CropLife Africa Middle East holds Container Management Workshop in South Africa

In line with our strategy to develop container management programs in key countries in the region and by so doing provide the necessary guidance and support, a container management workshop was arranged in South Africa for 11 African countries. The workshop, under the theme “Build and Strengthen Container Management Programs in the Africa, Middle East Region” took place in Stellenbosch on 24 – 26 June.

Delegates witnessed first-hand the success of the South African operation in which ±70% of all plastic containers placed on the market are collected and recycled. They were able to visit a “collection centre” in the Ceres area and 3 recycling plants situated just outside of Cape Town. All countries came prepared with an action plan, either with firm plans to introduce a pilot project, or, in several cases, how they planned to grow their collections.

For 2018, the region only had 8 Pilot Programs with collections growing by approximately ±10% over the 2017 volumes and exceeded our goals, in that more than 5.6 million kg plastics were collected during the year and more than 5.3 million kg plastics, recycled. This is approximately 19% of all the plastic pesticide containers placed in the African market.

The workshop included presentations by both GLOBALG.A.P. and WWF which were interactive and highly supportive of our endeavours. Samira Amellal, DG of CropLife Africa Middle East, undertook the opening address as well as the closing remarks.

Les Hillowitz

Delegates at the Workshop
Stewardship

Products produced with the recovered plastics from our containers
Ambitious project by CropLife Kenya aims at doubling the number of SSP’s.

In early 2019, CLK entered into a partnership agreement with the USAID funded Kenya Crop and Dairy Market Systems Development initiative to train and deploy 800 Spray Service Providers in Kenya. The project would see the doubling of the number of SSP’s in Kenya from 862 to 1,682 at the end of the project in 2020.

In collaboration with the County Departments of Agriculture, the 160 trainees from varied crop and livestock value chains of importance to the local small-scale farmers, had been recruited for the training in the 2 counties of Siaya and Busia.

An outstanding feature of the project is that from the lessons learnt from previous SSP projects, linkages to existing CLK stewardship projects such as agro-dealer strengthening and Container management have been entrenched into the project. These synergies will offer CLK extended capabilities in stewardship of crop protection products within the varied value chains through the setting up of container management collection sites manned by the SSP’s as well as the linkage of agro-dealers to the local SSP’s for wider awareness creation at the point of sale for crop protection products.

The trainings are expected to end in August 2019 with several field activities such as road shows and field days expected to take place during the short rain season starting in October 2019.

Benson Ngigi
CropLife Egypt together with the APC conducts “Responsible Use of Pesticides: Occupational Pesticide Handlers Exposure”, workshop

CropLife Egypt and Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC) conducted a workshop under the title of “Responsible Use of Pesticides: Occupational Pesticide Handlers Exposure” on 17 June 2019 at the Pyramisa Hotel, Dokki.

The objectives of the workshop included the assessment of occupational Pesticide Handlers Exposure. This covered:

• To provide more information on the Responsible Use of pesticides for (mixer / loader / applicator)
• To influence and reduce exposure in an efficient manner.
• To develop an effective data base to access information to be used to calculate exposure risks for the major agricultural and non-agricultural handlers.
• To understand the PHED Exposure Data Base.
• To educate the research group, traders and users on how to professionally deal with the risks of using pesticides.
• To assist in dealing with the Risk Assessment Data in the training of the APC Applicators Project

The workshop was attended by approximately 60 participants from the following institutions:

• Agricultural Pesticide Committee
• Agricultural Research Centre
• Central Agricultural Pesticide Laboratory
• Plant Protection Research Institute
• Faculty of Medicine
• Ministry of Health
• Pesticide Industry (CropLife members)
• The press

Dr. Sherif Ayoub, Chairman, CropLife Egypt welcomed the audience and thanked the APC for their collaboration emphasizing the importance of the workshop in introducing new technologies and methods for the creation of a database and the assessment of pesticide handlers’ exposure. This is significant as the CLI expert (Dr. Rama) will train the participants and demonstrate the new tool developed by CLI to create the database on the exposure levels for these studies.
The workshop was opened by the Chairman of the APC, Prof. Mohamed Abdelmegeed who appreciated the efforts by CropLife Egypt in preparing this intervention and arranging for Prof. Ramanaryanan Tharacad (CropLife International expert) to illustrate the risk assessment for occupational pesticide handlers’ exposure and the presence of Prof. Gehad Abo-Elata (APC Member, Professor of Occupational Health) and Prof. Salwa Abdallah (Head Dept., Mammalian Toxicology, CAPL).

Prof. Abdelmegeed also covered the other joint training activities in Responsible Use, that the APC shares with CropLife Egypt and which forms part of the worthwhile partnership under the signed MOU.

The outcomes of the workshop can be listed as:

A better understanding in dealing with agrochemicals and the necessity for better and safer crops production.

Responsible use in the handling of pesticides whilst ensuring the protection of the environment.

To increase awareness and attract professionally trained research staff for working in the Laboratories. To support this with the most updated methods available from the EPA and EU.

Said Abdella
Joining the last link - CropLife Kenya meets with regional Agro-dealer Associations

The agrochemical supply chain in Kenya comprises of various actors among them manufacturers, importers, repackers, formulators, distributors, agro-dealers / stockists and end users. There are other supporting actors such as the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB), who is the national regulator, private consultants, researchers, company agents and governmental organizations who play a key role in the smooth operations of the supply chain.

CropLife Kenya’s membership comprises of all these actors apart from the agro-dealers who have for long been operating in isolation. This is partly since Kenya has between 4,500 and 5,500 agro-dealers, which is a large number considering they are spread throughout the country. CLK has however had numerous interactions with the agro-dealers in their private capacities as important conduits for pest control products to farmers.

Being an important cog in the supply of agrochemicals to small and medium scale farmers, CLK prioritized the strengthening of identified regional agro-dealer associations to raise their capacity in terms of advocacy and adherence to the code of conduct in pesticide management.

In the latest meetings held in June 2019, CLK met with agro-dealers from Siaya and Trans Nzoia which are key food production counties in Western Kenya. As is the case with the other 10 County Agro-dealer Associations engaged with previously, the associations are extremely unhappy with very rudimentary structures that are not capable to undertake the tasks required of them at county level. The aim was therefore two-fold; To collate their region-specific challenges and secondly to expose their associations to the advantages of being in a strong regional association which can be affiliated to CLK which offers 61 years of experience and pace setting to the fledgling associations.

Some of the challenges that they eluded to were the low membership numbers, challenges in disposal of chemical waste, competition from non-licensed actors through illegal products and undercover sales as well as capacity building on product knowledge and responsible use of pest control products.

The 97 agro-dealers in the Siaya and Trans Nzoia Counties were taken through the advantages of receiving CLK accreditation and CLK’s stewardship trainings which would greatly enhance their service delivery to end users in fighting counterfeit, reducing competition from unregistered retailers and enhancement of the quality of advice they are giving to farmers. They were given a road map on how to achieve this through their respective associations with assistance from CLK.

As part of the way forward, the agro-dealers agreed to embark on a sustained recruitment process that is to rope in new members who did not attend the seminar. This is to be done through the selected recruitment teams based at sub-county level. The recruitment exercise is to be followed by Agro-dealer accreditation and RU trainings in the 4th quarter of 2019, which will take place after they have achieved a critical mass from among the recognized agro-dealers in their respective counties. They also pledged to be part of the national container management program that is under development, by engaging farmers on the subject of triple rinsing. Other activities agreed on were the development of concept notes for funding to support their fledgling activities which include launching of the strengthened regional associations.

CLK looks forward to their success which will culminate in their membership as Affiliate members of CLK.

Benson Ngigi
CropLife Egypt participates with member companies at their events to promote Responsible Use (RU) and Anti-counterfeiting (ACF)

Said Abdella, CropLife Egypt Master Trainer participated at the BASF clinic in Bangar Elsokkar on 22 June where he delivered presentations covering RU and ACF to farmer groups. The clinic was visited by around 50 farmers.

CLE also participated in the Syngenta RU training program for the Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC) on 23 June at the Syngenta station in Qaha, Qalyoubia. The training was attended by 16 participants from various research centres.

Said Abdella conducted a training covering 2 topics, pesticide Resistance Management and the Causes of failure of pesticide application.

Said Abdella
Stewardship

SSP exchange visits in Kenya for honing of skills

As the African saying goes, “Every village has its mad man”, but what they don’t say is that every village also has its success stories.

During the evaluation of the SSP program in Kenya, some very unique success stories have emerged detailing the exemplary adoption of the SSP concept among farming communities.

The group of Spray Service Providers in Makueni and Nyandarua Counties in Kenya has shown that with dedication and the right attitude, the SSP concept has a lot to offer to the everyday small-scale farmers in rural Kenya.

As a challenge to other SSPs trained under the SNV project which was conducted from 2016-2017, an exchange visit was organized to enlighten the late adopters on the possibilities availed by their SSP certification.

To this end, 76 SSPs from Nyeri and Nyandarua counties were facilitated for an exchange visit to the Makueni County to learn first-hand, what dedication to the SSP concept can achieve for them. Another group of 15 from the Bungoma County visited their counterparts in the Nyandarua county to learn more on operations of the SSP business.

On the agenda were lessons on diversification of the SSP concept, where the totem SSPs have been able to tap into the lucrative horticultural market and were being offered substantial contracts for pest management. They have also opened an office from where they run their operations in the Nzaui, Makueni County with wide recognition by farmers.

The visitors were also able to aspire to opening an agro-dealer shop, similar to the one being run by an SSP - Mr. Gaikia - in the Nyandarua County.

A lot of experiences and ideas were exchanged and this platform was definitely an eye opener to the SSPs who got the chance to participate in the exchange visits. In future programs, it is foreseen that similar visits will be budgeted, so as to impart on the new SSPs the vision of the role they can play in the stewardship of crop protection products in Kenya.

Benson Ngigi
14th IUPAC International Congress

CropLife Africa middle East was represented at the 14th IUPAC International Congress of Crop Protection Chemistry at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Ghent, Belgium from 19 until 24 May 2019. IUPAC is held every four years and is the place to not only meet and interact with the world's best experts in crop protection but also to savour the latest innovations in the sector.

This year, the congress brought together a total of 1572 delegates, including, academics, experts from industry, policymakers and students among others - all participating in various sessions arranged around 9 topic areas, highlighted.

Stella Simiyu made a presentation titled Policy Convergence or Interference? Africa's Gain and Pain in Current Regulation of Crop Protection Products under topic area of Stewardship, Regulations and Communication: Future Challenges.

Stella Simiyu Wafukho

Above & Right: Delegates at plenary - Photo by Daphne Matthys
A regional workshop on Development of framework for data protections and sharing for registration of pesticides and Sharing of Pesticide Registration Data Arusha – Tanzania on 27-28th May 2019.

The overall objective of the meeting was to develop an EAC guideline for protection of and access to pesticide data. The specific objectives were:

- An update of existing data protection and sharing frameworks (regional and international level); and
- Identification of salient features of the proposed EAC guideline for pesticide data protection and sharing.
- The meeting was attended by delegates of all the six EAC partner states, the African Agricultural Technology Foundation, Africa Lead II project, East African Civil Society Organizations’ Forum, CropLife Kenya, consultants engaged by USDA, CropLife Africa Middle East (CLAME), and the EAC Secretariat.

Facilitators addressed various topics including Forms of Intellectual Property Rights; Application of patents in crop protection products, Overview and trends in the region on intellectual property, innovation and access to crop protection products, Overview of IP Policy and regulatory frameworks in the EAC region, challenges and gaps, Examples of regulatory frameworks with CBI, the EAC draft Framework on CBI Pesticide Dossier Movement.

Recommendations were made on steps towards finalization of the CBI framework and implementation in the EAC member states.

EAC has prioritized development of a framework for data protection and sharing for registration of pesticides products in the EAC region as a critical step towards operationalization of the EAC Harmonized Pesticide Management Guidelines on data required for pesticide registration. This is also guided by the East African Community, Article 103(1) (I) of the Treaty which, provides a key framework for administration and exploitation of IPR. This framework covers policies on commercialization of technologies as well as promotion and protection of intellectual property rights across all sectors.

Luis Suguiyama, providing US, EPA experiences in protection of CBI

Stella Simiyu Wafukho
CropLife Ghana conducts Anticounterfeiting Training Workshop for Farmers

CropLife Ghana organized a training workshop on June 11, for over 100 cocoa and vegetable farmers in Sabronum, in the Ahafo Ano East District of the Ashanti Region as part of the sensitization efforts for farmers on issues of agrochemical counterfeiting and Responsible Use. The training stressed on the commitment of member companies of CropLife Ghana to supply only quality pesticides and other agri-inputs (seeds and fertilizers) to the farming communities, to ensure higher yields and quality and to protect the health of the farmers and the environment.

The training afforded the opportunity for the farmers to begin to cultivate quality and healthy cocoa and vegetables for both the domestic and international markets using approved and registered agri-inputs for effective and proper application.

Bob Adjakloe and Eric Aboagye, two trainers from CropLife Ghana facilitated the training.

A total of 22 females and 81 males participated in the training program. The participants were cocoa, maize, tomato, and other vegetable producers. The farmer leaders praised CropLife Ghana for the special training and the opportunity to dialogue with the companies present. They were able to negotiate on fair prices for the inputs they require for their farming activities.

The farmers suggested the need for the setting-up of an agro-retailer in the community where they could access quality products from CropLife Ghana members. They also requested companies to link-up with their Spray Service Providers (SSPs) for the distribution of registered pesticides and fertilizers from CropLife Ghana members to counter any counterfeit products that may be available.

Fred Boampong
Combating Counterfeit Pesticides through Border Control and Cooperation

The level of counterfeit and other illegal pesticides (CTF) on the markets has increased with the ever growing cross-border movement of goods in W. Africa. CropLife Côte d’Ivoire and CropLife Ghana organized training workshops simultaneously with the aim of strengthening the capacity of the enforcers and security forces alongside the border in the two countries. The workshops took place on June 27 in Koun-Fao for the workshop in Côte d’Ivoire, and in Dormaa Ahenkro for the workshop in Ghana with 70 and 60 participants, respectively.

The participants at the Ghana workshop comprised officers from Ghana Immigration Services, regional officers of the Ghana Environment Protection Agency (Ghana-EPA) in the Bono Region, regional officers of the Plant Protection Directorate Services of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA/PPRSD) in Sunyani, and District officers of MoFA/PPRSD in Gonokrom and the media. The participants on the Côte d’Ivoire side, included the members of the Departmental Committee to Fight Illegal Pesticides (Comités Departementaux de Lutte contre les Pesticides Illégaux, CDLPI) of Agnibilékro, Koun-Fao and Transua; these three localities are alongside one another on the border.

The topics covered during the workshops focused on

- Pesticides and Sustainable Agriculture;
- Consequences of pesticide misuse on human health and the environment;
- Pesticide regulations in the respective countries (Côte d’Ivoire or Ghana);
- Labels/Labelling of pesticides,
- Identifying counterfeit and other illegal pesticides;
- Risks of counterfeit pesticides on the agricultural and national economies;
- Overview of the legal frameworks for pesticide management in the respective countries (Côte d’Ivoire of Ghana);
- Relevance of checking pesticides across the borders;
The following day, on June 28 the two delegations met at the Takikro-Gonokrom checkpoint at the border between Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana. The delegations comprised of the regulatory bodies from Côte d’Ivoire (DPVCQ) and of Ghana (Ghana-EPA and MoFA-PPRSD), CropLife Côte d’Ivoire and CropLife Ghana. The Secretary General of the Prefectorate of Koun-Fao and the Sub-Prefect of Kokomian, the closest city that has Takikro under their administrative authorities, headed the delegation from Côte d’Ivoire.

The objective of the visit was to pursue the sensitization efforts towards the enforcement bodies and the security forces involved in border control activities, with a focus on the needed cooperation between the two countries to combat the illegal trade of pesticides. They were addressed on the risks associated with the use of illegal pesticides, which included risks on human health and the environment, economic and financial risks with the possible rejection of export crops mainly cocoa beans, a strategic source of foreign income for the two countries and key suppliers to the world cocoa beans market.

Customs, other enforcement bodies and security forces at the borders need to cooperate for the full enforcement of laws and measures against such illegal trade between the two countries. This cooperation will contribute to meeting the challenges of agricultural production and productivity, and ensure the quality and safety of agricultural produce. This is in line with the tremendous support and investment CropLife Africa Middle East and CropLife International are providing to the regulatory authorities in order to secure the sustainability of agricultural economies.

The enforcement bodies of both countries committed to fully implement the regulatory measures, combat illegal pesticides and cooperate with each other in halting the cross-border movement of pesticides between the two countries. They will immediately inform the other side of any seizures or suspicious cases and report to the authorities of both sides of the border.

Bama Yao
Anti-Counterfeiting Activities

The delegation from Côte d’Ivoire upon arrival at Customs Services (R) and with their counterparts from Ghana customs and security forces at the end of the visit (Below). Photo Courtesy CropLife Cote d’Ivoire and CropLife Ghana.

Bama Yao, CropLife AME and Fred Boampong, CropLife Ghana addressing the customs, and enforcement agencies at the Takikro-Gonokrom border check point. Photo Courtesy CropLife CI.
Ghana’s Government Seek Approval of New Law for GMO Regulations

Ghana’s government is considering new laws that will facilitate the regulation of genetically modified (GM) food in the country.

The Biosafety (Management of Biotechnology) Regulations 2019, a Legislative instrument, has been introduced in parliament and is currently awaiting approval. It operationalizes the National Biosafety Act 2011 which permits the entry of GMOs in Ghanaian markets and sets the functions of the National Biosafety Authority. The document also specifies the committees that will aid the government in regulatory procedures such as application processes, obtaining import and export permits, monitoring and enforcement to ensure the safety of GM foods, and public education on GMOs.

Ghana’s Minister for Environment, Science, Technology, Innovation, Dr. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng, has expressed his full support for the Biosafety Regulations and appealed to the 275 members of parliament for its approval.

In his memo to parliament, Dr. Boateng underscored the significance of the new law and praised GMOs for its positive impact on agricultural productivity, which has a great potential in addressing the food needs of the country. “The act aims at regulating biotechnology to ensure an adequate level of safety to human health, and the environment in the development, transfer, handling and use of GMOs and establish a transparent and predictable process in reviewing and making decisions on GMOs in Ghana,” he said. Dr. Boateng also stated that modern biotechnology can be utilized to develop drought-resistant food crops and biofertilizers; enhance nutritional value and extend shelf-life of foods; and reduce the use of machinery on farmlands therefore protecting the environment.

Federal Office for the Environment Approves GM Barley Field Trial in Switzerland

The Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) of Switzerland has given permission to the University of Zurich to conduct field trials of genetically modified (GM) barley under strict conditions on June 12, 2019.

The FOEN approved the application and set out the measures that the university had to take to prevent GM material from spreading outside the experimental area. These requirements are comparable to those made in previous trials conducted in Switzerland. The field trial has been restricted to five cultivation periods from spring 2019 to autumn 2023 and will be carried out on a protected site at the Reckenholz (ZH) site of the Swiss Federal Research Station Agroscope.

The barley that will be tested has been modified with the wheat resistance gene Lr34. The researchers want to find out whether the gene can also protect corn and barley. The crop will be exposed to barley leaf rust and powdery mildew fungi to test resistance. The field trials will also test whether the genetic modifications have any effect on crop development and yield.
CropLife Africa Middle East
International Association AISBL
Rue Théodore de Cuypers 100
B-1200 Brussels

www.croplifeafrica.org