. The seminar, which is part of a series of FAO seminars around the world aiming to support governments in taking urgent and appropriate actions to tackle rising food prices. The seminar was addressed by the Minister of Agriculture Mr. Samir Habashneh and Mr. Saad Al-Otaibi Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Bringing together representatives of agriculture, trade and finance ministries from 13 countries, along with development partners, FAO is facilitating an exchange of country experiences to help countries cope with soaring food prices shocks, including rising fuel prices, exchange rate volatility and climate change.

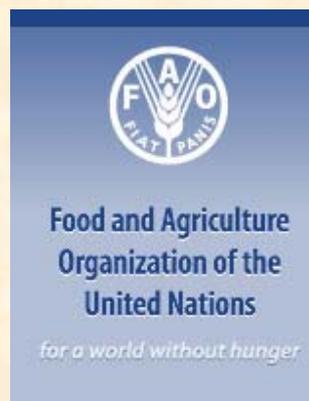
“Increased investment and research in agriculture for the region along with appropriate technical strategies will boost agriculture production in the Middle East and help sustainably deal with high food prices,” said the Jordanian Minister of Agriculture, Mr Samir Habashneh.

The FAO Food Price Index (price index of basic food commodities) continued to remain high during January to April 2011, and indeed at highest levels since FAO’s food price monitoring began in 1990. Countries in the Middle East and Gulf region are heavily dependent on food imports and are the largest importers of cereals in the world, making them highly exposed to international food commodity price shocks. High food prices are a major concern as most household spending is on food. Any increase in prices hits hard poor families who are not able to meet their basic food and nutritional needs. With inflation rising in Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Yemen along with an increasing population, the demand for food continues to grow.

FAO helps countries develop effective long term actions to increase food availability and improve access of people to it. Participating country representatives are looking at the appropriate technical and policy responses to minimize future vulnerability to high and volatile food prices, strengthen safety nets and increase domestic agriculture production.



Minister of Agriculture Mr. Samir Habashneh



West & Central Africa

Anti-Counterfeiting

On May 17-18, under the USAID/USPOT Commercial Law Development Program, a workshop was held in Bamako, Mali. Over 100 participants were present made up of customs and police officers, judiciary authorities, producers of artistic and cultural activities as well as consumer organizations.

The objective of the workshop was:

- To sensitize the group on the prevalence and level of counterfeit goods including medicines and pesticides and the associated risks this poses to public health as well as the negative impact this has on the economy of the country
- To provide knowledge and tools to officials involved in enforcement and prosecution
- To facilitate improved cooperation and communication at borders among enforcement entities
- To expose enforcement entities to international models which will assist them in handling the issue



Participants comprising customs officials and judiciary authorities of Mali



Participants at the programme—photo courtesy CLDP



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Representing the Plant Science Industry

West & Central Africa

Anti-Counterfeiting

The workshop focused on counterfeit and illegal trade of medicines, vaccines and pesticides through presentations and discussions by the following:

- * Malian Customs: Activities and statistics of the Malian customs on the tracking and seizure of counterfeit goods, the legal framework and provisions for prosecuting counterfeiters.
- * International Institute against Counterfeit Medicines (W. Roge, Project Manager): Counterfeiting, trafficking, illicit labeling and packaging of medicines in the sub-region.
- * African Organization of IP (G. NDong, Dept. of Judiciary Affairs): The Bangui Agreement to combat IP infringements.
- * US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Sean Mullin, Program Manager, IPR Coordination Center, Outreach & Training): The American Model to combat Counterfeiting and other IP Infringements.
- * US EPA (Cathleen M. Barnes): Pesticides Quality Control System in the US
- * CropLife Africa Middle East (Bama Yao, WCA Hub Coordinator): Regional activities to combat counterfeit and illegal trade of pesticides supported by the videos on Panama syndrome, seizure of pesticides in Poland and N. Zealand and in Kenya (CropLife Kenya).

The two panel discussions which followed made relevant recommendations for:

- * Customs Services to initiate and lead an “Anti-counterfeiting Task Force”.
- * Closer cooperation among enforcement and prosecution authorities and to include consumers and consumer organizations.
- * Mobilizing resources and facilitating coordinated interventions to targeting key sectors.
- * Maintain a database system.



B. Yao, WCA Hub Coordinator with officials (L) and other facilitators of the workshop (R)



W Roge—Project Manager International Institute against Counterfeit Medicines

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Representing the Plant Science Industry

Building Partnerships

In early April CropLife Cameroon met with the German Cooperation organization GIZ (GTZ).

Participants in the discussions included Henri Fosso, Jean Paul NGoulou and Pierre Kenfack from CropLife Cameroon and Anne-Marie MATHESSE and Heli Makon from GIZ.

The purpose of the meeting was as follows:

- * To discuss cooperation between CropLife Cameroon and GIZ for the Cocoa Livelihood Program. This program has already trained 7000 farmers with an objective of training 27000 farmers.
- * For CropLife Cameroon to consider contact with the "Business Centers" to evaluate their implication in the program.
- * For GIZ to provide a draft MoU for the member companies of CropLife Cameroon for which the association will serve as a liaison body.



giz



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ASP South Africa, PMU meeting	June 02
SSP & Herbicide Training for small-scale farmers - Zambia	June 6-10
Launch of Cocoa Project by ICCO - Cameroon	June 6-10
AGM and ExCo (2)-2011 - Brussels	June 14
Communications Steering Committee meeting - Brussels	June 14
Stewardship Steering Committee meeting - Brussels	June 15
Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee Meeting - Brussels	June 15
Crop Protection Strategy Council Meeting - Brussels	June 16
Stewardship Steering Committee meeting-Brussels	June 15
Project Team Meeting Obsolete Stocks - Brussels	June 17
Interpol IP Crime Training: Lagos, Nigeria.	June 20-22
Master trainer launch with ACDI-VOCA-Cairo	June 26
RRC Meeting 2-2011 - Pau	July 4
Association Training – Malawi & Zambia	July 4 - 8
Meeting with AOAD in Khartoum	July 6-7
Initiation of field promotion of Quality Scheme in Ghana	July 7-12
Hub and Regulatory Workshop, East and South Africa	Aug 16-17
POR training for AME team	Aug 18
Anti-Counterfeiting Training – Uganda/ Kenya/ Tanzania	Aug 29 - 2 Sep
ACDI-VOCA project launch event in Cairo	Sept 18



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GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

Representing the Plant Science Industry