



Hub and Regulatory Workshop held in Cairo, Egypt on 15 – 16 October

During this year's, joint session of the Hub and Regulatory Workshop held in Cairo Egypt on October 15 and 16, introductory remarks were made by the Chair, CropLife Egypt, DG CropLife Africa Middle East and the Chairman of the APC. Prof. Mohammed Abdelmegeed.

Dr. Sherif Ayoub Chairman of CropLife Egypt provided a highlight covering the events of the association since May 2019, showing unprecedented achievements in the area of FAW management, anti-counterfeiting activities, training on biopesticides and operator exposure. Dr. Samira Amellal, on her part indicated that the workshop provided an opportunity for the 80 plus participants drawn from industry and regulatory authorities of Egypt, Oman, Kuwait, Lebanon and Sudan, to discuss issues around enhancing the management of pesticides in North Africa and Middle East countries.

In his opening address Prof. Mohamed Abdelmegeed emphasized the efforts being made by the Pesticides Committee in rationalizing the use of pesticides by focussing on the achievement of safety before efficiency. He highlighted the need for harmonised strategies in the control of FAW, the ongoing national plan to monitor residues in vegetables and fruits and focus on fast tracking the use of biologicals.

The topics covered during the regulatory technical sessions were:

- Harmonisation of Pesticide Regulations in the Middle East: Benefits of Harmonisation and specific experiences from Egypt and Lebanon.
- HHPs, EU ED criteria, NNIs, MRLs and trade impact on Middle East countries
- EU status on biodegradable plastics for pesticides packaging
- Registration Requirements for CPPs in the NAME Countries
- Implementation of Mode of Action Labeling
- Training on PHI and MRLs



Various recommendations were reached on enhancing harmonization in regulation of pesticides in the sub region as well as around risk assessment approaches and MRLs.

Only two National Associations participated at the sub-regional Hub Meeting. The meeting was supported by a representative from the pesticide industry in Saudi Arabia.

In their feedback presentations, CropLife Egypt reported on the following:

- That they recently conducted a TOT / RU for both SGS and Blue Moon. Their RU awareness programs in the last 2 months reached 372 farmers, whilst the success in supporting CropLife members in their activities has grown from strength to strength.
- On Mode of Action labeling, engagement must be through the regulatory authorities (APC) as only they can approve pesticide labels. There is however positive engagement between CropLife Egypt and the APC on this.
- The use of PPE by farmers is recognized as an issue and assistance is needed to address this.
- On Fall Armyworm, CropLife Egypt together with the regulatory authorities have made great strides in addressing the problem and keeping this from spreading further.
- Container Management will be a prime focus for 2020. A working group has been formed and an action plan developed. This has the support of all stakeholders including the regulatory authorities. A Pilot Program will be in place in the course of 2020. (Container Management was again covered at a separate workshop the day following the close of the Hub Meeting)

SAGA (CropLife Sudan) covered the following:

- An SSP ToT took place in collaboration with University of Gezira (Faculties of Health and Agricultural Sciences) in early October. The SSP program in Sudan started in 2016 in collaboration with IFAD in North and South Kordofan. In 2016, 120 SSPs were trained. The program continued in 2017. This will again continue to be rolled out in five States in 2020 in collaboration with IFAD
- A second SSP program in collaboration with the University of Gezira will also start in 2020.
- On Container Management, CropLife Sudan met with the NPC in early October and a Steering Committee for the introduction of a Pilot Project was agreed upon. This will start with the private sector in promoting triple rinsing with the possibility of recycling kicking-off in 2020. SAGA will continue to be an active member of this committee.
- Resistance Management is carried out in the cotton area, more so when pesticides are applied by aerial spraying companies. Herbicide application is undertaken by tractor mounted sprayers and rotated. Specialized companies are providing these services.
- PPE is an issue. Supplies are available in the country and are used by application teams in the sugar sector and by ground teams of the aerial application companies. PPE is however not used by farmers, mostly producing vegetables, despite huge efforts exerted by SAGA in creating awareness.
- On Fall Armyworm, a training program started at end 2017. A National Committee was formed by the MoA (NPC) of which SAGA is a member. The training was given by an expert from FAO. The committee was divided into six subcommittees and which toured the whole country (18 States), training field extension services and specialist applicators on identification and use of the mobile phone on reporting and creating awareness for farmers.

The representative from Saudi Arabia gave a general overview on the main cropping production in the country and the operation of the pesticide industry.

Stella Simiyu Wafukho & Les Hillowitz



Dr. Luis Suguiyama delivering a presentation



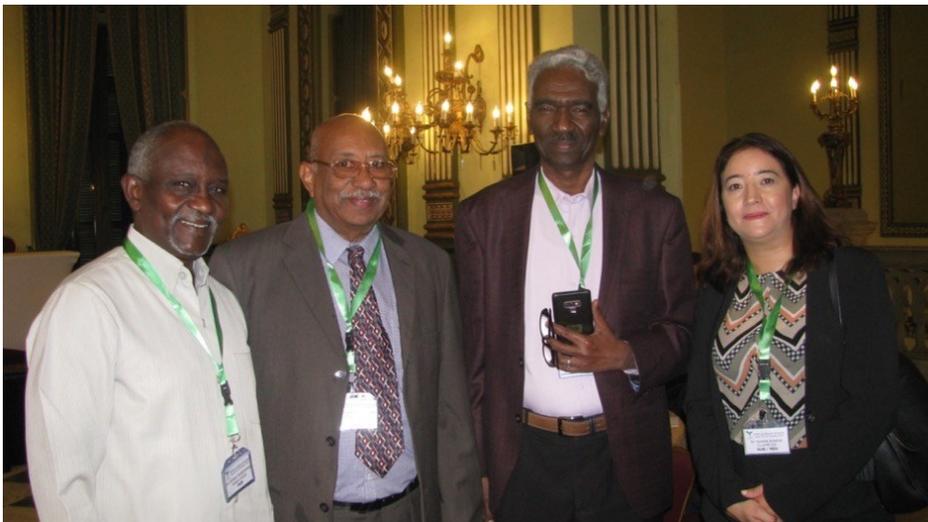
CropLife
AFRICA MIDDLE EAST



Above Left: The group that participated at the Hub Meeting



Sadek Al Ramadan, representative from Saudi Arabia



The team from SAGA (CropLife Sudan) with Samira Amellal

Below: We were indeed privileged to have had the presence of Sarwat Sakr at the opening of the workshop following his recently experienced ill-health



Stewardship

Building Capacity for Managing the Threats of FAW in West Africa

The recent FAW crisis in West Africa led CropLife International to provide support for capacity building through a training of trainers (ToTs) program earlier this year. As an outcome, the participants from the targeted four countries namely, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Nigeria undertook to train the field staff of the member companies of their respective national CropLife associations. CropLife Ghana and CropLife Nigeria organized these trainings in their respective countries to provide knowledge and tools for the detection of FAW infestation and be in a position to recommend the appropriate control measures.

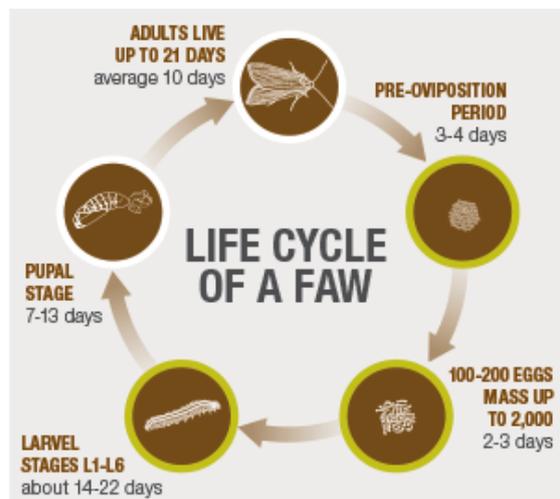
The workshops were facilitated by Master Trainers who earlier participated in the regional training. The 23 participants in Ghana and the 15 in Nigeria were sensitized to some of the important aspects in management of challenges of FAW. These included the early detection following regular and appropriate monitoring, the registration status and the mode of action of the recommended pesticides, skillful application such as when using an SSP, well maintained and the correct calibration of the spraying equipment and the coordination for control measures among neighboring farms.

Participants are now expected to train their colleagues in the respective companies and farmer clients to ensure the containment of future outbreaks.

Fred Boampong, CropLife Ghana, Babajide Adigun & Siji Ofoesuwa, CropLife



Participants at the workshop representing member companies of CropLife Ghana



Stewardship

Participants (Right) proudly exhibiting the identification leaflet during a message of support from the President M. Tauhid (Right - Centre) of CropLife Nigeria.



Larvae of FAW in a maize cob (Left), then placed on a maize leaf to examine the characteristics (Right).



Stewardship

CropLife Egypt holds a Container Management Workshop

The CropLife Egypt Container Management Team held a meeting on 17 October at the Marriott Hotel, Zamalek, Cairo which included the attendance of the Agricultural Pesticide Committee (APC), CLAME, Blue Moon and several member company representatives

There were interactive sessions on Container Management in the Africa Middle East region, a session on CropLife Egypt's Container Management activities, the Blue Moon initiative in Container Management and discussion in general on how do we move to the next steps.

In conclusion, the group agreed to hold a meeting with the APC at their offices to identify key stakeholders to participate in the development of a Pilot Project.

This would be followed by a larger workshop with the identified stakeholders to conclude the strategy and to identify the role of all parties.

Mahmoud Said

Left to Right: Said Abdella, Prof. Dr. Mostafa Abdelsattar, Mohamed Tohamy and Mahmoud Said



Left to Right: Manal Saleh, Les Hillowitz, Mohamed Anwar and Hamza Ghallab



Stewardship

SAGA (CropLife Sudan) conducts SSP TOT with the University of Gezira

(Faculties of Health & Agricultural Sciences)

On October 8 – 10, SAGA (CropLife - Sudan) undertook an SSP TOT with the University of Gezira. The trainer was Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali from SAGA and the contents of the training were based on the CropLife training manual.

46 candidates with varying qualifications participated at the training. The University of Gezira is in Medani city located in the centre of Gezira State, representing the bulk of irrigated agriculture in Sudan. This covers 924,000 ha. planted by 112,000 farmers living in small towns and villages.

The objective for this combination of participants is that, the personnel from the Faculty of Health are to take over the responsibility of safety issues of farmers in the community while those from the Faculty of Agriculture are to handle the details of application and the implications on the biological performance of pesticides.

Both groups will work together touring the area, building unique teams and sending appropriate messages to farmers in the area.

The training was greatly appreciated by the Officials in the City and both the “opening and closing programs” were attended by high ranking personnel from the University including the Dean of Faculties, Heads of Departments, Scientists from Agricultural Research and Officials from the State Government.

Elsir Omer



Group Photo

Regulatory Advocacy

CropLife Zambia Holds Workshop on Risk Mitigation Approaches for Effective Management of Pesticides

“Effective risk mitigation in pesticide use is key to effective pest management and the growth of the agricultural sector in Zambia”, said the ZEMA Director of Operations in his address to the Workshop on Pesticide Risk Mitigation Approaches for Zambia. The two - day workshop was held on 22 and 23 October at the Hilton Garden Hotel in Lusaka with the support from CropLife International. It was attended by participants from industry, farmer representatives and from ZEMA, the regulatory authority.

The main objective of the workshop was to initiate dialogue with stakeholders in pesticide management and identify potential options for the management of risks. The workshop specifically focused on carrying out “a needs assessment” within the country to ascertain critical issues in pesticides management and on the development and implementation of risk mitigation initiatives in line with identified critical issues.

The workshop was divided into 6 parts, namely:

- The introduction to CLAME
- Zambia’s pesticide regulatory framework
- Zambia’s activities aimed as risk mitigation
- ZEMA regulations governing pesticides management and risk mitigation
- Principle regulations and risk mitigation
- Development of a minimal risk mitigation projects concept

The workshop was facilitated by Stella Simiyu from CLAME, Richard Garnett from CropLife International, Perry Ngoma from CropLife Zambia and Christopher Kanema from ZEMA.

It was concluded from the workshop that even though the Industry is involved in mitigating the risks associated with pesticide use through its various programs, there is more that could be done. It was also recommended that stakeholders efforts should be integrated to avoid duplication of efforts. An update of the ongoing efforts in container management and risk reduction of HHPs was provided.

Another recommendation was that the FAO Code of Conduct must be reemphasized throughout the life-cycle of pesticide products in order to manage risks better. This should be included in all the training sessions offered through CropLife Zambia and its partners.



Mr. Gift Sikaundi, Director of Operations at ZEMA Officially opening the Workshop



Paul Kapapula, Chairman of CropLife Zambia giving his welcoming address

Regulatory Advocacy

CropLife Zambia Holds Workshop on Risk Mitigation Approaches for Effective Management of Pesticides - cont.

At the end of the Workshop, the following were identified as Zambia's critical issues for all stakeholders to focus their efforts in the next few years:

- Inadequate awareness on IPM and Sound Management of Chemicals
- The need for greater enforcement by the regulator
- Increased exposure of farm workers and smallholder farmers to pesticide risks
- Need to eradicate counterfeit and poor-quality products
- Need for funding of risk mitigation programs
- Initiation of high-level communication on risk mitigation

The next steps will include most importantly, the formation of both Stewardship and Regulatory adhoc teams comprised of the relevant stakeholders. The committees will consider the recommendations from the workshop and refine the proposals developed based on the identified critical areas for risk mitigation. Implementation will be done through various means depending on the proposed approach for each critical risk and this will involve all stakeholders in different capacities.

In closing the workshop, Chola Kamaki, the former Chairman of CropLife Zambia, emphasised the need for all stakeholders to contribute towards mitigating the risks associated with pesticide use and encouraged the Industry to be the driver if pesticide use was to be viewed positively by society.

Stella Simiyu Wafukho & Perry Ngoma



Group Photo



Regulatory Advocacy

Risk Mitigation Approaches for Effective Management of Pesticides in Kenya

A workshop on risk mitigation approaches for effective management of pesticides was held in Nairobi - Kenya at the Southern Sun Hotel on 25 October. The workshop brought together over 50 participants comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Pest Control Products Board, Horticulture grower groups and CropLife member companies.

This was a follow up to a previous workshop held in 2018, which aimed at reviewing the implementation of recommendations given in 2018 and a reprioritization of activities to refocus efforts in the coming few years.

Speaking on behalf of Ms. Grace Agili, Deputy Director, Crops Resources and Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Ms. Teresia Karanja, urged participants to aim at building synergies in implementation of prioritized initiatives in light of the ever increasing pest challenges in the country. She highlighted the Agriculture Sector Transformation Strategy as a key blue print for stakeholders to focus their efforts towards implementation as well as the big four agenda.

Mr. Peter Opiyo, the Managing Director of the Pest Control Products Board urged participants to agree on key items for implementation and follow them through to implementation in the coming year.

During the workshop deliberations, facilitators from PCPB and industry provided updates on the implementation of regulatory and stewardship activities in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct on pesticides management. In addition, an overview of the ongoing dialogue around pesticides in the country was mentioned and various stakeholders were urged to communicate more on the activities they are implementing. The result of the reprioritization exercise highlighted the following four issues for implementation in the coming year.

- Pesticides related Information Dissemination.
- Pesticides Residues in Food.
- Enhanced Visibility of the Regulatory Authorities Efforts in Pesticides Management.
- Safe Use -Technical Training, Access, Use and Type of PPE.

While closing the workshop on behalf of the Managing Director of PCPB, Dr. Paul Ngaruiya, urged participants to start implementation with urgency. The Agrochemicals Association of Kenya also urged participants to avail their time and resources in refining and implementing the prioritized activities.

Stella Simiyu Wafukho



Ms. Teresia Karanja -Ministry of Agriculture,



Stella Simiyu Wafukho giving a presentation



Regulatory Advocacy



Group Photo



Working Session



Anti-Counterfeiting Activities

Capacity Enhancement for Nigeria Customs for IPRs Enforcement

REACT, the Anti-counterfeit organization, organized a training workshop for approximately 100 officers and agents from the IP Unit of Nigeria Customs. The workshop convened on October 17 at the Nigeria Customs Training College in Lagos.

The workshop aimed to sensitize the participants on the proliferation of counterfeit and pirated goods and the subsequent risks on human health and the environment as well as on the important financial losses to the economy.

More than 10 “right holders” provided practical cases of IP identification features, thus tools to recognize counterfeit and other pirated goods. Among the “right holders” were several from the pharmaceuticals, the cosmetics and computer industries.

The Anti-Counterfeiting efforts by CropLife AME were shared with the participants through a presentation focusing on the proliferation, detection and needed cooperation to prevent the use and fight against counterfeit and other illegal pesticides.

The presentation was well received and CropLife Nigeria is expected to organize further training in cooperation with NAFDAC, the regulatory authorities. The involvement of NAFDAC would definitely strengthen cooperation between the two institutions for better enforcement of regulations and the protection of IPRs, and in so doing would offer greater benefits to agricultural production and productivity through the supply of quality pesticides.

Bama Yao



Above: Partial view of the participants comprising of enforcement officers and agents

Below: The IP Unit of the Nigeria Customs Services, and the President of CropLife Nigeria (foreground).



React
The Anti-Counterfeiting Network



Anti-Counterfeiting Activities

Sensitization of the Officers of Agriculture on Counterfeit and Illicit pesticides, Cote d'Ivoire

The regulatory authority represented by the Plant Protection Directorate (DPVCQ) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) in cooperation with CropLife Cote d'Ivoire, organized a sensitization workshop for the Regional Directors of the MINADER on counterfeit and illegal pesticides and the related risks.

The one-day workshop in Yamoussoukro on 16 October attracted 31 Regional Directors. Participants were addressed on counterfeit pesticides and the potential impact by way of presentations by the DPVCQ, CropLife Cote d'Ivoire, and the ongoing GEF-WB project on obsolete pesticides (PROGEP-CI). The Regional Directors were reminded of their responsibility for the enforcement of the regulations. Also, on the coordination of the activities of their respective departmental committee to fight illegal pesticides (CDLPI) created under the Interministerial decree which covers reports on seizures or other matters related to infringement cases.

Other issues discussed were in relation to container management and the promotion of PPE which will receive foremost attention in 2020 by CropLife Cote d'Ivoire. The participants committed to provide support for the related joint program, the MINADER and CropLife Cote d'Ivoire plan to launch.

K. Yeboue



Left: The participants were addressed on the impacts of counterfeit pesticides. The workshop which was chaired by Mr. Silué, Director of DPVCQ



Group Photo

Mr. Silué, Director of DPVCQ seated - front row



Association Management

CropLife Egypt holds Special General Meeting

CropLife Egypt (CLE) held a Special General Meeting for member companies on 13 of October at the Marriott Hotel, Zamalek, Cairo.

The meeting was attended by the CLAME DG, Samira Amellal and CLE Chairman, Sherif Ayoub. Also, in attendance were Board members and Management from BASF, Bayer, FMC, Syngenta, Sumitomo, MayTrade, KZ, Corteva, UPL and Nufarm.

The purpose of the meeting was to attract greater engagement and alignment on CLE activities, with members and to jointly select the key priorities and projects for the 2020/21 period.

The objectives set for the meeting included showing members the “way of working” of the management team, which is totally transparent and to agree on key the projects and activities, that cover most of the members interests. This then would be placed against the resources available and how CLE can best manage this.

On outputs, clarity was needed on who we are and what we do. This was followed by the list of activities developed for the 2019 and 2020 period.

Conclusions reached were a defined strategy for CLE covering three pillars. To conduct a workshop in mid-December to develop an action plan and road map for each action agreed to for 2020. To enhance collaboration and ways of working, both internally and externally with members. As all members clearly know the type of activities CLE are currently engaged in, it should be relatively simple to agree on the key activities for 2020

The 3 main pillars currently focused on are:

- Stewardship: including Resistance Management and Container management
- Egyptian Regulatory Committee: Advocacy with the APC / Country of Origin / Bio pesticides / PHI / MRL
- Anti-Counterfeit: Continue with ACF activities including training, awareness and advocacy

Mahmoud Said



The meeting in progress

Plant Biotechnology



Genetic Engineering Helps Increase Availability of Improved Organic Seeds

Mordor Intelligence reports that the global market for organic seeds was valued at USD 1,651.5 million in 2018 and is projected to reach a compound annual growth rate of 12.7% from 2019-2024. Polaris Market Research predicts that the global organic seed market will reach USD 5.35 billion by 2026. The increased availability of improved hybrid organic seeds could be attributed to molecular techniques such as cisgenesis and transgenesis used by several industrialized countries. The increasing demand for naturally derived products is the main reason that is expected to drive the organic seed industry over the next couple of years.

Certification as organic producer is granted to farmers who use formerly grown seeds except for non-originally or non-formerly farmed untreated seeds. The planting stocks can also be used for the production of an organic crop only when an equivalent organically bred variety is not available commercially. In some industrialized countries, organic plant breeding in several industrialized nations has been increasingly employing cisgenesis and transgenesis. Although genetic engineering is used to develop seeds and organic farming is used to grow crops, some countries such as the USA prohibit the use of GM seeds to make organic products.

ISAAA

Argentina Approves 60th GM Seed

Argentina's Secretaria de Alimentos y Bioeconomía has approved a genetically modified (GM) corn for commercial planting. The crop has passed the rigorous evaluations set by national agencies on agricultural biotechnology and food safety, the Comision Nacional Asesora de Biotecnologia Agropecuaria (CONABIA) and Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASA) and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The newly-approved GM corn with insect resistance and herbicide tolerance was developed by Monsanto, and is the 60th GM seed approved for commercial planting in Argentina since 1996, according to CONABIA. The Ministry's Resolution 103/2019 released on September 30, 2019 states that the Secretary authorizes the commercialization of the seed, of the products and by-products derived from it, from the corn events MON-87427-7 x MON-89Ø34-3 x SYN-IR162-4 x MON-ØØ6Ø3-6 (OECD), the intermediate combinations, and of all the progeny derived from the crossings of this material with any corn not genetically modified.

ISAAA





**CropLife Africa Middle East
International Association AISBL
Rue Théodore de Cuyper 100
B-1200 Brussels**

www.croplifeafrica.org

