



Stewardship

CropLife AME Presents the Spray Service Provider (SSP) Concept in Washington

At the occasion of its 15th anniversary, the World Cocoa Foundation held its 2015 Partnership Meeting & Cocoa Sustainability Trade Fair on June 30 and July 1 in Washington. The meeting was attended by over 300 participants representing the entire cocoa value chain including cocoa growers from all cocoa growing regions of the world, global cocoa trading and processing companies, chocolate manufacturers, quality assurance organizations as well as government representatives, development organizations and representatives of the donor community. CropLife Africa Middle East had been invited to represent the agro inputs industry at the meeting and to participate at a special panel session where views on cocoa farming by 2030 were exchanged. The conference was a unique opportunity to participate at interesting meeting discussions but also to meet with a large number of cocoa stakeholders. There is probably no other crop value chain comparable to cocoa with a similar degree of sector cooperation and coordinated joint activities that benefit the entire value chain. One reason for these concerted efforts may be the fact that cocoa is almost exclusively grown by smallholder farmers, which explains the big interest of the donor community. About 70% of the global cocoa production comes from West Africa.

For CropLife Africa Middle East the meeting and Trade Fair in Washington was the event of the year to present the Spray Service Provider (SSP) Concept for smallholder farming – in particular in cocoa – and to gain more support for this programme. For this purpose a booth was established and on a large video screen we played nonstop over the 2 days the 12 cocoa videos (in French and English) that have been prepared last year in Ghana. The booth attracted a lot of attention and allowed us to engage with many stakeholders who had not known the SSP scheme before.

Rudolf Guyer



L-R, Rudolf Guyer, CropLife AME, Toussaint N'guessan, OMCC-WCPO and Lucas Simons, NewForesight, exchanging views on cocoa farming 2030



Left: The CropLife AME booth at the Trade Fair

Below: Group photo with participating members of the WCF



CropLife Malawi: SSP Pilot Project

The SSP PILOT project started last season when CropLife Malawi, in partnership with the Malawi Oilseeds Sector Transformation (MOST) launched a Spray Service Provider (SSP) pilot initiative. MOST is a DfID (Department for International Development) funded market systems program, which will run until October 2017. Its focus is on sector coordination in cotton, groundnuts, soybean and sunflower value chains in alignment with the National Export Strategy.

The initial season focused entirely on cotton with the concept starting off as a pilot in the Chikhwawa district, one of the key cotton growing areas in southern Malawi. Thirty two spray service providers were trained by CropLife Malawi to provide services to farmers within the district at a fee, paid after sales to the cotton ginners through deductions. The SPPs were equipped with Personnel Protection Equipment (PPE), a suitable sprayer and a bicycle, all funded by the project. A total of 287 farms were serviced last season in Chikhwawa. The target area has 33% women farmers. The average age of farmers serviced by the SSPs was 41. The average hectareage for each farmer was 0.6ha and yielded an average of 725kg/ha of cotton.

At the end of the season MOST carried out a project assessment and were highly encouraged by the results.

Based on this, for the upcoming season the project wants to expand to 90 SSPs, move into two further districts (Salima and Balaka) and embrace additional "oilseeds sector crops". To do this they have engaged a coordinator who will be based in Blantyre. As an outcome, all key CropLife Malawi member companies have now bought into the concept and are fully committed to the process. To support this a SSP Master Training will take place in Lilongwe the week of 5 October.

Les Hillowitz



CleanFarms Handover Meetings: Malawi

On 20 and 21 July a series of meetings took place in Lilongwe whereby the CleanFarms project was transferred to CropLife Malawi in preparation for eventual disposal under a GEF / FAO agreement.

Included in the handover will be the following:

A complete set of documents together with the fireproof filing cabinet. These will be transferred to the CropLife Malawi Secretariat at the Farmers Organisation premises in Lilongwe.

The computer, hard-drive, camera and GPS units

All warehouse equipment will be inventoried prior to the handover. Items included will comprise the following:

Pallet truck : Drum Lifter : Drum Pump : Sets of PPE: Tools and other Small Items: Empty Packaging Materials

As part of operational procedures, CropLife Malawi will undertake monthly inspections commencing August

Les Hillowitz



L-R Ronald Chilumpha, Adamson Tong'o, David Laycock, Dalitso Gadama and Fred Kawalewale

CropLife Malawi: Container Management Program

There are in excess of 20,000 “triple rinsed” containers in the CleanFarms obstocks warehouse. With this as a base, CLM made a concerted move to identify a recycler and to start a pilot program in the south of the country, fueled by the sugar and tea estates.

These two sectors, which contribute around 40% of all pesticide containers per annum, can be considered as “low hanging fruit”. The experience gained will then be used to rollout the program to other regions.

Les Hillowitz

RINSE +
Triple or pressure RINSE



REMOVE +
Caps and booklet,
leave the label on



RETURN
To your local collection site



CropLife Cameroon: IPM/RU Training Workshop for Vegetable Producers

On July 01-02, in Yaoundé, Cameroon, 56 participants, all involved in vegetable production partook in the training.

The training program in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MUNADER) and CropLife Cameroon was to strengthen capacity of participants in vegetable production. A pool of six trainers headed by Master Trainer Gisele Etoundi facilitated the session. The topics covered for the training related to:

- Constraints and limiting factors in vegetable production
- Major pesticides recommended in vegetable production
- Integrated crop management
- Risks associated with the misuse of pesticides
- Counterfeit and illegal pesticides and the associated risks
- Why the application of pesticides may fail

Bama Yao



R. Yeboue, Exec. Secretary CropLife CI and Master Trainer facilitated several of the sessions of the program

Regulatory

Quality Management for Certification of Fruits and Vegetables

Two training of trainers (TOT's) initiatives covering Quality Management for Certification of Fruits and Vegetables for Export Markets took place from 6 -10 and 20 – 24 July 2015 at the KEPHIS headquarters in Kenya.

The training aimed at enhancing front line implementation and understanding of the requirements and competencies of standards covering application and quality management to achieve food security and the effective management of maximum residue limits (MRLs) in the export of vegetables.

Participants were drawn from Business Member Organizations including FPEAK and AAK, agronomists - quality control and documentation staff from exporters of fruits and vegetables, Fair Trade East Africa representing Civil Society Organizations, Technical Service Providers (extension agents) - Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and Regulatory Agencies (HCA, PCPB, KEPHIS)

Stella Simiyu – Wafukho



Kenya Plant Health
Inspectorate Service



The group undertaking a field visit

Anti Counterfeiting

INTERPOL: Workshop on Launching the Anti-Counterfeit and Pharmaceutical Crime Unit: Kigali, Rwanda, 23 – 24 July

The workshop was facilitated by Michael Ellis, Assistant Director: Trafficking in Illicit and Counterfeiting Sub-Directorate and assisted by Thierry Tuina, Criminal Intelligence Officer, INTERPOL.

Presentations of direct interest were the following:

- Illicit Trade in Rwanda and the experience in creating the Ant counterfeit and Pharmaceutical Crime Unit.
- Counterfeit beverages: consumers in danger.
- Regional Experience, Zambia Police: The creation of an IP Unit
- The Pesticide Regulatory Framework in Rwanda.
- The workings of the “Federal Taskforce on Fake and Counterfeit Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Foods” in Nigeria
- The risks of counterfeit health care products
- INTERPOL: Working with the private sector

CLAME gave a presentation on the update of counterfeiting of pesticides on the African continent, strategies and actions in place to prevent the spread of this scourge, as well as the successes achieved.

The opportunity was also taken to make contact with the “Registrar of Pesticides” and Emmanuel Ngomiraronka, a consultant to the Ministry of Agriculture. He delivered the presentation on the Pesticide Regulatory Framework in Rwanda

Les Hillowitz



L-R Michael Ellis, INTERPOL, Emmanuel Ngomiraronka, Minister of Agriculture and Beatrice Uwumukiza, Registrar of pesticides, Rwanda, examining a counterfeit pesticide product



Group Photo

Anti-Counterfeiting Training Workshop for Enforcement Agencies in Northern Cote d'Ivoire

On July 09, in Korhogo, Cote d'Ivoire, 39 trainees comprising of borders agents / customs officers, police, Ministry of Agriculture and CropLife Cote d'Ivoire member companies underwent an anti-counterfeiting training program. The program was to sensitize and provide the necessary tools to the participants to help combat the illegal trade of pesticides, including to assist in identifying counterfeit and fake products.

The Director of the Crop Protection Directorate (DPVCQ) of the Ministry of Agriculture chaired the session and set the objectives of the workshop.

The facilitator, R. Yeboue, Executive Secretary of CropLife CI and the DPVCQ provided an interactive approach to guide the participants along the following lines:

- The importance of pesticides in agriculture, their composition, toxicity, and Responsible Use
- Pesticide regulations in Côte d'Ivoire
- Labelling and labels, and the risks associated with the misuse of pesticides
- Counterfeit and other illegal pesticides
- Health, environment and socio-economic risks associated with illegal pesticides
- Combating counterfeit and other illegal pesticides

The training was well appreciated by the participants who called for the strengthening and cooperation among the major stakeholders, (customs, pesticide inspectors and police) to tackle the issue and jointly fight against this scourge. The Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Customs services committed to conduct regular coordinated antifraud actions.

Participants were presented with certificates of attendance.

Bama Yao



Group photo of participants at the workshop



CropLife Egypt Member Companies Lead in the Promotion of the National Anti-counterfeiting “Flagship Project”



Abdallah Agour delivering a presentation

CropLife Egypt member companies are actively supporting the Anti-Counterfeiting “flagship project” by promoting the campaign through their marketing events, fairs and other field activities.

Bayer Crop Science and Samtrade deserve special mention for their efforts in this regard.

As part of their normal promotional events, Bayer Crop Science focused on identifying genuine products versus counterfeit products. Abdallah Agour of Bayer Crop Science undertook 5 workshops in 5 different governorates promoting the “flagship project” and delivering presentations on the dangers of counterfeit products.

On the part of Samtrade, Ramadan Saudi uses the campaign materials in his normal promotional activities to promote awareness and dangers of pesticide counterfeiting for small-scale farmers and pesticide retailers.

Ahmed Hosni of Agrin Serve promoted the campaign at the El-Wadi exhibition in Luxor (Upper Egypt), which was attended by The Ministry of Agriculture.

Said Abdella



Ramadan Saudi during a promotional event

Association Management

CropLife Ghana holds second Cross-Platform Workshop : Koforidua - 24 July

William Kotey, President of CropLife Ghana, opened the workshop and urged participants to contribute openly to the discussions.

Fred Boampong, Program Manager for CropLife Ghana, gave a brief update on the activities of CropLife Ghana and the need for collaboration with stakeholders to promote towards more beneficial agricultural programs for the benefit of Ghanaian farmers.

Dr. Daniel Ofori, Country Director for Programs for Biosafety of Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), gave a presentation titled *"Relevance of GMO Technology in Ghana"*. The presentation focused on the application of plant biotechnology in Ghana; Prospects and Public Concerns. The clear concise nature of the presentations made understanding that much easier.

Dr. Michael Adu, Crop Science Department of the University of Cape Coast, made a presentation on *"Agricultural Biotechnology – A tool to Accelerate Food Security in Africa"*.

He mentioned that in order to address the challenges identified, plant biotechnology would be one of the surest technologies to improve on higher yields with less pressure on the environment. He would like the issue of post-harvest loses to be tackled effectively. Gains made with GMO technology could be negatively impacted if at the end of the day high crop yields are accompanied with high waste at the farm gate level.

Mr. McKeown, President for the Eastern Regional Seed Producers of Ghana (SEEDPAG) gave a brief narration on their position as far as GMO Technology is concerned. According to SEEDPAG, GMO Technology is welcome news and they look forward to using the varieties once released in the country.

Mr. Kwaku BOATENG, Vice President of Apex Farmers' Organization of Ghana (APFOG), made the request to the scientists to simplify messages put out to the small-scale farming sector.

The President of Ghana Agri-Input Dealers Association (GAIDA), Rev. BTS AMARTEY found the workshop useful and felt this was the right step in understanding the technology. He however cautioned that criticisms expressed should be addressed them for the good of agriculture in Ghana.

In his presentation on *"The Media Perspective of GMO in Ghana"*, Joseph Opoku-Gakpo, a Journalist at JoyFM indicated that misrepresentation of the facts by the media is to blame for the poor image that GM Crops receive in Ghana.

In his closing remarks, William Kotey mentioned that CropLife Ghana's objective was to create a platform for dissemination of information and that this is the responsibility that CropLife Ghana member companies have placed on themselves. He also took the opportunity to inform the group on the good work member companies have achieved by collecting and safeguarding over 190 tons of obsolete pesticides across the country and which are now being shipped out of the country under an EPA/UNDP Program.

Fred Boampong



An enthusiastic group of listeners



Above Dr. Michael Adu explaining the benefits of plant biotechnology



Plant Biotechnology

New GMO Maize Ready for Kenya

Scientists are lobbying for approval to commercialise a genetically modified maize variety.

“Globally, Bt maize has been proven to effectively control stem borer and improve maize grain yield and quality due to reduced pest damage,” Eliud Kireger said yesterday. Kireger, the director general of the Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organisation, spoke at Kalro headquarters.

The National Biosafety Authority published a notification last week seeking views from members of the public on approval of Bt maize. In Kenya, the stem borer is known to reduce maize yield by an average of 13 per cent or 400,000 tonnes of maize a year. This is equivalent to the amount of maize imported by the government yearly for Sh7.2 billion.

If the variety is approved, Kenya will become the second country in Africa, after South Africa, to release Bt maize for use by farmers.



A farmer goes through his maize plantation during this year's ASK Mombasa Mkomani grounds on August 25, 2014 (photo Elkana Jacob)

Other countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Canada, Spain and Portugal cultivate the maize variety

We are hopeful that NBA will approve the application to release the maize variety to allow farmers access better seed choices and to help them produce more reliable harvests,” Kireger said.

He said such approval would pave way for variety release and registration through the National Performance Trials and eventual delivery to farmers through seed companies just like other crops.

The biotechnology trait is being incorporated into the drought-tolerant maize being developed by the Water Efficient Maize for Africa project to help farmers reduce the damage caused by insect pests.

“Approval for release will ensure farmers enjoy the benefits of higher maize yields and better quality grain due to controlled pest infestation,” Denis Kyetere, executive director of Africa Agricultural Technology Foundation, said.

Article: Agatha Ngotho - The Star Kenya

Two GM Crops Endorsed for Import Approval in the EU

Two genetically modified (GM) crops have received endorsements to be approved for import in the European Union.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) have deemed the herbicide tolerant GM soybean Mon87708 x Mon89788 and the herbicide tolerant GM maize NK603 x T25 safe for food or feed use.

In its scientific opinion, EFSA said that both crops are as safe as their non-GM comparators and non-GM conventional maize varieties with respect to potential effects on human and animal health and the environment in the context of its scope.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration of Biopesticides workshop - Lusaka, Zambia	Aug 5 - 6
GlobalGAP workshop focusing on smallholders, Cape Town	Aug 12
Anti counterfeiting training for Customs and Pesticide control agents, Abengourou, Eastern Cote d'Ivoire	Aug 13
CLAME staff meeting, Addis, Ethiopia	Aug 24
E & SA Hub and Regulatory Workshop, Addis, Ethiopia	Aug 25 - 26
GlobalGAP workshop, Addis, Ethiopia	Aug 27
Bee Symposium – Cairo, Egypt	Sep 1 - 3
FAO Locust Product Procurement Workshop, Rome	Sep 2 - 3
CropLife South Africa (AVCASA) Congress	Sept 8-9
Anti counterfeiting training for Customs and Pesticides control agents, Aboisso, South Eastern Cote d'Ivoire	Sept 10
ICCM 4, Geneva	Sep 27 - Oct 3
SSP TOT, Lilongwe, Malawi	Oct 5 - 9
IPM / RU & Stewardship meetings, Washington	Oct 7 - 8
NAME Hub and Regulatory Workshop, -proposal Tunis	Oct 27 - 28
CLI Container Management meeting, Cape Town	Nov 16 - 18
CLAME Board Meeting, Johannesburg	Nov 20
Pollinator Issue Team- Brussels	Dec 14
Regulatory Steering Committee – Brussels,	Dec 15 -16



Photo: Courtesy IFPRI



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GROWING FOOD – CREATING RENEWABLES – SUPPLYING SUSTAINABLY

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