

Stewardship

CropLife signs contract with World Cocoa Foundation introducing the Spray Service Provider (SSP) Concept in West Africa



CropLife Africa Middle East (CLAME) signed a 2-year contract with the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) aimed at reaching 40,000 farmers. CLAME Director General, Rudolf Guyer and WCF Senior Program Director Michael Cullen exchanged contracts on 11 Feb 2013 at the WCF offices in Washington.

The objective of the contract is to implement the Spray Service Provider (SSP) concept in the cocoa sector in West Africa. A Spray Service Provider is a registered agro-input dealer or a farmer (called lead farmer) who has received special training to apply pesticides and who hires out his services to (fellow) farmers to spray their lands. This implies that untrained farmers will no longer handle pesticides, and that this application will only be undertaken by those who are suitably trained and certified. CropLife Africa Middle East has developed the SSP concept to improve access to quality pesticides and the correct application of these, resulting in higher yields.

The WCF/SSP project started in February 2013 and will be implemented in Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon. For each country a national coordinator has been appointed and who will be responsible for managing activities in his/her country. Bama Yao will be the overall Project Manager assisted by Training Coordinator, Manon Dohmen. In early February all national coordinators met in Accra to prepare country specific budgets and action plans.

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Training is a critical component of the Spray Service Provider concept. CropLife trainers will train field officers of member companies of the national CropLife association, who in turn will train interested lead farmers and agro dealers to become SSP's. The training of SSPs will be the responsibility, both financially and organizationally, of member companies. In October last year, a Training-of-Trainers program was organized in Accra to train national trainers from the four countries in the use of the SSP training manual that has been adapted to cocoa. All countries have planned to organize their first training of SSP-trainers in March 2013. Following this, the trained Field Officers will go into the field to train agro dealers and farmers to become SSP's.

During the training program potential SSPs learn in the field how to apply pesticides to cocoa. Each SSP will undertake a test at the end of the program to evaluate if he is capable of doing the work required of an SSP. If an agro dealer or lead farmer passes the test, he is officially certified as an SSP by the national CropLife association for a period of two years. Each certified SSP will receive an Identity Card which states the period of certification so farmers can easily recognize if someone is still certified or not. When the certification expires, the SSP needs to undergo a refresher course to get recertified.

Farmers will have the freedom to select their own SSP and change if they are not satisfied with the services they receive. This encourages competition among SSPs to deliver good service. Farmers will negotiate a price directly with the SSP upon recommendations of the national CropLife association. To ensure access to good quality pesticides, SSPs will be linked to accredited dealers from the member companies that are based in the rural areas. Preferably farmers and SSPs will be linked to dealers that have previously followed a technical training on pesticides, to ensure that the correct pesticides will be recommended. SSPs will be trained to recommend and spray only pesticides that are registered in the respective country and which are recommended by the USAID – WCF.

The key to success and sustainability of the concept is the direct involvement of the private sector through the establishment of a profitable business for SSPs and member companies. The SSP concept depends largely on stimulating market forces by linking the demand for pesticides and the application of these to a supply source. From the onset of the program, suppliers of pesticides would need to invest in these linkages if they would like to participate in the project. In addition, farmers need to pay for the services of SSPs without subsidies.

Manon Dohmen



World Cocoa
Foundation

CropLife Egypt Fights Counterfeiting



Said Abdella of CropLife Egypt delivering his presentation

CropLife Egypt participated in the workshop organized by Dow AgroSciences (DAS) in Luxor (Upper Egypt) on 15 - 17 January. The aim of the workshop was to promote the use of branded products that are produced through new industry technologies.

One of the main threats to the Egyptian market is the use of illegal pesticides which are likely to be unregistered or contain high impurities, and which impacts on both, agricultural exports and local consumers.

Illegal pesticides and intellectual property rights (IPR) was the subject presented by CropLife Egypt. The presentation covered the impact of counterfeit and illegal pesticides on human health, crop damage, the environment and exports.

The audience at the workshop comprised of representatives from DAS, the Exporter Union, commercial farmers and farmer associations.

DAS is preparing to support CropLife Egypt's activities in their fight against illegal pesticides by arranging a national workshop in March focusing specifically on counterfeit pesticides. State authorities and experts in this field will be invited to attend. The workshop will be a joint effort of DAS and CropLife.

Said Abdella

Group Photo of the participants at the workshop



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CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and CropLife Ghana - E-Learning on the International Code of Conduct (CoC)

On 14 February, 12 member companies from CropLife Côte d'Ivoire and on 20 February, 14 member companies from CropLife Ghana underwent training on E-Learning of the International Code of Conduct.

The training involved the rollout of the learning tools to the national associations. A short introductory presentation on the CoC was given, focusing on its importance and objectives, and the need for industry to support this.

A demonstration exercise was conducted for each of the training sessions. Participants will now plan the rollout within their respective companies.

Reports will be collected and assistance offered where necessary for group trainings.

The opportunity was taken at the two workshops to also cover the following:

- Regulations in Côte d'Ivoire and the topics for discussion with the Directorate of Plant Protection (Direction de la protection des Végétaux, DPV) on the PoR gap analysis and subsequent improvement actions of the regulatory framework. A meeting with the DPV is being planned for mid-April.
- A session on Anti-Counterfeiting with CropLife Ghana to collect views, comments and ideas, from member companies for the upcoming training of the customs services and regulators. Two journalists participated at the training and gave excellent coverage of the event.

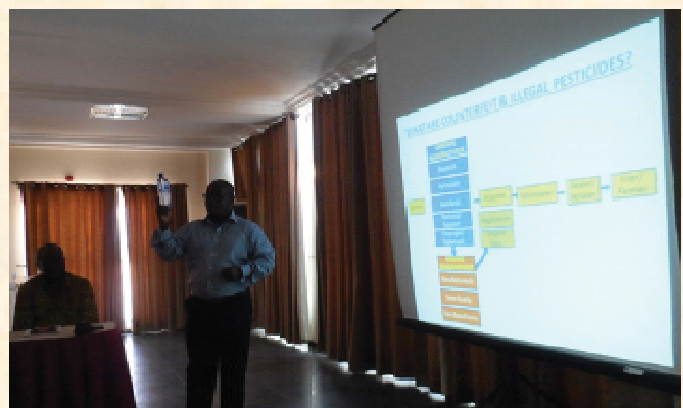
<http://agricinghana.com/2013/02/21/croplife-ghana-workshop-code-of-conduct-training-workshop-held->



Above and Below: Participants at the CoC training sessions in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana



Sessions on the E-learning tools of the CoC (below left) and the Illegal trade of pesticides (below right) facilitated by Bama Yao, Regional Coordinator and Fred Boampong, Program Officer CropLife Ghana, respectively.



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Container Management – CropLife Ghana



The Technical Director of Cyclus Elmina exchanging views with Bama Yao (Above), and with Fred Boampong and Bob Adjakloe (Below).

A delegation comprising of Bama Yao, Fred Boampong, and Bob Adjakloe, officer of the CleanFarms program in Ghana, visited Cyclus Elmina on 21 February to discuss the progress on the collection of the empty containers from the Tema and Kumasi facilities. Cyclus Elmina is the selected recycler for the CleanFarms project and is situated in Elmina on the West Coast.

The Technical Director, Dickson Yankey gave a short presentation on the plant, a non-profit organization established by Dutch stakeholders to clean up the coast of the Elmina area. Today the plant is regarded as the recycling site for all plastic waste around the country. The HDPE from pesticide containers will be used in a cement mix to produce floor tiles. Difficulties being faced are the high transportation costs from Kumasi with a request to CropLife Ghana for assistance. This issue will be addressed at the next CropLife Ghana ExCo meeting.

Bama Yao



Above and Left - Collection point (Photos courtesy of PYEBORG)

World Cocoa Foundation-African Cocoa Initiative: SSP National Coordinators Workshop

The national coordinators from the target countries of the WCF-ACI, namely Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria met in Accra, Ghana on 5 & 6 February. The purpose of this get-together was to familiarize the coordinators with the project, plan and coordinate country specific activities and establish reporting procedures. The following topics were addressed:

- CropLife AME: Vision & Mission, key stewardship priorities and the importance of building strategic alliances for maximizing the benefits of available resources to sustain agricultural productivity.
- WCF-ACI/SSP: Role and objectives, target countries, expected outputs and country specificities including organization and structure of the program.
- An overview of the training materials
- Activity planning at regional and country levels, financial and technical reporting.

The kick-off activity for all target countries is planned for early March with the training of the SPP trainers. The project manager, Bama Yao will continue contact with the licensed buying companies such as Cargill, ADM, etc. for their participation in the program.

The next Coordinators Meeting is scheduled for 10 July in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Bama Yao



The four national coordinators from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria (L-R, respectively) together with Manon Dohmen, Project Technical Coordinator (R), listening to Bama Yao, Project Manager.



Training-of-Trainers: CropLife Mauritius & CropLife Madagascar

The Training-of-Trainers (ToT) program took place from 18 - 22 February at the International Training Centre in Reduit, Mauritius. The program consisted of two parts: theory and practice on training and facilitation skills (Monday to Wednesday) and individual lessons (Thursday and Friday).

A total of 12 participants (8 male, 4 female) attended the program. All of them work for importers and distributors of pesticides. The following topics were discussed during the first three days: preparation of a training program, the SDF-model, adult learning, training methods and approaches, training aids, group dynamics, questioning, verbal and non-verbal communication, facilitate discussions, and evaluation and follow up. A new topic presentation was added, How to generate ideas among participants, which was well appreciated. All sessions were facilitated in an interactive way with lots of exercises and sharing of experience of participants.

During the individual lessons on Thursday and Friday, every participant had to facilitate a session of 20 minutes about a topic related to pesticide management. After the session, feedback was provided by the participants and the trainer using an evaluation sheet in which marks were given for several aspects of the session.

The educational level of the group was very high. Good questions were asked and in general almost all participants participated well in all sessions.

The group dynamics were very good. During breaks participants talked with different persons and also the 3 participants from Madagascar integrated very well.

Unfortunately it rained heavily during the whole week; therefore no sessions could be done outside (normally at least 1 session per day is done outside).

The knowledge of every participant was evaluated with a written pre- and post test and during their individual lessons. The written test was well handled with an average of 81%. Five participants scored higher than 90%, which is very good.

The level of individual lessons was good with an average of 80%. Some participants did very good sessions with creative exercises and good visuals.

All participants received a certificate of competence.

Handouts of all sessions and documents of the training were distributed to all participants.

Manon Dohmen



Group photo of the 12 participants together with Manon Dohmen

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Association Management

CropLife Zambia

CropLife Zambia signed an agreement with The Seed Association of Zambia for the sharing of accommodation and secretarial services. The offices are ideally located in the heart of the agricultural sector.

Les Hillowitz



Perry located in his new office

CropLife South Africa launches AgrIntel (Agriculture Intelligence)



Kobus Hartman,
leader of the
AgrIntel Team

On 13 February CropLife South Africa launched AgrIntel. AgrIntel is a unique South African crop management tool tailored to the needs of modern crop production. It has comprehensive information on plant pests, diseases and weeds that threaten crops and offers information on registered agricultural remedies, application windows, withholding periods, maximum residue limits and export requirements through a web-based search engine to assist producers to select crop management systems that will afford them a competitive edge in the local and export markets.

It is a smooth communication of reliable information that creates a strong foundation for the professionalism in the crop protection trade. A strong point emphasized is that it is free to vetted users and that ownership is vested in CropLife South Africa.

A lot more development is needed to turn this tool into a world-class apparatus but there are a number of initiatives now ready in this direction making this indispensable to South African agriculture.

Les Hillowitz



The AgrIntel Team, Sahah Le Grange, Kobus Hartman and Chana-Lee White with Tom Mabesa and Marcel Dreyer

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CropLife Uganda

- Stephen Matovu & Betty Atto met with the Eric Derks, Chief of Party, of the Feed the Future (FTF) Agricultural Inputs Activity and Boniface Musisa of Tetra Tech to discuss the role of CropLife Uganda in the project. Further discussions are planned.
- Feed the Future (FTF) is a \$3.5 billion U.S government initiative to address the root causes of hunger and poverty through developed plans in twenty focus countries, including Uganda. The project was announced by President Obama Barrack at the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila Italy, stating that FTF seeks to accelerate inclusive agricultural sector growth through improved productivity, expanded markets and trade, and increased economic resilience of rural communities.
- Stephen Matovu, Rubangura Anastase and Betty Atto of CropLife Uganda attended the Launch of the Feed the Future on Agri-input activities projects, on 5 March at the Kati- Kati Restaurant, Kampala, Uganda. The launch was well attended by a cross section of stakeholders.

Right: Photo courtesy USAID



L - R Representative from USAID-Uganda Office, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Maura O'Neil Chief Innovation Officer Washington, DC and Eric Derks Chief of Party, Tetra Tech ARD.



CropLife Uganda relocated to new premises to be closer to their members and to be able to offer parking facilities for visitors.

CropLife Malawi

CropLife Malawi held their AGM on 22 March at which Adamson Tong'o was re-elected Chairman. The new ExCo comprises of Adamson Tong'o, Overton Muwalo, Secretary, Paul Chimimba, Treasurer and Peter Chilipanthenga, Member.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The new constitution as drafted following the association management training last year, has been accepted with a few minor changes.
- The levy currently being paid to the Malawi Bureau of Standards has now officially been redirected to The Pesticides Control Board.
- Registration fees have been increased to improve the capacity of The Pesticides Control Board.

Les Hillowitz



Adamson Tong'o

Regulatory

COMESA / ACTESA

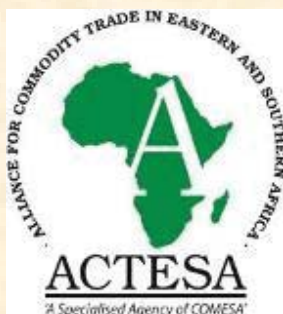
Discussions were held with Dr John Mukuka and Dr Getachew Belay.

It would seem as if the flow of correspondence directed at Dr Mwila was being delegated to two parties, both believing that the "other" was taking care of this. John Mukuka who is the responsible person for "Seed Harmonization" within COMESA has now accepted responsibility to run with the harmonization of CPP's. It is interesting to note that with seed harmonization, SADC, as with CPP's, took the leading role in harmonization. John wants the opportunity to go through the SADC SPS Guidelines on CPP's and gave the assurance that we will hear from him in the next couple of weeks.

Les Hillowitz



John Mukuka (L) Getachew Belay (R)



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Plant Biotechnology

Record GMO crop production for South Africa, 2012

South Africa chalked up a record biotech crop in 2012 of 2.9 million hectares (2.3 million in 2011). Production increased progressively for 15 consecutive years. GM maize was in the lead with 2.428 million hectares, a 5% increase over the previous year. A whopping 86% of the total 2.83 million maize hectares (2.6 million in 2011), said Mr. Johannes Möller, president of Agri SA.

Speaking at a biotech press conference in Pretoria, Möller said soybean production shot up to 500 000 hectares, (450 000 ha 2011), an increase of 11% of which 90%, 450 000 ha, was herbicide tolerant biotech.

Biotech cotton declined to 11 000 ha (15 000 ha 2011), 100% biotech and 95% were stacked traits. Decline was mainly due to lower cotton prices, higher maize, soybean and other crop prices.

Approximately 16 million ha accumulative of GMO maize, white and yellow, were planted in the 12 year period 2000 to 2012, producing a grain crop of over 40 million tons without a single report of negative effects on humans, animals or the environment.

White maize of 1.641 million ha comprised 80.5% biotech or 1.321 million ha. Yellow maize on 1.189 million ha comprised 93% biotech or 1.106 million ha.

A number of biotech crops have been given approval for field-testing, including drought tolerant and insect resistance/drought tolerant maize and cotton, altered sugars in sugar cane, and altered starch in cassava. Such combinations will offer flexibility in managing weed and insect problems.

South Africa has shifted its GM maize exports from Africa to worldwide new markets and carry-over stocks were almost depleted.

In terms of the GMO Act, all GMO-related activities are subject to a permit application. There were 294 GMO permits granted from January 31 to October 2012. Maize accounted for 86%; soybeans 6.5%, cotton 2.8%, GM vaccines 4.4% and one permit each for sugar cane and cassava.

Mandatory labeling of GMO products that should have been implemented in 2011 is on hold. Strong criticism from stakeholders in the food chain, due to the ambiguity and complexity of the issue, has resulted in the Department of Trade and Industry appointing a task team to address the conflicts and confusion of the labeling regulation. The issue is still being debated.

It is estimated that the economic gain from biotech crops for South Africa for the period 1998 to 2011 was US\$ 922 million, and US\$ 98 million for 2011 alone. (Brookes and Barfoot, 2013, forthcoming.)

Hans Lombard



Johannes Muller

Upcoming
Events

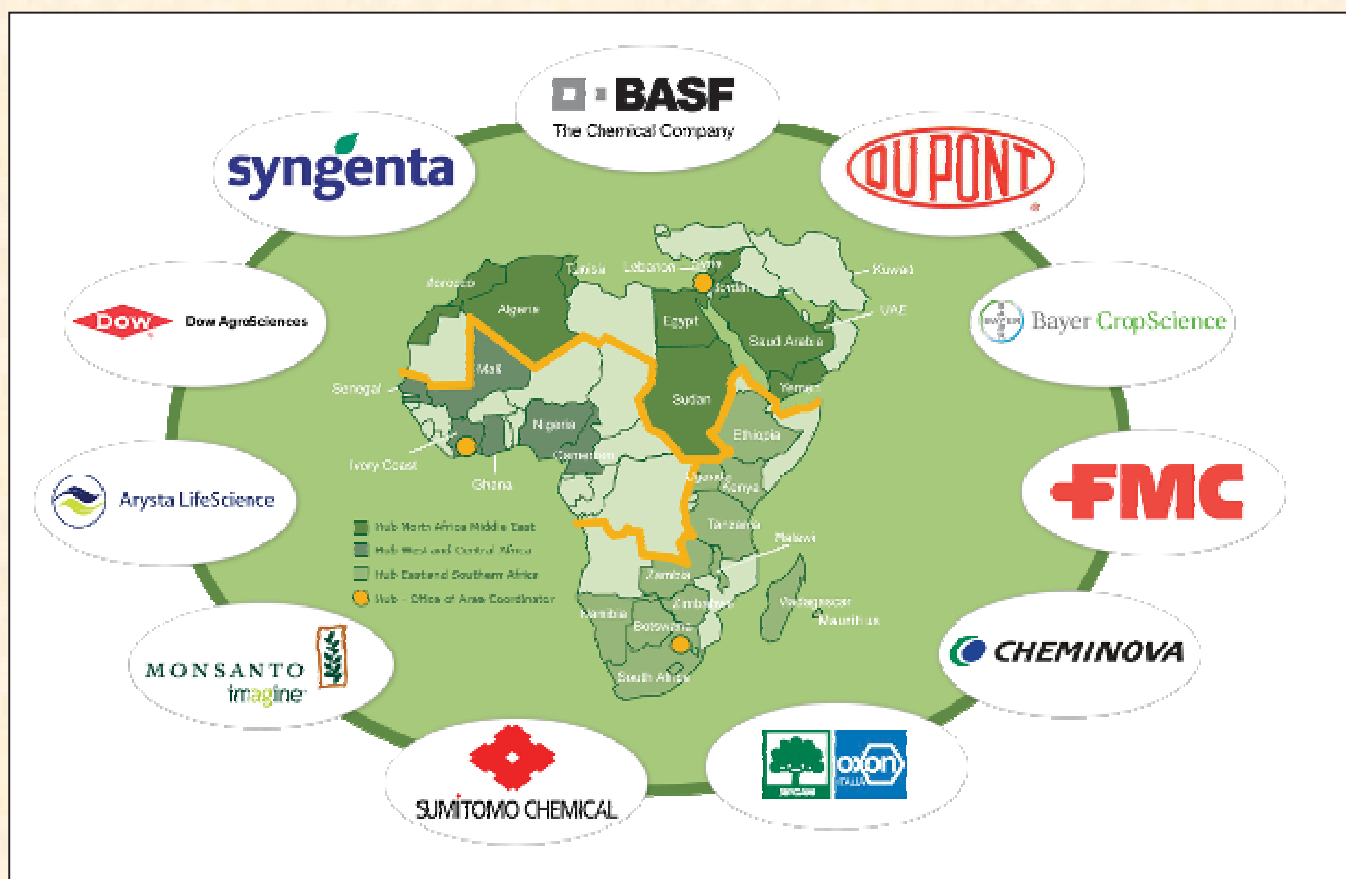
Upcoming
Events

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ToT training for CropLife Nigeria	4 – 8 March
Africa Region Plant Biotech Workshop: Ghana	4 – 8 March
Meeting of Regional Regulatory Committee 1-2013, Basel	13 – 14 March
ToT training in Kumasi	11 – 15 March
Container Management Workshop: Zambia	21 March
Africa IP Group Regional Workshop, Dar es Salaam	19 – 22 March
CropLife Uganda AGM	26 March
PSCA Registration Workshop: South Africa	11 April
Hub and Regulatory Workshop, West and Central Africa	16 – 17 April
Association Management Training: CropLife Zambia	6 – 7 May
Association Management Training: CropLife Kenya	9 – 10 May



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GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

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