



Country News

Togo

A one day training session was conducted in Togo, by CropLife members (A. Coulibaly, Bayer CropScience, Roger Yeboué, Syngenta and Bama Octave Yao of CropLife Africa Middle East), to assist with the rapid setting up of the pesticides committee following the signing of the decree on pesticides registration in the country. The overall objective was to build capacity and reinforce competence within the membership of the committee to analyse and study files for product registration. The topics included: Crop Protection Products and Good Agricultural Practice: Requirements for registration, including dossier submission, product characteristics, product technical information; the experience of Côte d'Ivoire - management of sessions and committees, communication, file handling, and confidentiality of data; CropLife Africa Middle East and Regional Regulatory Initiatives - industry support and implication in regional harmonisation initiatives. For more, contact: bama-croplife@aviso.ci

What's happening?

- Train-the-Trainer courses
- Biotechnology Training
- CropLife launches: Syria & Mali
- IPR mini conference
- News snippets on back page
- Global Project Teams & Committees

Mali

On 18-February-2006, in Bamako, the CropLife Mali launching ceremony was conducted along with a lunch press conference on contribution of CPP's in agricultural productivity and sustainable agriculture launched. Following the name and logo adoption and official registration by authorities, a conference was also held to assist the authorities to focusing on the need to implement and comply with regulations on CPP's in the country. Emphasis was also placed on implementing repressive measures to be taken to combat frauds and piracy. This was organised in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture. bama-croplife@aviso.ci

CropLife Syria Launched

On the 8th of February the launch ceremony of CropLife Syria was held at the Palais des Nobles restaurant in Damascus in the presence of 300 guests representing public and private sector institutions together with UN agencies, NGOs and Diplomatic missions in Syria. The ceremony was held under the patronage of the Minister of Agriculture of Syria who addressed

the event commending CropLife AME assistance in creating the association. Dr. Rudolf Guyer, President of CropLife AME and Vice-President Michel Chartouni also addressed the ceremony highlighting CropLife's mission, vision and values, also elaborating on regional initiatives and activities. Contact:

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Mediterranean Students attend ToT



The first in a series of originating from the sur-
rounding Mediterranean
countries, once graduated,
will work in government,
industry or in related ca-
reers and this has ex-
posed them to the indus-
try as well as provided
them with the necessary
capacity to be competent
in information transfer.
For more information,
contact:
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Meetings of Global Project Teams & Committees

**How to
implement the
FAO Code of
Conduct on
Distribution &
Use of
Pesticides**

Ali Mohamed Ali, Re-
gional Co-ordinator,
represented CropLife
Africa Middle East in
the meetings of Global
Committees and Pro-
ject Teams held at the
Hotel Intercontinental
in Geneva, between 20
and 23-February-2006.
The meetings focused
on the following re-
spective issues:

1 The **Stewardship
and Sustainable Ag-
riculture Committee**
identified Key Perform-
ance Indicators (KPI's)
for CropLife Interna-
tional stewardship ac-
tivities, specifically,

research & develop-
ment; manufacturing;
transport, distribution
& warehousing; Inte-
grated Pest Manage-
ment; Safe Use; con-
tainer management;
and obsolete stocks
management. The KPI
document will be circu-
lated amongst mem-
bers once finalised.

2. The **Chemicals
Committee** focused
on identifying joint
common areas of inter-
est with the Steward-
ship & Sustainable Ag-
riculture Committee
and due co-ordination
required.

3. The **FAO Code of
Conduct Implemen-
tation Team** devel-
oped a road map for
actions regarding Code
of Conduct compliance
activities in preparation
for the "FAO Panel of
Experts" meeting. The
committee assigned a
team, led by Shannon
Bass of Dow Agro-
Sciences to prepare a
toolbox of PowerPoint
presentations relative
to Code of Conduct
training requirements
to different audiences.
The toolbox will be
available to both
Global Secretariat and
Regional Associations.

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CropLife International's First 'Mini-Conference' in Geneva Draws Highest Ever Percentage of External Stakeholders

The first of CropLife International's "mini-conferences" took place last week in Geneva, drawing more than half of participants from outside the plant science industry. Some 80 representatives from country missions, international organizations and several industry sectors attended the conference, debating issues related to intellectual property (IP) protection and innovation (see Heads Up 219).

CropLife's conference was well timed to deliver industry's messages on these issues to key stakeholders. The event coincided with a meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), where a new development agenda for the organization is being discussed. In this context, a coalition of countries calling themselves "Friends of Development" are seeking to weaken WIPO's role in promoting such protections around the world.

Ensuring continued adequate protection of IP rights under the guidance and cooperation of WIPO is critical to the plant science industry. The aim of the conference was not only to reinforce the need for innovation incentives and the legitimate protection of IP, but also to challenge industry's thinking by listening to the variety of different opinions that exist in this area.

Building on CropLife's Annual Conference last June, the event featured speakers from WIPO, academia, the seed industry and developing countries. They analyzed the need for tools that encourage research and development for innovation in order to cope with the increasingly growing demand for technologies around the world.

In addition to exploring the experiences of other sectors - such as the motion picture industry - in promoting innovation and technology transfer, speakers explored novel models of IP protection, including the establishment of prize incentives for innovators. One speaker also questioned whether IP protections are relevant for developing countries launching domestic technology-driven industries.

In the recent years, IP has become a politically controversial issue, as several developing countries and influential NGOs question the fairness of such protections, and argue that they can be harmful to the rights of indigenous communities.

Industry believes that strong protection of IP rights is an essential step in the path out of poverty, increasing technology transfer and foreign investment, as well as expanding international trade and long-term economic growth.

In addition to its support for

WIPO, CropLife International works on IP issues within the context of the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS), in international treaties such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and in multilateral and bilateral trade agreements.

Presentations and photos from the Conference are now available on the CropLife International website at www.croplife.org.

**Industry
supports
WIPO's role
in protecting
intellectual
property
rights
around the
world**

News Snippets

Tom Mabesa was appointed on 1 January 2006 as CEO of AVCASA and Operations Manager of CropLife South Africa. He takes over from Jan Kleyhans, who has retired. Enjoy your retirement, Jan!

The registration of the name CropLife Malawi was approved by the respective authorities. This brings to 11 the number of National Associations that have now taken on the CropLife Brand in E&SA.

Bama Yao, CropLife Africa Middle East Area Coordinator for West-Central area announced that the Hub and Regulatory meetings due to be held in Ouagadougou will be cost shared with the IFDC-MIR Project in Burkina Faso, as part of the continuing cooperation between IFDC and CropLife Africa Middle East.

Training of Trainers: APEP Uganda

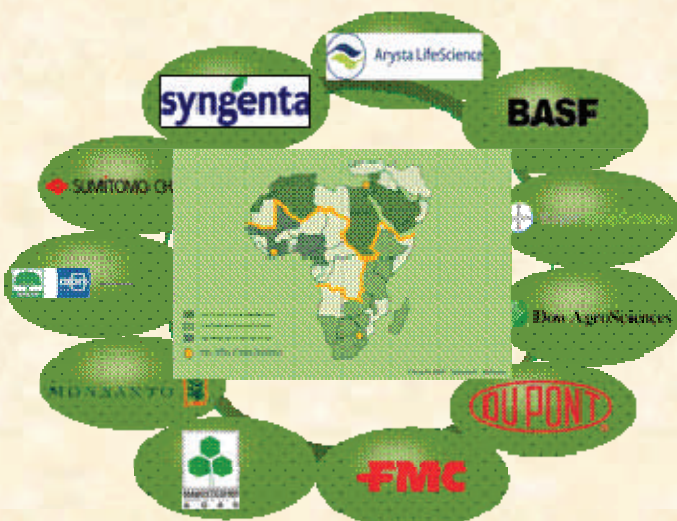
A five day Training of Trainers course was held in Jinja, Uganda, from the 13 to 17-February-2006, for training staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, the USAID backed Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Program and CropLife Uganda members. During the course Fred Muduuli of CropLife Uganda handed a cheque for US\$5000 to Fred Muhhuku, the training co-ordinator for APEP, constituting a CropLife contribution to the training and to the APEP program activities.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 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: 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.
- East-Southern Hub and Regulatory meetings in Nairobi: 13 & 14 June-2006.



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