North Africa Middle East

Hub Conference - Damascus 26 - 27 October 2010

The annual conference for the North Africa Middle East region convened on the 26th & 27th October 2010 at the Sheraton Maaret Sednaya in Damascus, Syria.

Held under the patronage of HE Dr. Adil Safar, Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of the Syrian Arab Republic, the conference was arranged in cooperation with the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development and co-organised by CropLife Syria.

There were in excess of 80 participants representing pesticide regulatory authorities from 15 Arab countries, together with experts of the plant science industry as well as representatives of the national industry associations from the countries of North Africa and the Middle East.

The conference concluded with recommendations aimed at strengthening the ongoing regional regulatory harmonization on pesticide regulations and management of crop protection products amongst the countries of the region.

Training projects on the responsible use of pesticides and integrated pest management were debated and approved at country and regional levels.

Measures to combat counterfeiting and the illegal trade with pesticides in the region and the recognition of intellectual property rights were also covered. Projects aimed at the disposal of accumulated obsolete stocks in countries of the region were discussed.

President Eric Bureau, Executive President Rudolf Guyer and Vice-President Michel Chartouni spoke on behalf of CropLife Africa Middle East confirming their commitment to the support of regional projects which would strengthen regulatory harmonization and stewardship activities. This would be in cooperation with the relevant agricultural authorities in the region.

Upcoming Events

MRL Workshop - Accra Ghana 14-18 November
Association Management Training, Algeria 15-19 November
Informa Conference - Brussels 23 November
Visit to Zambia to view SSP training operation 22-26 November
WHO / FAO Workshop - Management of Pesticides - Rabat, Morocco 22-26 November
Global RSC Meeting - Brussels 7 - 9 December
Meeting with ACDI-VOCA - Egypt December

Representing the Plant Science Industry
The Executive Committee (ExCo) of CropLife Africa Middle East held its 4th meeting for 2010 on 28 October, linking in with the NAME Hub conference in Damascus, Syria.

ExCo reviewed and covered a number of issues including finance, regulatory and communications. Progress reports from the 3 regional hubs were presented by the Regional Coordinators together with hub action plans and training activities planned for 2011.

Updates on Stewardship Vision 2020 and IPM activities were presented by Eva Erisgen, Chairperson of the Global Project Team. Laurent Coche, Project Leader of the CLI global obsolete stocks programme delivered an overview of the obstocks disposal projects within the ASP as well as prospective activities in the region.

An update on container management projects in the region was presented by Les Hillowitz. This was followed by a review of the current plant biotech situation in Africa.
CropLife AME and ACDI-VOCA Establish Regional Cooperation

Within the context of promoting stakeholder alliances and partnerships in the region, a cooperation agreement was signed between CropLife Africa Middle East and ACDI-VOCA. This is aimed at initiating a sustainable programme for the certification and licensing of pesticide operators and applicators in Egypt with a view of future expansion across the region.

The memorandum of understanding governing this cooperation was signed by the two organisations at an official Signing Ceremony which took place during the closing session of CropLife AME annual conference in Damascus, Syria on 27 October.

Anti-Counterfeiting Campaign continues in Egypt

CropLife Africa Middle East supported the organization of a specialized workshop on anti-counterfeiting and illegal trade on pesticides which was held in Cairo on 18 October 2010. The workshop targeted the training of personnel from the ministries of interior, industry and agriculture, with participation of Interpol - Egypt and various other law enforcement agencies.

The workshop represented the continuation of the campaign against counterfeiting and illegal trade nationwide.

Dr. Said Abdella led the workshop which concluded with the following recommendations:

- The importance of enhancing coordination with neighbouring countries through Interpol and Customs authorities
- The enforcement of IPR regulations in the combating of the counterfeiting problem
- Prosecution of cases of seized pesticides
- The necessity for financial support to law enforcement organs in the ministry of interior
- Expanding the campaign to address aspects of illegal repacking of pesticides.
An ECOWAS Pesticides Registration Task Force workshop was held between 11-23 October in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The Task Force was made up of regulators from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea C., and Togo together with MIR Plus, ECOWAS and CropLife AME.

The Task Force was set up following the ECOWAS regulatory meeting in May in Mali. The main task was to collect existing trial protocols for pesticide registrations in the humid coastal zone of West Africa and then draft the harmonised trial protocols under the WAEMU initiative. The Task Force also reviewed the CSP trials which had been previously submitted as well as documents and procedures under the harmonisation initiative. These documents will be sent to regulators of ECOWAS member countries and to CropLife AME. They will then be discussed for adoption in the pesticide registration harmonisation system under the umbrella of ECOWAS. This validation process is scheduled to take place before year end.

CropLife participated and contributed to a pilot course on Anti Counterfeiting prior to this being rolled out to targets groups. The group will include customs agents and pesticide control agents. The course will be conducted in cooperation with Interpol to capitalize on the earlier Interpol conference in May in Dakar, Senegal.
A meeting was held between USAID/ATP and CropLife on 8 October in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Participants included Eric DERCKS, Value Chains (VC) Coordinator, Kokou Zotoglo - Rice VC leader, Mamadou Sanfo - Millet/Sorghum VC leader, Rose Wanzie - Maize VC leader and Paulette Lee - Communication Manager.

The meeting was held to conduct an assessment of the activities under the MoU, particularly training activities and future joint activities.

Assessment of Training Activities in 2010

Despite the delayed launch which was due to the late approval of the PERSUAP, all the scheduled courses took place in the 4 countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Mali). The courses covered IPM/ISFM for roll-out to farmers and producers.

78 participants undertook the IPM/ISFM course whilst 68 participants attended the ToT sessions. Roll-out activity did not take place in 2010 as was originally planned.

Roll out Activities in 2011

This will be undertaken as a follow-up with a refresher course for the trainers in the above four countries.

WAEMU Commission of DDRE

Contacts: Dr Ismail K. B. FARE, Commissioner Department of Rural Development, Natural Resources and the Environment, the Coordinator, Policy Officer, Communication’s Officer of MIR plus project.

This meeting was organized as a courtesy visit to present the progress on activities as the MIR Plus project is a joint ECOWAS-WAEMU undertaking.

The opportunity was taken to showcase CropLife AME. This covered focusing on the technical and financial support to the regulatory harmonization initiative (funding of the task force workshop) and the positive results in stewardship activities (training and education) for the sound management and handling of CPPs.

The Commissioner paid tribute to CropLife and strongly suggested to the participants from MIR Plus, to accelerate the process in order to create a sound business environment which is a prerequisite to attract and secure private investment in the sub-region.

He rightly declared “that there will be no agriculture, moreover, no food production if there are no quality pesticides and seeds available, supplied by responsible companies such as CropLife members.”
**East & Southern Africa**

**ASP**

During a visit by David Laycock, a member of the ASP team to South Africa, the opportunity was taken for him to see an operation of a major recycler (Timber Plastics) which could provide ideas for the disposal of the surplus containers in both Kenya and Malawi.

The company, Timber Plastics recycles all types of plastics into various acceptable products but concentrating on HDPE. Unlike their competitors they do not blend with “obsolete timber” i.e. sawdust.

They are in the process of franchising both locally as well as outside of the country. A franchise operation requires approx 40 tons of plastics per month to be viable. Their first franchise is likely to be the Government of Malaysia and the agreement covering royalties is close to finalization.

![Mark Gibson (L) of Timber Plastics and David Laycock (R)](image)

---

**Plant Biotechnology**

**CropLife International's Africa Acceptance Programme**

The strategy for CLI's Africa Acceptance Programme can be summarised as follows:

- They view the influence of the political and economic trading blocs in the regulatory harmonisation process as being crucial. In this regard they will fund a new position within COMESA / ACTESA in the drive towards regulatory harmonisation and if successful, will duplicate this for ECOWAS. The position to be created will be known as “Industry Liaison Officer” and hopefully will be filled by 1 January 2011. What is interesting is that CLI are using the CLAME MOU with COMESA to accelerate the process.

- They intend to strengthen ties with the seed sector in Africa by entering into a MOU with the Africa Seed Trade Association (AFSTA). Here again CLI will fund a position in AFTA to build the organisation’s capacity to articulate plant biotechnology issues. The title of the position will be known as “Communications and Advocacy Officer” with the starting date aimed at 1 January 2011. The position will be based in Nairobi.

- They plan to move the focus of the four “CLI funded Africa partner organisations” from exclusively “communications” to include “the farmer”, “academic / scientific”, “government” and the “media”. To establish lead organisations per country as follows:
  - AfricaBio: South Africa, Malawi
  - ABSF: Kenya, Tanzania
  - Africa Harvest: Uganda, Burkina Faso
  - ISAAA: Egypt

**Roadmap to commercialisation**

- Kenya cotton 2012 / 13
- Egypt cotton 2012 / 13
- Uganda cotton (stacked trait) 2014 / 15
- WEMA Countries:
  - Kenya
  - Tanzania
  - Uganda
  - Mozambique
  - South Africa (Drought resistance in white maize)
Ethiopia Training

This training took place in partnership with the Ethiopian Horticulture Producers and Exporters Association (EHPEA). There is a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CropLife and EHPEA which supports the associations to join forces in promoting common objectives related to IPM. Getachew Cherinet of CropLife Ethiopia and two trainers from EHPEA undertook the training.

The theme of the training was “Responsible Use of Pesticides” with the following participants attending:
- Rural Development Agents from the Oromia Agricultural Region, (6)
- Selected young farmers from the co-operative Union, (21)

The course took place on 4-8 October and consisted of:
- Classroom activities (2) days
- Practical exercises and farm visit (2) days

Course content covered:
- Categories of hazardous products
- Types of hazardous products on the farm
- How pesticides get into the body
- Personal protective equipment
- Understanding the product label
- Protection of the environment
- Pesticide store, location and construction
- Store organization, layout, management & security
- Practical store keeping skills (receiving products, issuing products)
- Record keeping and stock balances
- Dealing with leaks and spills
- Cleaning of used containers (triple rinsing and decanting of empty containers)
- Disposal of obsolete pesticide and empty containers
- Transporting of Pesticides
- Pesticide poisoning and treatment
- Actions for emergency during pesticide use

The roll-out of this training will continue through the cooperative chain.
Development of Anti-Counterfeiting Training Programme

The need for an “Anti-Counterfeiting” Training Programme aimed at customs officers and regulatory enforcement inspectors is considered by CLAME management as a vital tool necessary in the fight against fake and counterfeit products.

Manon Dohmen was tasked to develop the programme and the opportunity was taken to “pilot test” this training during the week of the NAME Hub Meeting. The training was given jointly by Herman Louw and Said Abdella. Feedback was provided by the team and the final programme will be finalized by Manon by year-end.

The course will cover the following:
- Programme and objectives
- Pre-course evaluation
- What is a pest
- What is a pesticide
- What are counterfeit and illegal pesticides
- The illegal trade in pesticides
- The consequences of counterfeit and illegal pesticides
- How to read a pesticide label
- What to look for in a shipping document
- How to recognize counterfeit and illegal pesticides
- Post course evaluation

AVCASA - SHE Meeting

An AVCASA (Agricultural Veterinary Association of South Africa) meeting was held on 19 October. Main topics covered were:
- Poisoning of wildlife and domestic animals was discussed at length. This was coupled to the poaching of rhino’s.
- The Booking Line for the next two provinces under ASP South Africa is going slower than expected. 32 tons of obstocks have been registered from the Western Cape. A decision was taken to collect from adjacent provinces where it is known that obstocks have been collected and safe guarded. These areas include the Eastern Cape, Vaalharts, Delmas and Bethal. The cut-off date to reach the 150 tons budgeted is 12 November as the terms of the tender must be communicated by end November.
- Bayer advised the meeting on the withdrawal of TEMIK from the citrus and potato markets in South Africa effective 2011. The product will be withdrawn worldwide in 2014.
Counterfeit Pesticide Plant Unearthed in Arusha, Tanzania

Police in Arusha unearthed a factory producing counterfeit agricultural inputs, including pesticides, seeds and fertilizers. Located in Unga-limited area, the factory contained machinery which cuts, moulds and seals tins, paper and polythene bags bearing popular trade-marks.

The police were tipped off about the underground factory and conducted a raid but the kingpin behind the syndicate managed to get away. It took more than two days to count the stocks found which is thought to exceed 5 tons.

Copies of popular trademarks found include “Dursban” and “Antracol”

The Regional Commissioner, Mr. Isidori Shirima who visited the factory said the establishment was “bad news for the country’s agricultural sector”. “All farm inputs used in the country originate from Arusha. It is possible these counterfeit products have already been supplied to farmers for this season” he said.

The Regional Commissioner has directed the Selian Agriculture Research Institute, the Tropical Pesticide Research Institute and the Regional Agriculture Department as well as security organs, to investigate how much of the counterfeit products have penetrated the market and what can be done to limit the consequences.

Several representatives from companies whose products were being copied at the establishment admitted that the packaging bore their trademarks but that the contents were forged. They all warned farmers to be careful on what they buy from the small agro-dealers and that they should only get their inputs from registered outlets.
Uganda Updates

Poison Information Centre
CropLife Uganda sponsored a visit to CropLife Kenya for Betty Atto, CropLife Uganda and Hindium Lanyero, Makerere Drug Information Centre (Ministry of Health) in order for them to visit the already established Poison Information Centre in Kenya with the idea to establish a similar operation in Uganda.

Presidential Investor Round Table meeting to be held on 25th November 2010
CropLife Uganda held a meeting with the PIRT representative on 19 October and it was agreed to present the following issues at the forthcoming meeting:

- The speedy passing of the Anti-counterfeiting Bill
- The establishment of marketing infrastructures of farmer organizations
- The establishment of a National Agricultural Bank able to offer low interest rates to the farming community

Anti-counterfeiting Campaign Through Mobile Film Shows
A planning meeting was organized by USAID-LEAD and it was agreed that the film on anti-counterfeiting will shown to 500 stockists country-wide during the anti-counterfeiting trainings organized by USAID-LEAD which are to take place in 35 districts of the country.

Computerized system anti-counterfeiting campaign in partnership with IFDC, COMESA and USAID.
IFDC proposed alternative scenarios for consumer protection that could be applied to the seed and pesticide sectors. They intend to develop a system that is based on a small pilot test project designed to combat counterfeit inputs. i.e. “Short Message Service” (SMS) technology linked to a programmable database that can be tailor-made to suit the needs of different clients.

The objective of this programme is to provide quantitative evidence that will persuade commercial input suppliers to adopt the system across the region to substantially reduce and perhaps eliminate counterfeit inputs.

The proposed pilot project will test the group’s assumptions by targeting a single product category and for this purpose, top seller products were selected. e.g. Round up and Agrosate

The COMESA Regional Agro-Inputs training programs
CropLife Uganda in collaboration with Uganda National Agro-Input dealers Association (UNADA) distributed Five hundred and seventy (570) Safe Use posters, both in English and local Dialect (Luganda and Runywakitara) during training that attracted stockists from Nakasongola, Makaseke, Mpigi, Wakiso, Luwero, Kayunga, Mukono, Mityana and Mubende Districts.
Contributors:
Ali Mohamed Ali (North Africa Middle East) ali@croplifeafrica.org
Bama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa) bama@croplifeafrica.org
Les Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa) les@croplifeafrica.org

GROWING FOOD - CREATING RENEWABLES - SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY
Representing the Plant Science Industry