

West and Central Africa

WCA Annual Hub & Regulatory Workshop

Under the theme, “Striving for Excellence in Regulatory Matters Through Government-Industry Collaboration”, the WCA Annual Hub & Regulatory Workshop took place on 24 & 25 April in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. The Minister of Agriculture, Côte d’Ivoire, the Hon. Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly, officially opened the workshop.

Three prime objectives were set for the workshop, namely:

- To familiarize and guide participants on the needs for cooperation in the implementation of elements of the Principles of Regulations (PoR).
- To set-up action plans to improve the regulatory systems of the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (CSP), Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana.
- To guide and assist the national associations in their planning and execution of action plans based on agreed priorities.

The two-day programme in both the hub and regulatory sessions focused on the collaborative efforts between the industry and partners in the various priority results areas. The following areas were covered:

Stewardship Vision 2020: (IPM/RU, container management obstocks under the CleanFarms initiative, the International CoC, resistance management) stressing on the crucial role of national associations for implementation and the need for engaging in alliances with government and other stakeholders through specific projects. Examples of such projects are; GIZ/Cocoa Livelihoods programme, IFDC-CASE, etc. The importance emphasized the need for sharing in the communications of such projects, both internally (CropLife network) and external.

Regulations: focused on the PoR with the need for improving the existing regulations in CILSS (CSP), Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana. Action plans related to this were proposed for final consideration and implementation. Constructive support for regulatory improvement was received through feedback in the ongoing ECOWAS-WAEMU harmonization initiative implemented by IFDC -MIR Plus, the CPAC-CEMAC common initiative, and regulatory initiatives and related activities by COLEACP-PIP. IFDC-MIR Plus presented a report (to be finalized for distribution) on the poor quality of pesticides on the market with regard to regulations, registration, labeling, storage conditions, technical support and certification of the distributors / agro-dealers.



The Honourable Mamadou Coulibaly,



(Above Left J. Barnes, Vice President and WCA Hub Chairman, Above Right M. Dosso, President CropLife Côte d’Ivoire, and E. Bureau President of the Board of Directors, CropLife AME speaking on the effective implementation of transparent regulations and actions against counterfeiters

WCA Annual Hub & Regulatory Workshop

- **Anti-Counterfeiting & IPR:** An overview was given on the various ongoing efforts by industry, and a challenge presented to governments on their responsibility for full implementation of regulations and to actively engage in the need to fight counterfeit and illegal trade. The Minister of Agriculture of Côte d'Ivoire who chaired the opening ceremony was fully supportive of the message of Eric Bureau, President of the Board of CropLife AME, and committed the Department of Crop Protection to engage in the needed corrective actions in cooperation with CropLife AME and CropLife Côte d'Ivoire.
- **Association Management & Communication:** participants benefited from the experience of CropLife Morocco in their cooperation with the regulatory body (ONSSA). This has been successful based on the shared responsibility of all members of the association, and the benefits of communication showing credibility and trust within the association as well as with partners and other stakeholders.



The Minister of Agriculture with the participants at the WCA Hub Annual Workshop

CPAC-CEMAC Common Regulatory Initiative

On 23 April, at the Golf hotel Abidjan, representatives from CPAC and CropLife AME met and covered the following:

- To update and provide inputs for the CPAC initiative for effective registrations.
- B. Bouato gave a summary on the recent activities conducted in the countries. It became evident that more needs to be achieved.
- That CPAC should provide the application document to CropLife AME for comments and possible inputs.
- CropLife AME would like to be consulted for contribution to the other components of the registration procedures especially labeling, trial protocols, laboratories and the selection of research institutes on which to conduct trials, cost of trials and the application dossier for products seeking registration.
- CropLife AME took note of the fact that the CPAC is expecting assistance from COLAIECP-PIP for accelerated registration procedures, as this step could help motivate and speed-up the implementation process.

bama@croplifeafrica.org

CropLife Côte d'Ivoire-Association Management

In the afternoon of 24 April, at the Golf hotel in Abidjan, representatives from CropLife Africa & Middle East and CropLife Cote d'Ivoire met to discuss association management issues. Areas covered included:

- For everyone to become familiarized with the governance of CropLife Côte d'Ivoire. The national association now has an Executive Board and an Executive Secretary, which handles the day-to-day activities, and a Consultative Council made up from the DGs/CEOs of the member companies.
- To guide CropLife Côte d'Ivoire in the alignment on the strategic priorities of CropLife AME, and to encourage them to take a leading role in the Hub.
- For CropLife Côte d'Ivoire to provide background on the recent cocoa tenders. The intervention by the association was to protect the interests of its members, and not to target or support a specific product or active ingredient.
- To ensure that members are fully aware and understand the CLI Antitrust Guidelines.

bama@croplifeafrica.org

Study Reveals Potential of Farms in Africa

In early April a report commissioned by Basileus Capital, a private, unlisted investment firm that has interests in agricultural business opportunities across the continent, was released and which claimed that Africa currently imported about 90 million tons of agricultural commodities valued at \$ 53 billion a year.

Naledi Mongoato, an analyst at the firm who compiled the report's disturbing findings, revealed that the largest imported commodity was wheat, at a staggering cost of \$ 8.5 billion for a commodity that could be grown with ease in Africa.

Mongoato's research suggested that most foreign agricultural investments' into Africa focused their production for export markets with minimal plans for the African market.

Northern Africa was the largest wheat-trading region, as it imported about 60% of the commodity, which amounted to \$ 5 billion. East and west each account for 17% or \$ 1.4 billion, with southern and central Africa sharing the balance.

The research noted that the African populace could double by 2050 to approximately 2 billion people. What this meant was that if Africa did not start producing most of its staple foods, a greater strain could be placed on the buying power of governments and traders for agricultural products that could easily be grown in their respective countries.

On the surface it appears there is clearly an opportunity to produce and trade wheat in Africa. The ideal country to grow wheat would be in Tanzania, the research explained.

In addition, Tanzania had a stable political and business environment where infrastructure such as rail and road was well maintained, and it had impressive water resources of 500mm to 3,000mm of annual rainfall.

In addition, the report alleged that global hedge funds were purchasing large plots of land or had acquired it on long-term leases. These funds specifically targeted cheaper land in South America, Asia and Africa.

The Oakland Institute, a US-based research company, released a shocking report, after studying land deals in sub-Saharan African countries such as Ethiopia, Tanzania, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Mali and Mozambique.

In 2009, speculators bought or leased 60 million hectares of land in these countries, an area the size of France. The Oakland Institute concluded that most of these deals were characterized by a lack of transparency and more often than not, were based on false promises to local chiefs.

The competition for arable land has intensified with speculators often driving up farmland prices. Speculators are distorting the prices of prime land in Africa and increasing the cost of entering the commercial farming sector.

North Africa Middle East

Training & Qualifying Pesticide Operators & Applicators - A Joint ACDI/VOCA and CropLife Africa Middle East Programme in Egypt

CropLife AME and ACDI/VOCA are jointly implementing a programme to initiate a sustainable national programme for training and qualifying pesticide operators and applicators in Egypt, leading to certification and licensing by the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture. Inappropriate application of agrochemicals during production is common in Egypt, leading to high levels of soil toxicity and concerns over food safety in export markets. This programme, which was jointly designed by ACDI/VOCA and CropLife Africa Middle East, aims to improve responsible use of pesticides by 1) educating growers, suppliers (operators) and applicators of the hazards of inappropriate application of agrochemicals, 2) supporting the development of national standards to anchor responsible pesticide use; and 3) advising the Ministry of Agriculture on a certification and licensing programme for operators and applicators.

Accomplishments To Date

Task 1: Preparing Master Trainers - Goal: 50 Master Trainers.

Three programs were conducted for master trainers during 2011: one in Cairo, one in Qena (southern Egypt) and one in Nubaria (northern Egypt). A total of 56 persons received training. Training was conducted by Eng. Said Abdella, utilizing materials that were developed jointly by Dr. Michael Adams, an ACDI/VOCA specialist, and Eng. Said Abdella for CropLife AME. The material covered the following topics:

- Pests and Pest Control
- Pesticides
- Pesticide Safety
- Pesticide Application
- Pesticides Laws and Regulations
- Protecting the Environment

The first day of training focused on skills, while the following three days focused on technical knowledge. Participants took pre and post examinations to test their knowledge and learning, and they were also required to deliver a session of training (two-person teams) during the course.

Task 2: Training for Operators & Applicators - Goal: 1000 Individuals

Training operators and applicators has been more challenging than anticipated due to the fact that there are currently no commercial operators in Egypt. Agrochemicals are applied either by farmers, themselves or, on larger farms, by an employee of the farmer. One of the goals of the CropLife / ACDI/VOCA project is to encourage the establishment of commercial pesticide operators. As licensing becomes required and enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture, enterprising individuals will establish themselves as commercial operators/applicators who are licensed and can sell their services to farmers. However, this is not likely to happen until licensing becomes enforced. In the meantime, small farmers will continue to apply agrochemicals on their own. Therefore, the project has been providing training to small farmers as "applicators." We have developed a training course that includes calibration, proper spray techniques, proper disposal of containers and unused chemicals, use of safety gear, etc. This training is offered to farmers who have already attended ACDI/VOCA's training in integrated pest management and responsible use of pesticides. So far, 200 applicators have received training, and this number will increase substantially during the next six months as the master trainers who have been prepared by CropLife Africa Middle East and ACDI/VOCA will begin to disseminate the training.

Attendees of the master trainers program in Qena, including employees of the ARC



ali@croplifeafrica.org

Task 3: Awareness Training for Farmers - Goal: 3000 Farmers

ACDI/VOCA trains farmers in Integrated Crop Management: implementing the best agricultural practices throughout production will result in a healthier plant that is more resistant to disease and pest infestation and less likely to require heavy use of agro-chemicals. Thus, we provide training in land preparation, irrigation & fertilization, weed control, integrated pest management (IPM), harvest and post-harvest handling, etc. Nonetheless, for the purpose of the joint CropLife and ACDI/VOCA project, awareness training for farmers focuses on The Basics of IPM (preventing, monitoring & identifying, controlling) as well as on Responsible Use of Pesticides. We also introduced a special course on controlling *Tuta absoluta* during the program period due to the fact that this pest posed a particular problem for farmers working with ACDI/VOCA, who primarily cultivate tomatoes. Finally, we developed a course on responsible use of pesticides in greenhouses and we delivered this training to greenhouse labourers, who are primarily female.

In addition, ACDI/VOCA developed a tailored program for the female family members of farmers, who are involved in both production (assisting male family members in the fields) as well as in decision-making, albeit to a lesser extent. Moreover, as the caretakers of their families, they have particular interest in ensuring that agrochemicals are handled in a responsible manner, in order to safeguard the health and safety of their families. Training for women focused on the following topics:

- Introduction to IPM (the most common pests in the field and in the home and how to control them)
- Food Safety
- First Aid for Accidents with Agrochemicals
- Chemical Handling and Storage
- Personal Safety in Chemical Application (especially, low cost alternatives for safety gear)

In total, 2891 individuals have received training from ACDI/VOCA in the basics of IPM and responsible use of pesticides, broken down as follows:

- 1446 farmers
- 1344 female members of farming families
- 101 green house labourers

These numbers will increase by the end of 2012, as we continue to offer training to all three groups of trainees.

Task 4: Developing Materials and Initiating a Media Campaign

CropLife Africa Middle East and ACDI/VOCA have initiated production of an awareness/training video, which will be used both to instruct farmers in the basics of responsible use of pesticides and to convince them of the benefits of a national licensing programme for pesticide applicators/operators. So far, we have shot about three hours of training footage, which is currently being edited, and we must add some additional footage of a more promotional nature. We anticipate that this video will run for 20 to 30 minutes, and we hope to air it on the public TV channel for agricultural education/information. A shorter version of the film (5 to 10 minutes) will also be prepared for promotional purposes, only.

Challenges to Program Implementation

A launch event for the program was supposed to take place in September 2011, to be hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture at its conference hall in Dokki. However, the Ministry asked to postpone the launch in light of the current political situation. Within the ministry, key posts have changed hands several times during the past year since the revolution took place, and with every change ACDI-VOCA and CropLife have been compelled to 're-introduce' our joint programme and obtain commitment from the ministry. Fortunately, this has not been difficult to do because the Ministry has also come under increasing pressure from the FAO and other international agencies to improve harmonization and compliance with international protocols. In fact, the issue is of such critical importance that agencies within the Ministry have been competing to participate in the ACDI/CropLife AME program. ACDI and CropLife have been advising the Ministry on which Agency should be responsible for what: - training, qualification, licensing, enforcement, etc. The Agricultural Research Centre has been particularly keen to cooperate with ACDI and CropLife, and it nominated a number of its own employees who attended the master trainers program in Qena. Recently, the Minister of Agriculture advised CropLife Egypt that the Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC) should play an instrumental role in the anticipated training/licensing program, and so we will also introduce the project to this agency in the very short term.

Recent News from Farming First

This month, Farming First and The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) jointly launched a new interactive info graphic called: "The Female Face of Farming". The info graphic was launched in parallel with the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and International Women's Day on 8th March.

The info graphic is a striking visual representation of the statistics that underlie the urgent need to invest in rural women. It consists of 17 individually-designed graphics, each of which can be tweeted and/or embedded for use in presentations or blog posts.

This month, Farming First submitted its views on the focus and activities of the work programme for agriculture to the UNFCCC Secretariat, in preparation for the 36th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), which takes place in Bonn, Germany, in May. Farming First's submission seeks to leverage the linkages between current UNFCCC mechanisms and agriculture, including the Green Climate Fund, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Adaptation Fund and the Clean Development Mechanism, while building upon the existing scientific base of knowledge in climate change and agriculture.

Members of the Farming First coalition attended the negotiations for Rio+20 in January and March at the UN headquarters in New York, as well as UNEP's 12th Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF).

A real focus for Rio is the green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development.

The coalition will be actively involved during the conference in June, co-hosting a number of side-events on agriculture.

Read more about Farming First's work around agriculture and the green economy at www.farmingfirst.org/green-economy. This includes our interactive info graphic, animated video (available in five languages), policy paper and guide to green economy initiatives on agriculture.

In anticipation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio in June 2012, Farming First produced an animated video on the story of agriculture and the green economy, which has now had over 13,500 views. In addition to the English version, the video is now available in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Mandarin.

Watch the video on www.farmingfirst.org

The Female Face of Farming infographic



Agriculture:

A Call to Action for the UNFCCC



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

On the Road to Rio



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

Agriculture & the Green Economy:

The Story Now Available in Five Languages



East & Southern Africa

CropLife Malawi

David Laycock, CleanFarms Project Manager for Malawi visited the country week of 9 April and provided the following feedback:

- Veolia gave training in the management of spillage and what can and can't be mixed in drums, to the joint Cycleops (local hazardous waste company) and CropLife Malawi teams. The training was given in response to several recent incidents of leakages. The training was found to be very useful and should be included in any future safeguarding training.
- Prior to the current round of safeguarding, the project has 236 tons of product and probably 30 to 40 tons of associated wastes held at the temporary storage facilities. The associated wastes include empty containers, contaminated PPE and other such materials. There are still around 30 to 40 tons of products still to be collected to complete the safeguarding programme. It is hoped that this will be accomplished by July/August of this year. To-date 65% of products safeguarded can be directly attributed to CropLife International members. Provided nothing unexpected occurs, the project should be able to complete all the planned safeguarding within budget.
- The safeguarding in April completed the majority of stores in the South of the country, in and around Blantyre and Tholo. Two further visits by Veolia are planned to support safeguarding in the Central region, in May, and a final sweep of the South in July. Foreign exchange and fuel supplies continued to be an issue during the current safeguarding exercise although good forward planning prevented this from disrupting plans.
- Due to the volume of product collected, the project has had to find additional storage space for dry materials. The picture below is the rented dry store in Lilongwe, which is currently almost full despite the recent removal of 40 tons of Actellic dust. In the South we are using an ADMARC store.
- There is growing pressure from several farming groups for the project to accept empty pesticide containers; several companies have now brought their containers to the dry stores. CropLife Malawi needs to develop a long-term solution for empty containers especially for those farmers producing in accordance with protocols. The project awaits the suggestions made in the FAO sponsored evaluation of container management in Malawi.

CropLife Malawi intends to employ a part time secretary to manage their office.

ADMARC Dry Store



Dry Store in Lilongwe



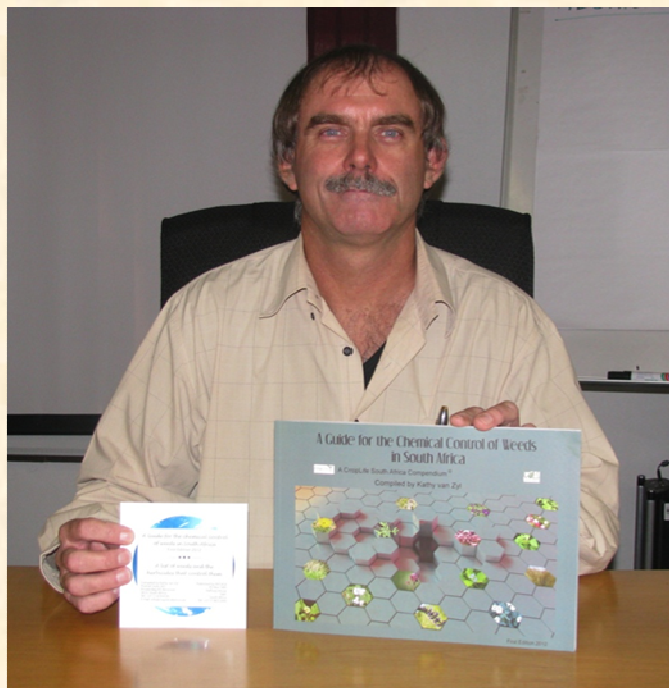
les@croplifeafrica.org

CropLife South Africa

CropLife South Africa's new guide on the chemical control of weeds in South Africa has just been published. The publication includes all herbicides that are registered for agricultural use in the country. The guide includes listings of herbicides together with their active ingredients, trade names, registration numbers, formulations, concentrations and application on the various weeds found in crop production. It has indexes of trade names with active ingredients, common and scientific names of weeds and withholding periods on follow-up crops that may be affected by certain herbicides.

The guide is accompanied by a CD ROM with an alphabetical listing of all the agricultural weeds, and listed under each, the crops in which they are generally found, plus their chemical control agents. The list is over 500 pages and is therefore only supplied in a CD ROM version. The price for the guide plus the CD Rom is approximately \$ 21.50 excluding VAT. For readers who might have an interest in obtaining a copy of this new guide plus CD ROM, please contact Nadia Richards at nadia@avcasa.co.za.

The launch of the next CropLife guide on industrial and environmental weed management will be announced shortly.



Dr. Gerhard Verdoorn displaying the new guide and CD ROM

ies@croplifeafrica.org

Upcoming Events

Meeting of the Regional Regulatory committee RRC 2-2012	May 15-16
RSC Meeting Brussels	May 30
FANRPAN Partners Meeting	May 31
Meeting with APC-Egypt	April/May
Meeting with SAGA-Sudan	May
ASP South Africa – World Bank Mission	June 4-8
CleanFarms Stakeholders meeting in Abuja, Nigeria	June 6
CropLife Uganda – IPM / RU training	June 11-14
CropLife Uganda – Anti-Counterfeiting Training	June 15
CropLife South Africa (AVCASA) Congress	June 13
Global IPM Project Team Meeting in Brussels	June 20
Global Stewardship Steering committee Meeting in Brussels	June 21
Anti Counterfeiting SC Meeting in Brussels	June 26
Board Meeting and AGM in Brussels	June 27
CPSC meeting in Brussels	June 28
Global Communications SC Meeting in Brussels	June 29
Meeting in Brussels on the future of CleanFarms projects after CSPC decision	June 28-29



Contributors:

Ali Mohamed Ali (North Africa Middle East) ali@croplifeafrica.orgBama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa) bama@croplifeafrica.orgLes Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa) les@croplifeafrica.org**GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY**

Representing the Plant Science Industry