



Country News

Morocco

The Executive Board of AMI-PHY has decided to change the name of the association to CropLife Morocco. Legal formalities are in process. CropLife corporate identify guidelines have been provided to the local association for due adoption of the Logo.

Jordan

New Executive Board of AMATPA (Jordan) has been elected for the next three year term. The National Association's chairmanship has been retained by incumbent, Mr. Mahmoud Altabaishi. There have been several Train the Trainer courses in Jordan, and cascade training has been progressing.

Zambia

Zambia has scrapped a new tax on agricultural inputs such as pesticides and fertilizers after farmers protested and prices for vegetables and other products rose. The Minister of Finance announced that the 17.5% VAT on inputs it introduced in the 2006 budget would be cancelled with immediate effect

What's happening?

- Biotechnology News
- Country News
- EUREP-GAP
- Forthcoming events
- Obstocks
- Zambia drops taxes on agricultural inputs
- National Association elections

Biotechnology News

Ethanol

The announcement by Ethanol Africa that the company will be erecting eight bio-ethanol plants in South Africa added to the fact that Sasol is launching a viability study for the annual production of 100,000 tons biodiesel from 580,000 tons soy beans is likely to see increased plantings of GMO crops. The first of the bio-ethanol plants currently under construction in Bothaville will be capable of producing 473,000 litres of alcohol a day as well as 63,000 litres of biodiesel. The technology for the plant will be supplied by US-based Katzen International, said to be a global leader in grain based ethanol manufacturing. Contact: les.hillowitz@icon.co.za

GM Food

The US may push Africa to accept genetically modified (GM) food now that the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has ruled the EU broke rules by barring GM foods and seeds; however a number of African countries have vowed to resist. This move is being led primarily by Zambia on the basis that safety had not been ascertained. Contact: les.hillowitz@icon.co.za



Egypt ToT Course: first Arabic course



Following the appointment of a new Minister of Agriculture in Egypt, CropLife Egypt began his term with a well attended Training of Trainers course for Master Trainers in the extension service sector of the Ministry of Agriculture. Seen opposite, the participants proudly pose with their certificates. Said Abdella, centre-back, co-facilitated this course, the first in Arabic. Many more Arabic courses are planned for 2006.

Contact: peter.mills@mweb.co.za

CropLife International Launches Web-based Manual for Working with International Bodies on Pesticide

CropLife International has made available on its website an updated version of its document "Working with the JMPR and CCPR - A Manual for the Agrochemical Industry." This version incorporates changes in processes & procedures at the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR). It aims to provide basic guidance on how to interact with the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies, like CCPR, in order to gain and maintain Codex Maximum Residue Limits (CXL). In addition, the document provides a comprehensive summary of Codex and its processes relevant for CXL-setting.

It is useful not only for agrochemical companies, but also any other stakeholders in the food chain dealing with residue issues. The document is more user-friendly than the previous version, providing interactive, instant links to relevant external web resources. By a "click of a button," it provides essential information and detailed guidance which could only be referenced previously, such as information on data submission requirements. In addition, text "pop-ups" allow quick access to explanations and information on the bodies and processes involved in the JMPR/CCPR. JMPR and CCPR are international expert scientific groups that provide recommendations

Updated guide for industry provides quick, user-friendly access to detailed information on JMPR/CCPR

to national regulators on pesticide residue issues. They are not regulatory bodies. Unlike many national review procedures, JMPR and CCPR provide their work and advice free of financial contributions or charges from interested parties. CropLife International would like to thank the company representatives on the CCPR Project Team and representatives from WHO, FAO and their advisors, who have contributed and critically reviewed the document.

The web-based version can be found at:

<http://www.croplife.org/library/documents/chemicals/croplife%20>

Jack Aston in Somalia

Many of you may be wondering what happened to Jack Aston. Jack has been very active in Somalia, supporting the UNA IPM Project, with some support from CropLife Africa Middle East. Below is his report on the project.

The Italian UNA NGO consortium was awarded an EC funded project in 2001 to promote IPM principles in Somalia as part of a major International effort to assist in the reconstruction of the country after 14 years of civil war.

Phase I of this project started off by recognizing that the small quantities of Agrochemicals sold in the country were being used in the most irresponsible manner and that several of the few products present were also highly toxic (WHO 1A and 1B).

They gave top priority to implementing some Safe Use trainings. These is where CropLife International (then G.C.P.F.), first became involved. Initial SUP training work commenced in the Bosaso region of Puntland in 2001 in association with an NGO programme named "Oasis". Following trainings the project managers produced simple safety message news-sheets that were widely circulated in the region.

Following this the IPM project manager decided that the Safe Use module should receive further priority attention. The Kenya SUP booklet on the "Safe Use of Pesticides" was upgraded, translated into Somalia (instead of Swahili) and printed in large numbers for countrywide distribution. At the same time a teaching manual "Training Formats for Safe Use of Pesticides" was developed and again printed in large numbers.

he books have formed the basis of all training work in Somalia these last years and both items have recently been reprinted.

A second Phase of the project was approved by the E.C. in 2003 and again "Safe Use" was a key component, the project was also guided by other NGO's that felt the Somalia situation called for extensive inputs into training activities. Much of this training work was to be directed at the farmer community level. During the early part of this phase the project team developed a set of five high quality posters depicting typical Safe Use messages which were produced for use, alongside the Kenyan Safe Use posters set, at the farmer field days. Many training sessions were held countrywide, training hundreds of stockists, extensionists and students as well as farmers.

Many of these sessions were held in the field GUP or mango trees. One feature of the work was the great support that the project had from the many International and local NGO's working on food security issues in the country. GTZ, the RED CROSS, CARE, CONCERN, World Vision, IFAD, COSV, COOPI, Agrosphere, GAA, FAO and CEFA are but a few of the important INGO's that have hosted seminars in the country and have had their agronomists and extensionists trained in the simple safe use, IPM messages.

The above training work was led and carried out almost exclusively by Kenyan Safe Use experts with valued funding contributions by GCPF and later CropLife International.

As Phase II was reaching its end the project set up three IPM Training and Promotion Cen-

tres in different regions (Garowe, the capital of Puntland state, Hargeisa in Somaliland and Jowhar in Somalia). These centres, when fully operational, will service IPM trainings and visibility work in their respective regions. They have all been provided with modern communications equipment and sprayers and protective clothing for demonstration purposes.

In early April-2006, hard work put in by UNA in conjunction with the FAO was rewarded with a Phase 3 IPM contract from the EC for a further 30 months of expanded activities. The contract worth 1.1 million EUROS will start in late June. Phase 3 will again work closely with the International Aid organizations, providing training work, mostly safety training, which will be greatly expanded and messages will be further spread by local radio and press media and via the Internet (there are Cyber cafes in almost every Somali small town) and the schools.

The project has also just released further publications on Crop Pests and Diseases of Somalia emphasizing IPM methodology but including pragmatic information on the use of Crop Protection Chemicals. Key targets now are 200,000 farmers, key stockists, traders and extensionists who will continue educational work after project completion.



News Snippets

The meeting of the Executive Committee ExCo(1) for 2006 was held in Zurich on 7th March 2006. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held in Nairobi on 15-June-2006.

Contact: ali-croplife@nets.com.jo

A number of AGM's took place during March and the following people were elected as President / Chairman of the respective National Associations: South Africa: Kobus Lindeque (Monsanto); Madagascar: Rivo Andriamanalina; Ethiopia: Tadese G/Medhin.

CropLife trained facilitators, Raphael Vogelsperger & Manon Dohman from IFDC, have been very active in the West-Central region, and have conducted several trainings for dealer organizations in Ghana, Mali and Senegal. Contact: bama-croplife@aviso.ci

CropLife Africa Middle East and EUREP-GAP

A meeting took place with Dr. Elmé Coetzer, Technical Manager, EUREP-GAP to finalise the CropLife Africa Middle East EUREP-GAP interpretation document, Africa-GAP. The constructive meeting agreed to incorporate CropLife Africa Middle East amendments to the document. Following approval of the draft document, it will be "tested" by the working group in Ghana to run alongside the EUREP-GAP GTZ Smallholder Manual. Once this hurdle has been passed the document will go before the Technical Review Committee of EUREP-GAP.

For more, contact:

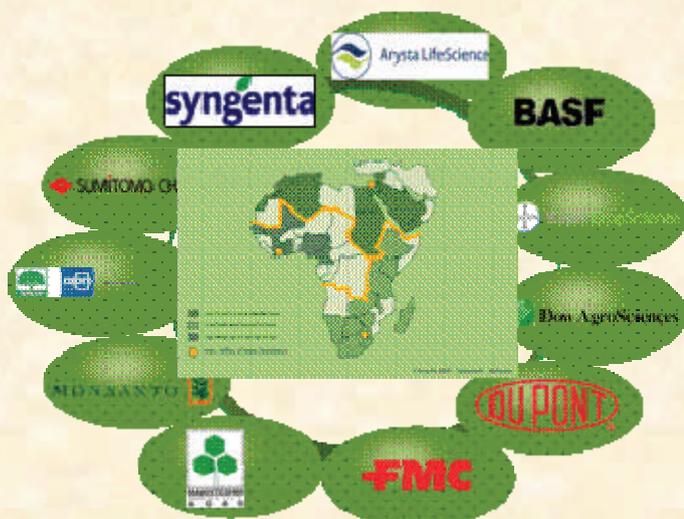
les.hillowitz@icon.co.za

FAO Code of Conduct

A new drive to instil the importance of compliance with the FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is underway with all the National Associations within all three Hubs. This topic will be the theme for the East-Southern Hub meeting in June, where plans for training and implementation will be discussed and set out. Contact: ali-croplife@nets.com.jo

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Training of Trainers for CropLife Malawi in Lilongwe: 01 to 05-May-2006.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife Ghana: 17 to 21-July-2006.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife Syria: 06 to 10-August-2006.
- Biosafety Project Workshop, "Addressing the Impact of Biosafety Systems and Regional Policies on Food Security and Agriculture": Mauritius, on 17 & 18 May.
- General Assembly for CropLife Africa Middle East for 2006 is scheduled to convene on 15th June 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya.



CONTACTS:

Ali Mohamed Ali (North Africa Middle East)
ali-croplife@nets.com.jo

Bama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa)
bama-croplife@aviso.ci

Les Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa)
les.hillowitz@icon.co.za

Peter Mills (Training)
peter.mills@mweb.co.za

CropLife Africa Middle East Web Page
www.croplifeafrica.org