



## Stewardship

### National Cocoa and Chocolate Event

On 1st and 2nd October, in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire more than 3000 participants including licensed bean buyers, the chocolate industry, input suppliers, banks and insurance companies together with 2000 cocoa farmers as special guests of the Head of the State, President Alassane D. Ouattara, attended the event.

The National Cocoa and Chocolate Days (Journées Nationales du Cacao et du Chocolat, JNCC) were organized under:

- Two panels to discuss the issues of funding farmer cooperatives and attracting cocoa processors
- A roundtable discussion on the gender issue and female contribution for sustainability
- An information caravan to sensitize farmers on GAP, the management of "Swollen Shoot disease", the use of fertilizers and pesticides, cocoa consumption and effects on health.

Several side meetings took place at the various display stands covering the SSP program. These included:

- The UIREVI/WCPO with NGuessan Toussaint.
- The national monitoring committee (Comité National de Surveillance, CNS) on the Child Labor issue in the cocoa sector. CNS is governed by the cabinet of the First Lady, Mme Dominique Ouattara who has been very active in combating Child labour and met with the WCF on several occasions. Ms. Elina Arnaud, Communications Deputy Director accepted to have follow-up meetings in order to discuss a cooperation framework. The SSP concept will be an important tool to significantly contribute to the reduction of child labour on cocoa farms as well as in other crop sectors, at least by avoiding the handling of pesticides by children.
- Africa sourcing (ex Armajaro) and other members of the Ivorian Traders Group (Groupement des Négociants Ivoiriens, GNI) involved in the export of cocoa beans
- Cooperatives (many have benefited from the SSP programs) such as Ecookim in Duekoue West and COOPADOBA in San-Pedro South Western areas of the country respectively.

The follow-up activities to be coordinated with CropLife Cote d'Ivoire will focus the strengthening of the SSP concept for effective implementation in those cooperatives.

Bama Yao



A meeting between B. Yao and Ms. Elina Arnaud, Communications Officer of the CNS (Above), and the President T. NGuessan of UIREVI/OMCC-WCPO (Below) during the JNCC in Yamoussoukro.



## National Cocoa and Chocolate Event



B. Yao and Roger Yeboue, Executive Secretary of CropLife CI, (centre) with Agnero Amari (left), Coordinator of the Support Project to the Agricultural Sector in Cote d'Ivoire (PSAC) and G. Silue, (right) Director of the Crop Protection Directorate in the stand of the Ministry of Agriculture.



First Lady, Mme Dominique Ouattara who has been very active in combating Child labour in the Cocoa Industry



Head of the State, President Alassane D. Ouattara, attended the event.



## WEMA: Delivering the Promise to African Smallholder Farmers

To coincide with World Food Day on 16 October, AfricaBio provided a platform to give feedback on the WEMA project.

The Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) is a public / private partnership that is developing drought-tolerant and insect-pest protected maize hybrids for smallholder farmers, with the aim of improving yields under moderate drought stress and protecting it from maize insect damage. The project aims to develop and deploy locally adapted drought tolerant maize varieties using both conventional breeding and GM technologies.

Since GM crops are more strictly regulated than conventional crops, the transgenic varieties will, in addition to the general agronomical evaluations be subjected to:

- a food and feed safety assessment;
- an environmental risk assessment; and
- a socio-economic sustainability assessment as dictated by the national regulatory frameworks for genetically modified organisms (GMO's) where the project will be implemented. South Africa, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are participating countries.



Prof Richard Goodman, University of Nebraska and Eric Wenberg, Minister Counsellor, Office of Agricultural Affairs, US Embassy, Pretoria



H.E. Ambassador Julius Peter Moto, Uganda High Commissioner in South Africa





H.E. Ambassador Prof. Chrissie N.P. Kaponda, Malawi High Commissioner in South Africa and Ms. Louisa Nkgadime, Regulatory Specialist, Pioneer.

The project has made significant strides since inception in 2009. Some of the notable milestones realized on phase one, included the successful conduct of confined field trials (CFT's) for transgenic varieties in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa; and the submission of conventional drought tolerant maize varieties into the national performance trials in Kenya. The first WEMA conventional drought-tolerant maize varieties were also released to farmers in 2013/2014. Most importantly, in South Africa the WEMA project also marked another important milestone with the release of two conventional drought-tolerant maize varieties in September 2014. The South African regulators recently approved the commercialization of the transgenic drought-tolerant varieties in June 2015.

Concerns about the potential risks related to GM crops must be balanced with adequate science-based information to enable the public to engage in an objective and transparent discussion. Only through appropriate and science-based information can the public's understanding of biotechnology be improved to enable farmers and consumers to enjoy the benefits. The lack of effective communication may jeopardize public sector projects such as the WEMA Project that are designed to address specific challenges and able to empower smallholder farmers.

The aim of the AfricaBio platform was to give stakeholders a sound picture of:

- \* the status of food security and the impact of drought in the country
- \* an overview and the status of development of the drought tolerant maize varieties to be deployed to smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, and
- \* the food and feed safety assessment of GM crops
- \* The program included speakers from Research & Development, USDA, Ambassador's from Uganda and Malawi

**Les Hillowitz**



Group Photo

**Representing the Plant Science Industry**

## Regional program for the integrated protection of cotton in Africa (PR-PICA)

PR-PICA is a sub-regional program covering six cotton-producing countries in W. Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Togo). The program was initially launched in 1998 under the Regional Project for the Prevention and Management of the Resistance of *Helicoverpa armigera* to pyrethroid insecticides in cotton production in W. Africa following the severe infestation during the 1996-97-crop season. The PR-PICA was then launched in 2005 as a follow-up and to capitalize on the success of the appropriate management of the above-mentioned resistance. The activities of the PR-PICA are therefore extended to the overall integrated protection of cotton, soil fertility management and also to capacity building for all stakeholders, particularly farmers.



The PR-PICA mission is therefore oriented towards the identification of cotton pests/diseases and their natural enemies (beneficiaries), the "Windows Program" which recommends the use of alternatives to pyrethroids, threshold-based approach for a protection programme, and the splitting of the harvest in various periods.

CropLife AME has been allocated a seat in the steering committee but has unfortunately not participated to the various meetings because of conflicting dates with the WCA annual hub workshops.

On 16 October a meeting was held with Felix Sawadogo, Coordinator of PR-PICA in Abidjan. It was agreed that the Coordinator of PR-PICA and the Regional Director of CropLife AME communicate and coordinate activities to allow cooperation between the two organizations in the sub-region. CropLife AME will therefore attend the Steering Committee meeting on 17 & 18 December in Abidjan.

Bama Yao

## Interregional Apex Cooperatives Victoire (UIREVI)

A meeting took place with UIREVI on 20 October 20 in Abidjan of which participants included:

- Toussaint NGuessan, President of the UIREVI.
- Oura Konan Brice Manager Sustainable Development.
- Nanguy N. Brigitte Eulodie, Manager Projects.

The discussion covered a presentation on CropLife AME focusing on :

- Member companies
- Representation in WCA countries especially in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.
- Key activities covering regulatory issues and international policies such as MRLs, anti-counterfeiting and the fight against the illegal trade of pesticides, stewardship with a focus on training on IPM/RU and the benefits of the SSP



The UIREVI is a network of 25 cooperatives with a membership of 7,500 cocoa producers 5000 of which are certified, and supplying at least 30,000 tons of cocoa beans. The activities of the UIREVI are essentially to collect the cocoa beans. Other services such as the supply of pesticides to the farmers are carried out to a lesser extent.

Following the presentation and explanatory discussions, the President, Toussaint NGuessan expressed interest in the SSP concept. It was agreed to organize a follow up meeting with the Board of CropLife Cote d'Ivoire and then submit a concept note for a pilot project for setting-up a SSP program for UIREVI. The outcome of such a project could serve as a basis for extension to the World Cocoa Producer Organization (WCPO).

Bama Yao



The President of UIREVI (2<sup>nd</sup> R-L) and his colleagues exchanging views with B. Yao CropLife AME on the possibility of introducing the SSP concept to all their farmer cooperatives in the cocoa sector

## Capacity building SSP TOT Training: Egypt



CropLife Egypt continues in partnership with Blue Moon, building capacity for Master Trainers in activities covering professional spray teams. Said Abdella, CropLife Africa Middle East, Master Trainer based in Egypt, facilitated the training on technical aspects of pesticide application and the improvement of training and facilitation skills of the trainers. Dr. Hassan Shalaby and Dr. Karem Abou Zeid, Croplife Egypt Master Trainers from the Plant Protection Research Institute conducted the practical field training of which the program was coordinated and organized by Eng. Mahmoud Said.

The second Training-of-Trainers (ToT) program took place 10 - 13 October at the Jolie Ville Hotel, Luxor, Egypt. The training is intended to serve participants of the "USAID funded Premium Project for Egyptian Small Growers" and which includes small producer organizations and agricultural technical schools in Matrouh, Beheira, Qena, Luxor and Aswan.

The program consisted of three parts: theory and practical on training and facilitation skills, practical training and individual topics.

A total of 15 participants comprising 12 males and 3 females from agricultural technical schools, including teachers and supervisors attended the training from (Qena - Qeft - Khezam - Esna - Luxor). All participants facilitated in training topics during the course.

**Said Abdella**

Above:  
Said Abdella  
presenting on  
Training Methods



Group Photo



Practical Field  
Training



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## Capacity Building SSP ToT Training: Egypt



L – R, Said Abdella, Manal Saleh, Sarwat Sakr and Rudolf Guyer



CropLife Egypt and Blue Moon Ltd who implements the *USAID funded Premium Project for Egyptian Small Growers*, signed an MOU to work together in an effort to provide a capacity building program that fits within the scope of activities related to the *program* especially as this relates to:

- Compliance with GLOBALG.A.P. and Fairtrade criteria for the “**responsible use of pesticides (RU)**” and
- Providing job opportunities through the “**spray service provider program (SSP)**”.
- "Container Management".

The program also intends to engage local pesticide retail shop owners and sales personnel (under the age of 35), as well as spray service providers who already exist in the villages and with whom we are working. Their engagement represents an immediate improvement in application methods, maintenance and calibration of equipment, storage and transportation of crop protection products, reduction in residue levels on crops, and an increased awareness of health and safety issues related to pesticide use.

The signing took place during the annual Hub Meeting of CLAME in Cairo on 27 - 28 October, between Sarwat Sakr, Chairman CropLife Egypt and Manal Saleh, General Manager, Blue Moon, in presence of Rudolf Guyer, Director General, CropLife Africa Middle East and Said Abdella, Board Member of CropLife Egypt. The MoU is valid until 2020.

Under the MOU, CropLife Egypt and Blue Moon completed 3 training courses in Nubaria, Luxor and Aswan for covering 51 teachers at Agricultural Technical Schools (ATS)

There will be a further 3 training courses for ATS students prior to year-end.

Said Abdella

## Agricultural Infrastructures Support Project in the Indenie-Djuablin Region (PAIA-ID)

A meeting was organized with Mr. Gore Bi Germain, Project Coordinator on 22 October aimed at introducing the SPP concept into the PAIA-ID, a multi-year project funded by the African Development Bank (ADB). The overall objective is to contribute to the reduction of poverty in rural areas to benefit 15,000 families with the following specific objectives:

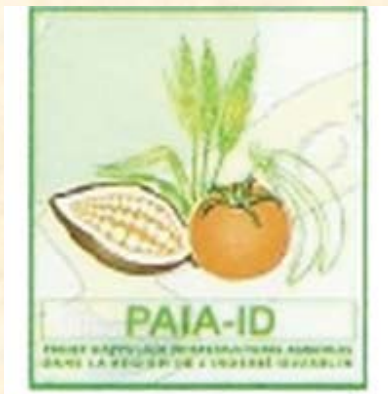
- Increase on a sustainable basis, the productivity of the key crops
- Diversify crop production
- Improve the quality of the distribution channels of agricultural productions in the region of Indenie-Djuablin

The above objectives contribute:

- 873 ha for rice production: 50 ha for vegetable crops: 1100 ha for banana plantings: 1200 ha for yam production: 1000 ha for cassava :500 ha for corn.
- Cocoa: the key cash crop in the region has been taken into account although the acreage is not specified.

The SPP program should contribute to productivity and also guarantee the effective integration of environmental issues such as IPM/RU, in the project, for sustained agricultural production. CropLife Cote d'Ivoire is therefore preparing a proposal to train and coach SSPs for the project.

Bama Yao





## Association Management

### CropLife Ethiopia holds General Assembly



Several of the members during the coffee break

On 22 October CropLife Ethiopia held a Special General Assembly meeting in Addis at which 13 CropLife Ethiopia member companies participated.

A presentation was given on the CLAME Board decision in 2014 and the prioritization of core countries. Focus was made on the comparison of CLE against other national associations within the Hub. This covered “projects” and the “financing of projects”. A presentation followed on project management and how the IFDC 2Scale project in Ethiopia would be implemented.

Two key decisions were taken at this meeting, notably that annual subscriptions would be increased to fund “project management” and that all efforts will be made including the use of legal council to get the CropLife Ethiopia re-registered in line with the new decree imposed by government.

**Les Hillowitz**



Members of the CropLife Ethiopia General Assembly

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## Regulatory

### North Africa and Middle East Hub & Regulatory Workshop

Rudolf Guyer, in his keynote address during the North Africa and Middle East Hub and Regulatory meeting held on 26 – 27 October highlighted 4 emerging policy issues that may have a negative impact on the regulation of crop protection products. He gave an illustration of the policy processes taking place at the EU level on endocrine disruptors (EDs) and on the existing moratorium on neonicotinoids.

Additionally, the insistence to use hazard based approaches rather than risk based approaches in the management of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and the recent monographs released by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the specialized cancer agency of the World Health Organization (WHO) are of concern to the industry.

He called upon regulatory authorities to consider risk based approaches in regulating crop protection products in their respective countries. This will ensure that farmers continue to have access to the tools they need for increased and safe crop production. Here are a few key messages from his speech.



Rudolf Guyer

On the details of scientific evaluation and risk assessments prior to the market introduction of pesticides:

*“Our industry and the products sold by our member companies probably belong to those products that are the most regulated and investigated before a sales permit is given. In many aspects pesticides are investigated much more thoroughly than medical drugs for their use on humans.*

*Our industry is fully supportive – or even demanding – of such rigorous assessment of our products before a new substance is registered and a sales permit granted. Such official assessments by competent regulatory authorities establish a solid legal base for our member companies to introduce and sell a new product.”*

*“Traditionally such scientific assessments and the granting of sales permits has been a matter of scientific experts. These were the most knowledgeable experts of our member companies, experts and scientists from universities, research Institutes and regulatory authorities.*

*Farmers as the ultimate user of such pesticides and also consumers of the treated crops and food had full trust and confidence in the decisions taken by these experts. Both sides, the manufacturing industry as well as the regulating authority had little interest to communicate the details and results of their scientific evaluations and to communicate much with the consumer and society at large about the decisions taken. However, this situation has changed dramatically in recent years.”*



*In the last two decades we have seen the emergence of a strong consumer and public interest on the decisions of pesticide registrations and how pesticides are used in agriculture. The decision of approving a pesticide for its use against certain selected pests and diseases is therefore no longer a decision between scientific experts; it is increasingly a political decision where not only the directly involved stakeholders such as manufacturers, farmers and regulatory authorities are participating and engaged but increasingly the civil society at large through a growing number of NGO's and other interest groups.*

*These public stakeholders demand full access and transparency on all submitted and relevant data used for the decision making and assessment of a given pesticide. We see increasingly the emergency of an informed and engaged global consumer who wants to know everything about the origin and circumstances of how the food of his daily diet has been produced."*

Rudolf Guyer then called on industry stakeholders to engage in the public debate and defend the carefully conducted and science based risk assessment implemented prior to any pesticide registration.

*"In my view, it is increasingly important to engage and participate in such public debates. If chemical manufacturers, representatives of the global agribusiness who do secure today's global food supply and also speakers of the regulatory authorities do not engage in this public debate we will increasingly see political decisions that are not based on facts and science and that do simply address idealistic but unrealistic ideas of consumers and stakeholders who are commenting from a position of luxury. From a position of no hunger, no shortage and no need to survive with their agricultural produce on a highly price competitive global food market."*

**Stella Simiyu Wafukho**



Participants of the Hub and Regulatory Meeting

Various presentations were made to both regulators and associations during the first day of the meeting, which included CropLife International's stewardship Vision 2020, the importance of Integrated Pest Management, followed by discussions around IARC evaluations.

The presentation on the CLI's Vision 2020 traced the history of Responsible Use dating back to 1991 in Guatemala, Kenya and Thailand. The current vision looks at industry promotion of effective stewardship programs, as essential elements of sustainable agriculture, food security and food safety. The activities include Responsible Use and IPM and Empty Container Management among others. The training in RU/IPM includes among others the Spray Service Provider program.

For the regulatory topics of HHPs, EDs and IARC, an introduction was provided by Bernhard Johnen tracing the history of the term HHP and the developments over the past 10 years including deliberations at respective global meetings, FAO/WHO and through the SAICM processes leading up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> meetings of International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 3; ICCM 4).



Dr Bernhard Johnen

The resolutions reached on HHPs and EDs at the recent ICCM4 meeting were highlighted as follows. For HHPs, the conference:

- Supported concerted action on HHPs and welcomed the proposed strategy
- Encouraged stakeholders to implement the strategy with emphasis on strengthening regulatory capacity to conduct risk assessment and risk management
- Welcomed offers to develop modalities for coordination and regulatory harmonization
- Invited the *Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)* to facilitate collaboration among stakeholders.

An introduction was also provided on the **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)** monograph programme whose purpose is to identify environmental factors that can increase the risk of human cancer. Since 1971 more than 900 agents have been evaluated. In the recent times, specifically April 2014 an IARC Advisory Group identified pesticides as a "high priority" for assessment 2015-19.

Two monographs were released in March and June 2015 rating 8 pesticides; Lindane in Category 1 (carcinogenic to humans); Glyphosate, DDT, Diazinon, Malathion in Category 2A (probably carcinogenic to humans); 2,4-D, Parathion, Tetrachlorvinphos in Category 2B (possibly carcinogenic to humans) respectively.

This categorization has led to various suspensions and bans in various parts of the world. These decisions have been attributed to misunderstanding of the evaluation even when IARC acknowledges that its work can be misleading and goes ahead to clarify the difference in a Q&A on its website where it states: "*The IARC Monographs Programme evaluates cancer hazards but not the risks associated with exposure.*"

During discussions among participants on the respective impacts of the various policy issues in the countries represented, a recommendation was made that more interactions and information sharing on the topics is required. During the regulatory meeting on the second day, the focus was on GHS, Pollinator Health and harmonization.

An update on Pollinator Health issues in the EU, US, Canada, Australia, Japan and Africa was provided and discussions dwelled mainly on the politicization of the issue before and following the EU moratorium. Currently EU has issued a call for data to be used in reviewing the decision. Best management practices (BMP) for protection of pollinators from Australia and Canada were also discussed as part of the industry approach as well as the promotion of risk based regulation amidst pressure from other stakeholders.

Michael Studer made a presentation on the **Global Harmonized systems of Classification of Chemicals (GHS)**, stressing its key differences with the WHO system. He clarified that the development of this system is a contribution to the safe use of chemicals and therefore a base for the establishment of standards. The classification is based on hazards and not risk with specific focus on physical, health and environmental hazards. In the discussions country representatives indicated that some were still in the process of implementing the WHO guidelines and have seemingly been overtaken by events as there is now the need to implement GHS and the recently released labeling guidelines by FAO. They called for more interactions on this subjects. On the GHS it was recommended that countries should consider implementing the system using the building block approach as it takes quite a while. Countries were advised to make considerations for capacity building and establish an interim period to allow for the completion of all processes.

Discussions on harmonization revealed that countries have implemented a common registration form with differences in the handling of registration certificates and also not proceeded to labeling as agreed way back in 2007. Other priorities yet to be harmonized are implementation of quality control measures, mutual recognition of trial results and a common database. It was recommended that more countries be encouraged to participate in the hub and regulatory meetings next year to allow for more in-depth discussions and exchange of information.

**Stella Simiyu Wafukho**

Prof Abdel Meguid delivered a speech on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture in Egypt. He explained that Egypt is keenly following the unfolding of global regulatory issues of neonicotinoids, hormone disruption products and IARC decisions.

He explained how the EU and EPA have focused on hazard and risk based approaches respectively in their outlook on EDs. In addition he explained that in the case of IARC, the focus on the hazard properties of the active ingredient alone is misleading. He added that in the case of Egypt safety was more important and he welcomed continued cooperation with CropLife in order for farmers to understand correct handling of pesticides.

He believed the problems at the local level included inadequate number of trained applicators and a high percentage of counterfeits. On harmonization he encouraged countries from the region to harmonize pesticide regulations and management.

**Stella Simiyu Wafukho**



Prof Abdel Meguid delivering his speech

## Anti Counterfeiting

### CropLife Egypt: Anti-counterfeiting Workshop

Under the MOU between CropLife Egypt and the Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC), a specialized workshop was conducted under the topic of "Illegal Pesticides - the problem and Combat Strategy" on 4 - 5 November 2015 at the venue of Silver Nile – Maadi. Participation included:

- APC members
- Officers of Economical Dept. Ministry of Interior
- Interpol
- Dept. of Water Surfaces and Environment - Ministry of Interior
- Dept. of industrial Development - Ministry of Industry
- Surveillance Dept. Central Agricultural Pesticide Laboratory
- Reps. of International and local pesticide companies (Anti-Counterfeiting Steering Committee members)
- Communication & Public Affairs - Sanofi company

Dr. Mohamed Abdelmegeed, APC Chairman opened the ceremony and elaborated on the efforts of the APC with CropLife Egypt in the fight against the illegal pesticide trade through training, awareness campaigns and specialized workshops in executing the recommendations of the earlier workshop in January 2015.

Said Abdella presenting on anti-counterfeiting



Sarwat Sakr, CLE Chairman giving opening speech

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Sarwat Sakr, Chairman, CropLife Egypt acknowledged the mutual efforts to alleviate the illegal trade in pesticides in Egypt and expressed his intention to continue with these activities.

On Day (1) of the workshop, a questionnaire was distributed to identify the problems covering: reasons - methods of smuggling – consequences, to initiate a brain storming between participants.

There was also a presentation from Sanofi company explaining their flagship initiative using the “scratch code” technique to identify genuine from fake products.

On the second day, another questionnaire was distributed " Combat Strategy " including methods of identifying and suggestions to alleviate this phenomenon.

The Director of Logistics - Egyptian Customs Authority, presented a paper under the topic "Increase of banned chemicals smuggling due to the abuse of customs facilitation and lack of coordination between internal and external parties".

New patterns and methods of smuggling were also presented as well as seizures cases and problems

Said Abdella



Dr. Mohamed Shousha  
(Customs Authority)



Group Photo

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## Biotechnology

### Plant Discovery Leads to Treatment of Leukemia



A technology developed for plant research by The Sainsbury Laboratory (TSL) scientist Dr. Matt Moscou has helped cure a one-year-old girl of leukemia. Dr. Moscou's research, which centers on how some plants are susceptible to diseases while others are not, has developed a new genome editing technique. The technology was used to precisely edit the genes in bone marrow tissue that was removed from the patient, so that it can be reintroduced back into the patient and promote the establishment of a second bone marrow transplant.

Dr. Moscou was looking at the effect of the bacterium *Xanthomonas* on crops. The pathogen's genes manipulate the plant's sugar production, increasing sugar in order to feed the bacterium, which in turn has a detrimental effect on the plant. To understand how this works, Dr. Moscou discovered the TAL (transcription activator like) technologies, which enabled him to understand how the genes within the bacteria could change the sugar response in the plant.

"The irony is that bacteria which causes diseases in plant has led to a technology that saves human lives," he said. "When we made this discovery six years ago we could not have predicted where it would lead today, with a little girl now cured of leukemia," he added.

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Dr. Matt Moscou



### BRRRI Scientists Set for Confined Field Trials of Golden Rice

Scientists from the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRRI) have successfully completed the trials of Golden Rice in the screen house, and are now set for the next step of confined field trials.

According to Bangladesh Agriculture Minister, Matia Chowdhury, the National Technical Committee on Crop Biotechnology has approved the request of BRRRI to conduct the confined field trials last month. The Golden Rice variety (*GR-2 E BRRRI dhan29*) will be tested starting November.

World Health Organization (WHO) data say that one out of five pre-school children in Bangladesh lacks vitamin A, as well as 24 percent of pregnant women in the country. When Golden Rice becomes available, 150 grams of the vitamin-A enriched rice will be enough to supply half of the required daily intake of vitamin A for an adult.

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## Uganda's President Calls for Modern Science Thinking

The President of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri Museveni, has asked Members of Uganda's Parliament (MPS) to "modernize their thinking" towards new scientific innovations and technologies, including modern biotechnology. This statement was made during the World Food Day celebration at the National Agricultural Research Organization's Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute in Rwebitaba, Kabarole district on October 16, 2015.

In his speech, H.E. Yoweri Museveni asked the Members of Parliament to approve passage of the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill so that scientists are allowed to release their research products to the farmers for testing. He directed that scientists should not be "frustrated" but rather allowed to innovate so that they contribute to fulfilling the National Priorities including helping rural communities to become resilient to negative effects of climate change and to produce more food for their families and for the country.

During the celebration, the Uganda Bioscience Information Center (UBIC), together with biotech communication partners, demonstrated the relevance of using biotechnology to address some of the agricultural challenges faced by farmers in Uganda. The colorful showcase included use of tissue culture to provide farmers with disease-free planting materials for banana, cassava, coffee, and pineapple; use of GM technology to address crop diseases for banana and cassava; and use of GM technology to address climate change issues including drought in maize.

The President visited the exhibit and was impressed by the work being done by Ugandan scientists and pledged government support to modernize agriculture.

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President of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri Museveni



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>1st African Conference On Health Effects Of Endocrine Disruptor's Challenges and Opportunities, SA</b>	<b>Nov 2- 6</b>
<b>Discussion with FAO and CropLife Morocco on GEF project &amp; the container collection component</b>	<b>Nov 9-11</b>
<b>CropLife International: "Access to Pesticides Dialogue", Accra, Ghana</b>	<b>Nov 12</b>
<b>Member States General assembly African Apiculture Platform, Harare, Zimbabwe</b>	<b>Nov 16-18</b>
<b>CLI Container Management Meeting, Cape Town</b>	<b>Nov 16-18</b>
<b>Special meeting with National Associations in Cape Town</b>	<b>Nov 18</b>
<b>CLAME Board Meeting, Johannesburg,</b>	<b>Nov 20</b>
<b>Africa Agri Forum 2nd edition, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire,</b>	<b>Nov 26-27</b>
<b>ToT workshop by CropLife Cameroon</b>	<b>Nov 30 -Dec 4</b>
<b>ToT for SSP trainers, Ethiopia</b>	<b>Nov 30 - Dec 5</b>
<b>Pollinator Issue Team - Brussels</b>	<b>Dec 14</b>
<b>37th Session of the CILSS/CSP, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso</b>	<b>Dec 14 -18</b>
<b>Regulatory Steering Committee, Brussels</b>	<b>Dec 15 -16</b>



Photo: African Business Review



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