

## South & East Africa

### FANRPAN 2012 Partners' Meeting



Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda providing an overview of FANRPAN

On 31 May FANRPAN held their 2012 Partners' Meeting at the CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria. This is an annual event, which presents an opportunity for the organization to share their current programs, and future plans with existing and prospective partners. The convener of the meeting was the Chairman of the FANRPAN Board of Governors, Hon. Sindiso Ngwenya, current Secretary-General of COMESA.

This year, in addition to the funding and technical partners FANRPAN work with, they extended the invitation to include representatives from the 16 diplomatic country missions where they currently have an operation.

CropLife Africa Middle East has an MOU with FANRPAN.



Group photo of participants at the FANRPAN 2012 Partner's Meeting



FANRPAN  
Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network

## CropLife Ethiopia



During May CropLife Ethiopia in partnership with Chemtread Int. conducted a Responsible Use training workshop for agro-dealers drawn from 8 regional districts.

There were 30 participants at the training and the major crops in their area of operation are: cereals, pulses, veggies, sugar cane and coffee

## ASP Ethiopia

A World Bank Mission took place 9 – 11 May and the following is an update on ASP Ethiopia:

There are more obsolete stocks and associated wastes than originally anticipated at the outset of the ASP Ethiopia project, so in May 2012 a round-table with donors was held in Addis Ababa to alert them to the need for more funds – estimated to be around USD 4 million. The State Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Wondirad Mandefro asked them to try to align their development programs with this urgent waste management problem and dialogue will continue through the Ministry and through the World Bank.

The good news is that the disposal contract was awarded to an international hazardous waste management company on 3 May 2012 and representatives from the company have made an initial visit to plan the work. Safeguarding of low and medium risk stocks will be carried out using the strong local capacity developed through previous FAO obstocks projects, and the international firm will deal with high-risk materials.

Plans are proceeding, to build a pesticide store, to carry out a soil contamination survey, and to develop a sustainable plan for empty pesticide containers. Prevention measures are also ongoing to raise awareness of obstocks risks, to strengthen capacity to manage pesticides, and to promote Integrated Pest Management with its potential for lower pesticide use.

CropLife International is supporting regular short-term inputs from a Technical Adviser for Disposal (TAD), and he is working closely with the Project Management Team to ensure that the project finishes on time at the end of 2012.



les@croplifeafrica.org

Representing the Plant Science Industry

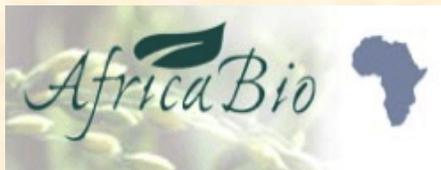
## AfricaBio AGM

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June AfricaBio held their AGM at The Innovation Hub Centre, Pretoria.

The AGM was preceded by a Business Brunch on “GM Labeling: Possible Implications” of which one of the guest speakers was Dr. Stephen Yarrow, Vice President, Plant Biotechnology, CropLife Canada.

Other speakers included Janusz Luterek of Hahn & Hahn attorneys, Ronél Burger, Head of Food Safety Initiative of Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA) and Boikanyo Mokgatle, Head of the National Chamber of Milling.

L – R, Dr. Phumi Obokoh, Dr. Stephen Yarrow, Mr. Janusz Luterek



## CropLife Kenya



On 11 May, CropLife Kenya (AAK) held a Special General Meeting at which Kuria Gatonye was elected Chairman. He takes over the Chair from A.K. Otieno.

Kuria is the Head of Supplies at Tropical Farm Management, a subsidiary of Neumann Kaffee Gruppe. He holds a degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry and has enrolled for an MBA at Jomo Kenyatta University.

He was the previous Vice Chairman and has served on the ExCo of the association for the last 8 years.

We wish him every success in his term of office

Left : Newly elected Chairman, Kuria Gatonye



Kuria Gatonye with past Chairman, Gita Macharia at the SGM

les@croplifeafrica.org

## CropLife Uganda — Anti-counterfeiting program

In April and May, CropLife Uganda established an anti-counterfeiting awareness program in the Acholi sub-region embracing the six districts in Northern Uganda with sponsorship from the aBi Trust project.

Six coordinators were recruited and have now started work by conducting a baseline survey on agro-input products and where they are being used.

Radio spots have been produced “flashing” an anti-counterfeiting message to farmers along the following lines, “farmers always be careful not to buy fake seeds, fertilizers and pesticides on the market. They could destroy your crop, the environment and also make you poor. In case of doubt, always seek advise from authorized dealers in your area. This message is brought to you by CropLife Uganda in conjunction with aBi Trust” This will be aired immediately after clearance with the district authorities on three major radio stations for one month.

The second quarter program for the project kicks off in June 2012.

On Saturday 5th May 2012 The Minister of Trade announced on KFM, a local radio station that the Anti-Counterfeiting Bill will be tabled in parliament during June, for the third and final reading after which the law will come into force.

CropLife Uganda sponsored an inspection conducted by MAAIF in two districts, Pader and Gulu where the anti-counterfeiting awareness initiative project is being undertaken to establish a baseline study for counterfeits in the area.



Above: Field coordinators, demonstrating on how to implement the project in the Gulu and Kitgum districts



Chairman of CropLife Uganda, Stephen Matovu, introducing the project to the Field coordinators in the Kitgum District.

## Kenya - New Maize Disease

Maize is the staple food crop for most Kenyans and therefore it has been the tendency for farmers to grow maize continuously on the same piece of land. This has resulted in the emergency of new pests and diseases, or minor ones assuming major status. One such disease was reported in the Bomet district in September 2011. Since then similar infestations have spread to many other parts of the country.

Surveys carried out by government departments showed that:

- The disease had incidences ranging from 40% damage to total crop loss
- The disease affected a wide variety of maize
- Symptoms were observed in most growth stages of the crop, from 4-leaf stage, up to maturity.
- The diseased fields showed a combination of diverse symptoms that includes viral-like, similar to mottling, flecking, streaking mosaic and leaf roll.
- Other symptoms were fungal-like that includes chlorosis, necrosis with leaf reddening, discoloration of nodes and brownish/white mouldy growth on cobs.
- The ear bracts tended to dry when the rest of plant was still green, often with partial grain or no grain filling.

Government considers the occurrence of the disease as a major threat to food security and has made a concerted effort to contain this by setting up a multidisciplinary team comprising public, private and international organizations including CropLife Kenya to undertake field assessments and collect samples for laboratory analysis. Besides the viral and fungal attack, the disease situation is aggravated by adverse environmental factors such as moisture stress, low soil fertility, and heavy infestation of insect pests such as thrips, aphids, leafhoppers and stalk borer.

Arising from the analysis and consultations among the multidisciplinary team and other stakeholders, a number of recommendations for the containment of the disease have been arrived at.

### Short Term Measures

Timely planting of maize to avoid drought stress, which predisposes the crop to attack whilst farmers are advised to use only certified seed and avoid use of farm saved or recycled seed

### The role of farmers

- To practice crop rotation for two seasons with alternative crops, i.e. Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, beans, bulb onions, spring onions, garlic and vegetables
- To avoid movement of any maize plant materials from infested regions to other areas/farms
- To advise on the success of diversification in planting different crops each season
- To use manure, basal, foliar and top dressing fertilizers to boost plant vigor and resistance to pests and diseases
- To avoid planting maize in fields prone to water logging
- To report all cases of the disease symptoms to the nearest agricultural office

The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with CABI, KARI, KEPHIS and other stakeholders will set up plant clinics where farmers can seek assistance in disease diagnosis;

### Long Term Measures:

- To finalise research work on identification of causal organism
- The declaration by KEPHIS of *Cephalosporium acremonium* as a quarantine pest
- To update the early warning system in the country and institute a rapid response mechanism
- To scale-up related research work on the disease
- To start the screening of a wide range of maize germ plasm to identify resistance or tolerance to the disease across different agro ecological zones
- To start a breeding programme for resistance varieties



Fig 1: Disease symptoms in early stages



Fig 2: Disease symptoms in late stages

les@croplifeafrica.org

## North Africa Middle East

### CropLife Egypt conducts IPM/RU Master Trainer Course

CropLife Egypt in collaboration with the Agricultural Research Centre of the MOA, Egypt, organized a 4-day master trainer course on IPM/Responsible Use, 28 -31 May 2012 at the premises of the Central Agricultural Pesticides Lab in Cairo, Egypt.

The course was sponsored by CropLife Africa Middle East and conducted by the regional trainer, Dr. Said Abdella of CropLife Egypt.

Twelve master trainers participated to the course representing the following disciplines:

- The Plant Protection Research Institute
- The Plant Pathology Research Institute
- The Central Agricultural Pesticide Laboratory
- The Weed Research Institute
- The Extension Service Department

Over the 4 days, the course addressed facilitation skills together with technical training on IPM and the responsible use of pesticides. It incorporated theoretical and practical sessions, participative exercises, written tests and lesson planning.

All participants passed the prescribed tests in IPM and responsible use and were awarded certificates of competence as master trainers.



Working Session



Individual Lesson Plans



Group Photo ToT—Egypt

ali@croplifeafrica.org

Representing the Plant Science Industry

## Farmers Share Their Stories of the Benefits of Plant Science Innovations

To celebrate Earth Day 2012, CropLife International is releasing 34 video profiles of farmers from around the world sharing their stories of how advances in plant biotechnology and crop protection products have made them more profitable and improved their livelihoods, as well as enabled the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. The videos showcase smallholder and large-scale farmers from 11 different countries, harvesting a variety of crops.

Highlights of the video series include:

- Chinese farmer Wang Hengming, who is able to send his son to school thanks to the higher yields and increased income enabled by crop protection products.
- A Zambian mother-daughter team whose investment in modern agricultural technologies enabled them to weather a grain market collapse and maintain a successful farm.
- Brazilian farmer Vilimar Bissoni, who has doubled his yields while reducing water consumption and soil erosion since adopting biotech soybeans and maize.
- North American farmers who can provide better quality products, while protecting soil and water resources, thanks to plant science technologies.

These stories and more are available on CropLife International's ActionforAg website and YouTube page.

What: Thirty-four video profiles of growers sharing their stories of how the plant sciences have improved their farms, livelihoods, and enabled sustainable farming practices.

### Countries included:

Argentina, India, United States, Brazil, Indonesia, Vietnam, Canada, Malawi, Zambia, China, and South Africa

### Crop types included:

Beans Coffee Maize Potatoes Tea Cabbage Cotton Millet Rice Tomatoes Canola Eggplant Mixed Vegetables Sorghum Tree fruits Chili Green beans Oats Sugar Beans Wheat Citrus Groundnuts Onions Sunflower Rice

Where to view/download:

<http://actionforag.org/page/sharing-the-story>

[www.YouTube.com/CropLifeInt](http://www.YouTube.com/CropLifeInt)

### Helping Farmers Protect Biodiversity

On 22 May, the world celebrated biodiversity - the variety of life on Earth. The United Nation's International Day for Biological Diversity was launched in 1993 to increase understanding and awareness of the threats to biodiversity. The loss and change of natural habitats is one of the most significant threats, driven by a variety of factors such as climate change and the conversion of wild lands into farmland. Plant science innovations that help to increase productivity on existing farmlands can help reduce the need for additional agricultural lands, which in turn helps to save natural habitats. In addition, conservation tillage practices can improve habitats and increase food sources for wildlife, while still mitigating climate change. Here are some examples of how these on-farm efforts are working to protect biodiversity around the world.



[ali@croplifeafrica.org](mailto:ali@croplifeafrica.org)

### Raising Yields to Protect Habitats

Using crop protection products and higher-yielding biotech varieties, farmers are now growing more food on each hectare of land. This helps take the pressure off of the need to convert natural habitats into more farmland. For instance, if the world's farmers continued to grow crops at 1961 crop production levels, almost a billion hectares of new farmland would be required today to maintain food supplies - that's more than the total land area of the United States.

### Improving Habitat and Food Sources

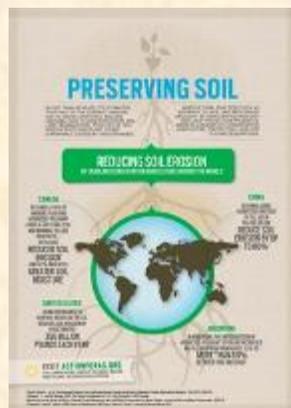
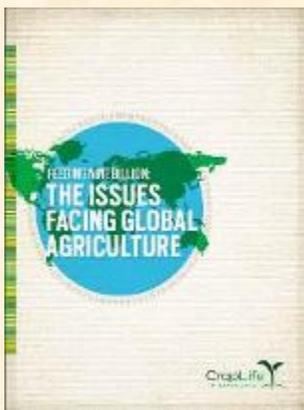
Herbicide-tolerant biotech crops are enabling farmers around the world to use environmentally sound herbicides instead of tillage for weed control - known as conservation or no-till practices. This leaves crop stubble in the field, which improves habitat and food sources for insects, birds and other animals. For example, in a no-till field, quail need just 4.2 hours to find and eat the insects necessary for survival - less than one-fifth the time it takes to obtain the same number of insects in a conventional field.

Learn more about how conservation tillage protects biodiversity and the soil

### Mitigating Climate Change

The switch to conservation tillage also uses less fuel and keeps more carbon in the soil - helping farmers mitigate climate change. For example, in Brazil, lower fuel use associated with the adoption of biotechnology from 1996/97 to 2010/11 reduced CO2 emissions by 468,400 tons, which equates to preserving 3.5 million trees.

Higher crop yields also help mitigate climate change. By increasing yields on existing fields, farmers are under less pressure to clear carbon-rich forests for more farmland. This avoids billions of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions that would have occurred through forest clearing. For example, the net effect of higher-yielding crops has avoided emissions of up to 590 billion tonnes of carbon since 1961.



<http://actionforag.org/page/agriculture-green-economy>

ali@croplifeafrica.org

## West & Central Africa

### COLEACP-EDES Workshop on Food Safety – Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

On 3 & 4 May a COLEACP – EDES Workshop took place in Abidjan. This included institutions and organizations involved in the supply and sanitation of the food-chain comprising the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock & Water Resources, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Commerce, producers organizations, CropLife AME and CropLife Côte d'Ivoire

The purpose of the meeting was to identify needs, develop an action plan for capacity building covering risk management in cocoa, mangoes, subsistence crops and fisheries, and implement a national food safety system. Presentations and discussions covered the following:

The objectives and activities of COLEACP-EDES, including the functioning of the food safety system, official controls, analysis, risks evaluation and communication on risks, beneficiaries and type of support offered.

The Risks analysis which is fundamental for the SPS system, must be based on a scientific approach, and a decision tool to identify priorities, must be relevant, reliable, credible, and transparent focusing on:

Risk evaluation (scientific): identification and characterization of the dangers, evaluation of exposure thus characterization of the risks.

Risk management (political and economic): action based on risks evaluation, action plan for containment, and evaluation of efficacy and evaluation based on results.

Communication on risk (interactive): implicating authorities, professional organizations and consumers / civil society.

The 5 Pillars of a food safety system according to the FAO are: relevant legislation and regulations, competent authorities, inspection services (independent and traceable), accredited labs, education and information system.

A draft action plan for a national food safety system on cocoa, mangoes, subsistence crops and fish is to be submitted to the authorities identifying activities and those responsible. This will include management of a steering committee and technical groups, relationships with other sectors, ministries and organizations, leading to a MoU signing with EDES.

To this end three working groups were formed and assigned the following tasks on risks analysis: the official control and auto-control measures and the identification of supportive activities for beneficiary groups



R. Yeboué, Executive. Secretary CropLife CI (L), and other participants to the EDES workshop on food safety system.

## CropLife Côte d'Ivoire

From 10 – 13 May the Ministry of Agriculture hosted a workshop in Soubré (W. Côte d'Ivoire, major cocoa growing area) with the aim to obtain inputs on issues related to sustainable agriculture.

Participants included:

- Directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture Crop Protection & Quality Control, Land Reform Directorate, Chamber of Agriculture, National Agriculture Research Center, Coffee & Cocoa Management Committee, Rice Development Programme, FIRCA
- Pesticides suppliers: CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and the generic association
- Agro-industries including rubber and palm oil plantations companies
- Farmer Organizations for subsistence crops (vegetable producers) of the South Western Region

The Executive Secretary of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire used the opportunity to discuss the issue of fake pesticides circulating on the market and being used in cocoa production, with the various stakeholders. He proposed a meeting in the coming weeks with the Director General of the Cocoa Management Committee (Comité de Gestion du Café-Cacao, CGCC) for further discussions covering the guidance and policies to combat the use of fake pesticides in the cocoa sector.



Above & Below R. Yeboué, Ex. Secretary CropLife CI giving explanations to Mamadou S. Coulibaly, Minister of Agric and Mrs. Massandjé Touré, Director General Coffee-Cocoa Management Committee during the Farm Day event.



R. Yeboué met also the newly appointed Director General in charge of Production and Food Security of the Minister of Agriculture (L), the national agronomic research center (M) and the rice development programme (R).

## CropLife AME-ICCO SPS African Cocoa Project

On 15 May, Bama Yao, Regional Coordinator, WCA met Y. Abubakar and R. Bateman of ICCO, L. Kouamé and G. NGuessan of Min. Ag Crop Protection Directorate, Regional Coordinator and National Coordinator of the project.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss on the progress of the project in line with the contribution from CropLife AME. To this end, the activities conducted during 2011-12 and the plans for the remainder of the year were presented. This covered:

Regulatory affairs with workshops on the rollout of the PoR in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in March 2012, aiming to improve the regulatory systems, the annual Hub and Regulatory Workshop on April 24-25 in Abidjan with the participation of regulators from the above two countries and the CPAC initiative.

IP/Anti-Counterfeit issues with the workshops in 2011 in Ghana for enforcement agencies, prosecutors and dealers, and in Côte d'Ivoire for customs agents at the borders. The 2012 activities will focus on the training of more enforcement agencies at the borders especially between Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and improved cooperation between the customs services of the 2 countries.

Stewardship activities for 2012 will focus mainly on IPM/RU and Container Management. The stakeholders involved in the ICCO-SDTF SPS project will attend the planned programmes. It was indicated that the activities in Côte d'Ivoire would be conducted if the project were effectively implemented.



Photo: Courtesy ICCO

bama@croplifeafrica.org



CleanFarms Stakeholders meeting Abuja, Nigeria	June 6
IPM/RU-GIZ/FBS Training Côte d'Ivoire	June 06-16
CropLife Uganda – IPM / RU training	June 11-14
CropLife Uganda – Anti-Counterfeiting Training	June 15
CropLife South Africa (AVCASA) Congress	June 13
WHO, covering Poison Information Centres in E&SA	June 14
FANRPAN, common interests under the CAADP Program	June 18
Stakeholder meeting in Accra on Verified Brands	June 19
Global IPM Project Team Meeting Brussels	June 20
Global Stewardship Steering committee Meeting Brussels	June 21
Anti Counterfeiting SC Meeting Brussels	June 26
Board Meeting and AGM Brussels	June 27
CPSC meeting Brussels	June 28
Global Communications SC Meeting Brussels	June 29

**Contributors:**

Ali Mohamed Ali (North Africa Middle East) [ali@croplifeafrica.org](mailto:ali@croplifeafrica.org)

Bama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa) [bama@croplifeafrica.org](mailto:bama@croplifeafrica.org)

Les Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa) [les@croplifeafrica.org](mailto:les@croplifeafrica.org)

**GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY**

Representing the Plant Science Industry