



Morocco & Tunisia Master Trainer Courses

What's happening?

- Zimbabwean trainer profile
- French ToT's in North Africa
- SAICM, Cairo
- South Africa Pesticide Management Workshop
- New EU regulations
- New ECPA initiative
- ASP workshop

CropLife Africa Middle East and IFDC have teamed up again, this time in North Africa, where Manon Dohmen and Raphael Vogelsperger of IFDC conducted two Master Trainer courses, under the supervision of Peter Mills of CropLife Africa Middle East. The first course in the first week of September, was held in Tunis, Tunisia and they accredited 13 Master Trainers, from the Ministry of Agriculture, NGO's, industry and the Africa Stockpiles Programme. The second course was held the following week, in Casablanca, Morocco, where another 13 participants, all from industry, were accredited.

Standards were high in both courses, and great things in training are expected from all participants. We look forward to their training reports for future newsletters. See page 2 for latest training personality profile.

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Tunisian participants and facilitators



Moroccan participants & association members

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Zimbabwean leads the way

Stephen Manonge from Zimbabwe was accredited to ACIA (now CropLife Zimbabwe) in 2001 and was trained by CropLife Africa Middle East as a Master Trainer in 2003, and by QPartnership Training Consultants, as a Training Manager in 2003. He is based in Harare with Bayer CropScience, as the Product Development & Training Manager. Training has become a key activity to update customers in all aspects of responsible use of crop protection products. The training programmes have been centred on **Responsible Use of Pesticides** under the framework of Good Agricultural Practice and Integrated Pest Management (following the guidelines of EUREP-GAP). Emphasis is placed on personal safety precautions for the safe handling and application of pesticides and the protection of human health and the environment.

In 2003 and 2004, Steve trained over 250 farm section heads and supervisors from Malawian Tobacco companies, for their GAP accreditation programmes. In 2004 and 2005, Steve concentrated the training in the cotton sector, where he trained over 4000 growers and extension personnel from cotton companies in Zambia.

Since 2004, his training in Zimbabwe has focused on the horticultural export sector, where exporters strive to gain accreditation to EUREP-GAP, targeting section heads, farm supervisors, foremen, sprayer operators, pesticide storekeepers and drivers. To date, 150 have been trained. This program has now been extended to agricultural extension workers due to the increase in new farmers as a result of the land re-distribution programme. Selected



farmers have been provided with inputs by cotton companies, and are being trained alongside extension workers from cotton companies and government. More than 1200 have participated in this training.

Certificates have been introduced and these have become highly valued, and as the news of this training spreads, requests for similar training is becoming overwhelming. Another CropLife Africa Middle East Master Trainer course to increase Zimbabwe's training capacity is planned for early 2007. On the whole, the training has been well received and there have been noticeable changes in the manner in which farm personnel handle pesticides, as previously, many small but important safety aspects have been overlooked. Reports from farm managers have shown production increases and a significant drop in accidents due to pesticide exposure, with fewer farm workers reporting to clinics.

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African Regional Meeting of SAICM

Regional coordinator, Ali Mohamed Ali, represented CropLife Africa Middle East at the African Regional Meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) that took place between 11th and 14th September, 2006 at the Cairo Conrad Hotel. The meeting was the first regional meeting following the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) held in Dubai in February, 2006.

The meeting focused on the regional implementation of SAICM. In this context, the meeting developed the African Regional Plan for the implementation of SAICM and It also resolved the Rules of Procedure and other issues related to the Quick Start Programme (QSP) of SAICM.

The final report of the conference together with other conference documents are placed on the SAICM website: www.chem.unep.ch/SAICM/. Contact: ali-croplife@nets.com.jo



Regional coordinator greets Egyptian Minister of Environment



Regional Coordinator addressing African regional meeting on SAICM

Strengthening National Associations: Cameroon

Bama Octave Yao, in his continuing programme to strengthen national associations, visited Cameroon, where he held a meeting with the executive committee of CropLife Cameroon to review activities and priorities. These were: setting up a realistic, workable action plan based on country priorities; completing action plans for the FAO CoC self evaluation; reinforcing cooperation with the Minister

of Agriculture on regulatory issues; strengthen implementation and negotiations to combat unnecessary taxes proposals; pursue discussions on recruiting a permanent secretary or a periodic consultant to run the national association; building alliances and partnerships by identifying and communicating potential partners to hub coordinator for linking actions; linking with Dr Chris Waller for guidance on

obstacles issues; ensuring country ratification of relevant conventions, and association implication in all activities; furthering communication activities and reporting on stewardship activities for visibility; preparation of upcoming training sessions, including identifying suitable trainers, trainees, themes/topics and venues.

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Pesticide Management Policy Workshop: RSA

Background:

The South African Department of Agriculture prepared an excellent meeting to address pesticide management policy. Industry was suitably represented by a cross section of both Research Based companies as well as a spread of generic companies and consultants. More than 300 submissions had been received in preparation for the Workshop, broken down into 8 categories namely: “corrections” “supported” “clarifications” “applications” “amendments” “objections” “spirit & intent” and “inadequate”.

Discussions:

Categories such as “objections” which covered such issues as levies on containers, “amendments” which covered issues as to whether the word “pesticide” should be used in the Policy Document, “spirit & intent” which covered such items as “the need for affordable PPE”, were quickly dealt with leaving the key points for discussion as those items listed under “inadequate”. These were as follows: capacity building in the area of “research”; regional harmonisation of Pesticide Regulations; dual regulations of pesticides (MRC for veterinary remedies and Act 36 for agricultural remedies); control of point of source of pollution of ground water; polluter – pays principals and cradle-to-grave responsibilities; intellectual property rights specifically data compensation in cases where new data has been generated on products where the patent has lapsed; household pesticides especially those associated with endocrine disruption and child cancer; food safety, cumulative effects of pesticide ingestion; risk assessment, not taking into consideration local climate and human health conditions; storage and transportation of pesticides under the Basel Convention; cer-

tification of pesticide applicators; roles and responsibilities of various key stakeholders not defined; disclosure of inerts on the label; membership of SACU and other bilateral agreements - how will South Africa ensure that no “severe hazardous pesticides” are traded into other SACU countries?

A number of the above points were either resolved or left over to one of the working groups, however, the issues of “Regional Harmonisation” “Intellectual Property Rights” and “Disclosure of inerts on the label” were hotly debated. Outcomes, as follows:

Regional Harmonisation: After a lengthy debate it was accepted that the “promotion of regulatory harmonisation within the region” would be included in the Policy Document.

Disclosure of inerts on the label: The DoA is prepared to settle on only those inerts that are required under EU legislation and is prepared to discuss this further with Industry.

Intellectual Property Rights: From the onset it was quite clear that the DoA were prepared to tighten up on IPR but required consensus from Industry. This however never materialised as the generic group insisted that there is a signed agreement in place between the two camps and that there cannot be any deviation from this. According to area co-ordinator, Les Hillowitz, he believes that the “generic group” simply does not understand that South Africa is a signatory to the WTO and the resulting TRIPS agreement and that this cannot be altered by the DoA. Consequently TRIPS should be written into the Policy Document of which the management of such an arrangement is an entirely different issue. A meeting with the Generic Group to explain this is planned shortly. Contact: les.hillowitz@icon.co.za

Central Africa Regulatory Initiatives

The Central Africa Phytosanitary Committee (Comité Phytosanitaire d'Afrique Centrale, CPAC) held a workshop from 24 to 28-September-2006, at the Hotel Saphir, Brazzaville, Congo, the objective, of which, was to set up the committee and action plans for official recognition and to start activities. This was attended by delegates and experts from the six member states of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (Communauté Economique et Monétaire d'Afrique Centrale, CEMAC). Participants also included partners, COLEACP-PIP (sponsor of the meeting), CropLife Africa Middle East, EU, FAO, OMS.

As a result, Nazaire Nkouka, formerly Scientific Secretary of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IASPC) was elected President; Benoit Bouato, Information & Documentation Service, IAPSC was elected Permanent Secretary. Both President and Permanent Secretary are elected for two-year terms. Two committees were set up to conduct (registration) activities of CPAC, one for Biological Efficacy and Physical-Chemical Evaluation and one for (Eco)Toxicology Evaluation.

An action plan was adopted to be submitted

to the CEMAC Executive Secretary, which includes an agreed budget; establishment of legal status and visibility of CPAC; identifying funding possibilities; setting up operational procedures for pesticide registration; registering pesticides in the CEMAC sub-region; implementing the programmes. The Executive Secretary of CEMAC will submit these action plans and budget to CEMAC decision making bodies for funding the activities. A recommendation will be made for the creation of a sub-regional laboratory for quality control and residues analysis.

CEMAC Member States will set up programmes for: sensitization, education/training of the public on responsible use of pesticides; capacity building in national committees for pesticide management; inventory of additional national expertise in CPAC; countries with no (or outdated) regulations are requested to seek assistance/expertise from other countries to update national legislation; governments to upgrade their communication systems to in order to ease internet connection/access. The IAPSC is to assist and guide CPAC, a CEMAC 'tool' during its temporary location at IAPSC.

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ASP Obsolete Stocks workshop in Lyon, France



CropLife International's ASP team organized a workshop in Lyon, France as part of their contribution to the Africa Stockpiles Programme. The objective of the workshop was to learn and see first hand how a retrieval scheme for both obsolete pesticides and empty containers is managed in a "First World" country and to see whether this model can be used in Africa starting with the P1 countries within the ASP.

This was facilitated by members of **ADIVALOR** (Agriculteurs Distributeurs Industriels Pour La Valorisation des Dechets Agricoles), a voluntary French professional plant protection product waste scheme. For more

see their website: www.adivalor.fr). Participants were: Hassine Ben Salah, Conseille Technique, PASP, Tunisie; Nadia Cheikh Limam, Agence Nationale de Gestion de Déchets, Tunisie; Nacer Chouikh, Association Tunisienne de la Protection des Plantes; Mekki Chouibani, PASP, Maroc; Ahmed Jaafari, PASP, Maroc; Mohamed Mihi, Marbar Chemie, Maroc; Mark Davis, Obsolete Pesticides Unit, FAO, Rome; Les Hillowitz, CropLife Africa Middle East (East and Southern Africa); Gérard Graber, Bayer CropScience, Lyon; Dr. Chris Waller, CropLife International.

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What next for EU regulations?

There are two proposals of direct interest to the crop protection industry currently in the pipeline. They cover the replacement of the Pesticides Directive (91/414/EEC) by a new Regulation and a new Thematic Strategy and Framework Directive on Sustainable Use.

Directive 91/414 revision

In July, the Commission published its proposals for replacing the current Directive by a new Regulation (see July 2006 Perspectives). ECPA was disappointed by many of the proposed changes, which would reduce choice for farmers and introduce considerable disincentives for innovation by crop protection companies. Even more worrying was a suggestion to compare products simply on the basis of hazard, which would set a precedent for a move away from scientific risk assessment for decision making.

However, the Commission's proposals form only the first stage of the process, and we need to look now at the next steps and the likely timescales. The formal submission of the proposals to the Council and Parliament will take place as soon as translation into all official languages has been done. The next formal step would then be the first

reading in Parliament in early 2007. The amendments made by Parliament then go to the Council which will produce a "common position" later in the year.

A second round of consideration by Parliament and response by the Council then takes place, with publication of the agreed Regulation likely before the end of 2008. This formally enters into force 20 days after publication in the Official Journal, but application only starts after an 18-month transition phase. Industry will probably therefore be bound by the new legislation from sometime in 2010.

This timetable could change to some extent, with publication of the new Regulation as early as the second quarter of 2008. However, whatever the case, there will undoubtedly be significant changes in the proposals before the Regulation is enacted. This is an opportunity for ECPA and member companies to work together with farmers groups and other stakeholders in the food chain to continue the dialogue with the Parliament and Council to persuade them of the need for change.

Sustainable Use

The Commission also adopted a Thematic Strategy and a proposal

for a Framework Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides just before the summer break. This is an important area, where a sensible balance has to be struck between effective protection of people and the environment and freedom for the crop protection industry and farmers to operate commercially and responsibly.

Already, industry is pleased to see that its advice has been heeded and that the draft proposals no longer have references to specific use reduction targets, industry funding of elements of the Thematic Strategy or rigid, Europe-wide standards for national action plans. Manufacturers believe that a combination of efficient stewardship programmes and responsible use by well-trained farmers is a more effective path to sustainability than is an over-prescriptive and inflexible legal framework.

Nevertheless, the framework Directive proposal – which will form the legal basis for implementation of the strategy – has to go through the same procedures as the new pesticides Regulation before adoption, and changes can be introduced which could shift the balance against manufacturers. ECPA, therefore, cannot be complacent.

TOPPS for top water quality

TOPPS – Train the Operators to Prevent Pollution from Point Sources – is a collaborative initiative of the **European Crop Protection Association**, partners in various countries and the European Commission to prevent pollution of water by crop protection products. The three year programme, which started in November 2005, is initiated

and funded by the European LIFE Programme and ECPA (European Crop Protection Association).

It has been shown in previous studies that training operators on how to safely use crop protection products can prevent point sources contamination. Activities at issue are storage of crop protection products, transport, fill-

ing, operation and handling of sprayers before, during and after application, and waste management. TOPPS intends to create awareness on these issues and act via a well-organised European network of partners to achieve its objective: achieving sustainable risk reduction of water contamination with CPP's.

News Snippets

ASP South Africa

During Sept-2006, several meetings took place with the Project Management Unit including the FAO Technical Advisor to find ways to get the project started. Due to restricted capacity within Government a decision was taken to start the project in only one or two provinces and to increase in line with the experience gained.

Useful Websites

CropLife International: www.croplife.org

Japan Crop Protection Association: www.icpa.or.jp

CropLife Africa Middle East: www.croplifeafrica.org

European Crop Protection Association: www.ecpa.be

CropLife America: www.croplifeamerica.org

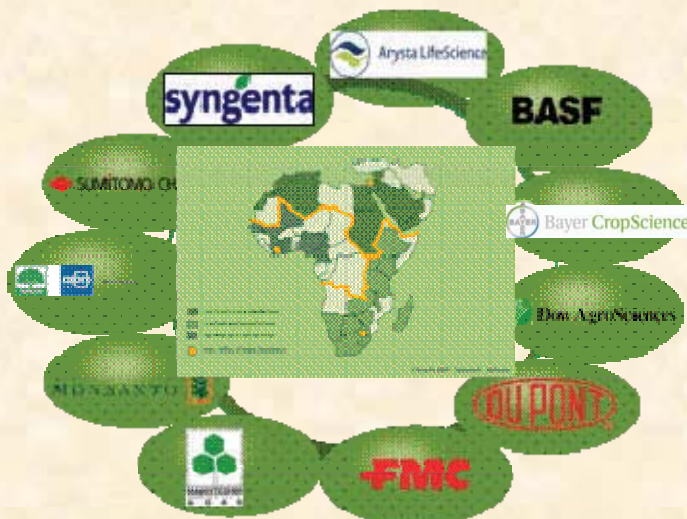
CropLife Latin America: www.croplifelatinamerica.org

CropLife Asia: www.croplifeasia.org

In November and early December this year IFDC and CropLife Africa Middle East will again cooperate in a joint training within the agricultural inputs sector. CropLife will run another of the Master Trainer courses, and this will be followed by a joint training of agricultural input dealers, using the Master Trainers from the 2005 course. This follows several other successful joint activities, previously conducted throughout West-Central and Middle East North Africa regions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Training of Trainers for CropLife Cameroon: 23 to 27-October-2006.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife Nigeria: 27-November to 01-December-2006.
- IFDC training of agricultural input dealers: 04 to 08-December-2006.
- CropLife Africa Middle East Executive Committee meeting, Cairo, Egypt: 23-November-2006.
- North Africa Middle East hub & regulatory meetings, Cairo, Egypt: 21 to 22-November-2006.
- CropLife Africa Middle East Executive Committee Meeting 3/2006, Cairo: 23-November-2006.
- CropLife International Conference, "Intellectual Property: A Hindrance or a Boost to Innovation?", Hotel, Wyndham, Washington DC: 01-December-2006.



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