



## Country News

### *Africa Stockpiles Programme: RSA*

As part of the Africa Stockpiles Programme, which will eliminate obsolete stocks of pesticides from the continent, the Grant Aid Agreement between the World Bank and the Government of South Africa was signed on 04-April-2006. Ms. Ritva Reinikka, Country Director of World Bank also represented the GEF at the signing whilst the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Marthinus van Schalkwyk signed on behalf of South Africa. Contact: [les.hillowitz@icon.co.za](mailto:les.hillowitz@icon.co.za)



#### What's happening?

- CropLife restructuring
- Train-the-Trainer courses
- Biotechnology Training
- Hub meeting in West-Central Africa

### *CropLife Mauritius President*

The AGM of CropLife Mauritius took place during April and Serge L'Ecluse was re-elected as President of the National Association. Congratulations, Serge. Keep up the great contributions.



### *Malawi ToT Course*

Another successful Train-the-Trainer course was held in Lilongwe, Malawi for 14 participants from the industry and private agricultural sector (tobacco and sugar industries). The course was hosted at the superb Malawi Institute of Management facility between 01 and 05-May-2006.





## *Advanced Biotechnology Course*



In the "Advanced CropLife a lot towards the under-Biotechnology Communi- cators Training" from 03 to 07-April in South Africa, CropLife and AfricaBio were represented by participants from South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania and Mauritius. Emphasis was placed on participation and interactivity. Visits to the FABI Faculty and the field trials where genetically modified crops could be seen and "touched" did

standing of the technology. AfricaBio have 18 demonstration sites around the country, and the participants visited three. The Workshop provided the opportunity for participating countries to see where they stood with regard to "field testing" and commercialisation. During the "opening" and "closing" tribute was made to CropLife for their valued support. Contact: [les.hillowitz@icon.co.za](mailto:les.hillowitz@icon.co.za)

## *West Central Hub Meetings*

The West Central African Hub workshops were held on April 11-12, 2006 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. This was attended by industry representatives from the six national associations of the hub, while those of Gambia and Burkina Faso attended as observers. Also present were delegates of CropLife Africa Middle East member companies (Arysta LifeScience, Dow AgroSciences, Monsanto, Sumitomo, as well as representatives from the Crop Protection/Registration Authorities (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Togo and Senegal); IGOs (CSP, WAEMU), Burkina Biotechnology Association (BBA).

The meetings were organised in cooperation with IFDC, under the presidency of The State Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulics and Wa-

ter Resources, represented by Mrs Maïmouna Dermé, Technical Counsellor.

Presentations and discussions focused on the contributions of regulations to technological innovations in crop protection; the crucial need for effective application of regulations; and, a regional harmonised regulation framework in the sub-region was stressed. The following topics were highlighted: fraudulent and counterfeit products; EU Food Safety Regulations; Biotechnology/Bioregulations; Intellectual Property Rights; Africa Stockpiles Programme's new developments; strengthening of National Associations for credibility and implication in national and regional agricultural policies.

Also receiving attention was the FAO Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides. The attending National Associations committed to conduct self evaluations and send their findings to Area Coordinator by April 24. An action plan based on such findings will be set, and sent to the Area Coordinator by May 31.

In addition, action plans by the National Associations for 2006 were adopted. Recommendations were made to accelerate the study for the harmonised regulatory framework, and have all stakeholders implicated in the process.

For more detail, contact :

[bama-croplife@aviso.ci](mailto:bama-croplife@aviso.ci)

## ***Industry Leaders Endorse Plan to Restructure CropLife International***

At its March 2006 meeting in Germany, CropLife International's President's Advisory Group (PAG) endorsed a plan to restructure the global federation in order to more effectively manage global issues and coordinate strategies that transcend national and regional boundaries. The new organisational structure is designed to increase value to members and optimise the impact of regional programmes through greater integration, alignment, coordination and clarity on a global level.

The evolution of CropLife International is the result of recognition by industry leaders of the need to better integrate global strategies and increase the effectiveness of local implementation. While there is a considerable amount of substantive and effective work taking place with many partners around the world, gaps exist between regions, countries and various organisations, especially in relation to plant biotechnology.

The new CropLife structure builds on CropLife's long history in handling crop protection issues and successes with biotech regulatory policy and outreach, and provides an effective forum for the entire industry to come together and create cohesive global strategies on priority issues.

Key changes include the establishment of two Strategy Councils for Plant Biotechnology and Crop Protection Chemicals, which will set global strategies, align resources to priorities, control the budget and ensure execution. They will be accountable to the Board of Directors (the former PAG), consisting

of the CEO's of top six companies with active business participation or significant research in both crop protection and plant biotech and seeds.

The Crop Protection Strategy Council will be composed of representatives from the 8 leading agrochemical companies, plus CropLife's 6 existing regional associations and CropLife Canada. The Plant Biotech Strategy Council will include representatives from the 6 leading plant science companies, as well as from associations in the various regions. Regional crop protection and biotech associations still need to ratify the overall plan.

The first meetings of the Councils are scheduled to take place 11-12 May (Plant Biotech) and 2-3 June (Crop Protection) in Brussels.

An industry information session will also take place 1 June 2006 in Brussels, followed by the CropLife Annual Dinner.

In addition, a new funding mechanism will be used, with primary contributions coming from member companies, and nominal fees from associations. Committee and project team structures are also being evaluated.

Howard Minigh, who led the PAG Task Force on restructuring and formerly served as Group Vice President for DuPont Agriculture and Nutrition, has been named President and CEO of CropLife International by the PAG. He will support the Board of Directors and manage overall operations. He will also head the Biotech Strategy Council until a new Executive Director is appointed.

Current CropLife International President Erik Fyrwald will become the Chairman of the Board of Directors. Christian Verschueren will remain as Director General and will lead the Crop Protection Strategy Council.

"This is a very exciting time to be part of CropLife International. We are proud of these changes, which will bring CropLife to the next level of quality, efficiency and effectiveness," stated Erik Fyrwald. "Our vision is to deliver more value than ever to CropLife's membership. I am thrilled to come on board and to lead well-executed strategies that improve our industry's business climate," said Howard Minigh.

"The plant science industry has evolved in the last five years since CropLife's launch, and our corresponding evolution will ensure that we maintain our relevance to our members and external stakeholders," stated Christian Verschueren. "As key contributors to industry's success, we are looking forward to continuing our work with current members and look forward to working with new members."

More communication on CropLife's restructuring and the Strategy Councils will be circulated to you in the coming weeks.

**Plan to increase coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of global federation seeks support of all major crop protection and biotech associations.**

## ***Burkina Faso Dealers Training***

IFDC, assisted by CropLife Africa Middle East facilitated a Training & Capacity Building workshop on April 25-27, 2006, in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso for AGRODIA, the national retailers association. The objective was to provide basic skills to retailers/dealers on safe handling of agrochemicals, and sensitize them on the regulations, how to

combat frauds and counterfeits. The responsibilities of regulatory authorities, (CNCP), for the observance of laws and decrees were also stressed.

Trainers were from local importers/formulator companies, national public health laboratory. There were 71 retailers, all members of AGRODIA. Topics included: agrochemicals and GAP; pesticides formu-

lations; toxicity; labelling; symptoms of poisoning; safe storage; security in pesticide warehouses; sprayers; plant nutrients & fertilizers.

Recommendations were reached for each of the stakeholders, retailers, importers and formulators, and the regulatory authority, CNCP.

Contact: [bama-croplife@aviso.ci](mailto:bama-croplife@aviso.ci)

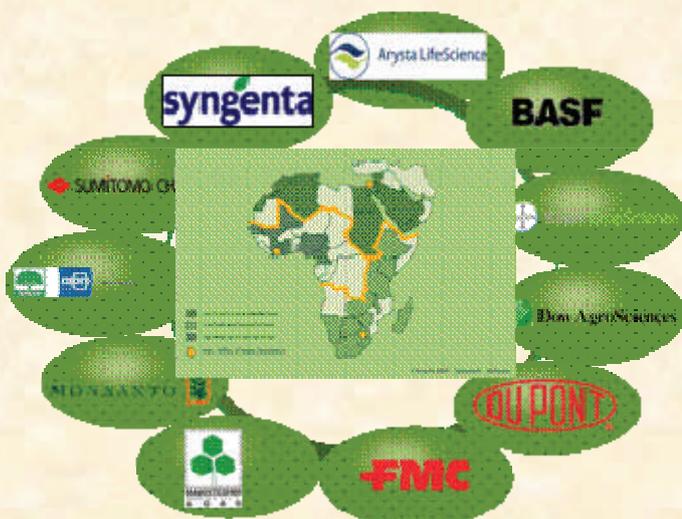
## ***CropLife Africa Middle East signs MoU with FANRPAN***

On 24 January 2006, Dr. Björn Neumann of CropLife Africa Middle East, East-Southern Hub signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, Chief Executive Officer of the Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). The Senior Advisor of USAID for Southern Africa, Jerry Brown witnessed the signing. The signing covers the "Promotion of Regional Safe Use Initiatives and Joint Efforts to Promote the Harmonisation of Biosafety Regulations as well as Registration Systems Amongst the SADC Member States". An action plan has been developed and comes into immediate effect. Details on FANRPAN on their website: [www.fanrpan.org](http://www.fanrpan.org).



### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- CropLife Africa Middle East General Assembly & Executive Committee meetings in Nairobi: 15-June-2006.
- East-Southern Hub and Regulatory meetings in Nairobi on 13 and 14 June-2006.
- International Training Program on Sustainable Management of Agricultural Traders and Producers Organizations from 19 to 23-June-2006 in Bamako, Mali: arranged and sponsored by IFDC.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife Ghana: 17 to 21-July-2006.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife Syria: 06 to 10-August-2006.
- Training of Trainers for CropLife Tanzania: 21 to 25-August-2006.



### **CONTACTS:**

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

Bama Octave Yao (West-Central Africa)  
[bama-croplife@aviso.ci](mailto:bama-croplife@aviso.ci)

Les Hillowitz (East-Southern Africa)  
[les.hillowitz@icon.co.za](mailto:les.hillowitz@icon.co.za)

Peter Mills (Training)  
[peter.mills@mweb.co.za](mailto:peter.mills@mweb.co.za)

CropLife Africa Middle East Web Page  
[www.croplifeafrica.org](http://www.croplifeafrica.org)