



CropLife Africa Middle East
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Media Release

“CROPLIFE AFRICA MIDDLE EAST SUPPORTS REGULATIONS AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS IN CROP PROTECTION”

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, April 13, 2006

CropLife Africa Middle East annual workshop for West and Central Africa (WCA) hub convened on April 11-12 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; with agenda addressing the need to implement a proper regional harmonization framework aimed at fostering investments in innovations in crop protection arena in the sub-region.

Participants to the workshop were the agrochemicals regulatory and registration authorities from Burkina Faso, Côte D'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. These countries being the 7 major West African countries where agrochemicals are widely used and regulations are in place under the Sahelian Pesticide Committee (CSP) and the Phytopharmaceutical Committee of the Humid Zone of West and Central Africa (CPHAOC). The workshop was also attended by regulatory experts from CropLife Africa Middle East member companies, delegates of national industry associations of WCA together with representatives of local and regional stakeholder organisations.

Deliberations focused on several issues pertaining to the appropriate agrochemicals management in the sub-region such as counterfeiting and piracy, and intellectual property rights with emphasis on trade mark and patent protection. The workshop also debated on measures to promote compliance to the FAO Code of Conduct, observance of the EU food safety regulations together with the development of agribiotechnology legislations and biosafety protocols in the sub-region. The progress on the Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP) for disposal of obsolete pesticide stocks in the region was also reviewed.

The Workshop concluded relevant recommendations in relation to all issues deliberated emphasising a stronger involvement of local industry associations and stakeholder organizations in promoting national and regional policies and projects.

The workshop was organised in cooperation with the International Centre for Soil Fertility (IFDC) in line with the joint activities and action plan based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations. The workshop was held under the presidency of the State Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulics and Natural Resources of Burkina Faso and the aegis of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Addressing the workshop, Mr. Yves Demeure, the Vice-President of CropLife Africa Middle East For West and Central Africa, emphasized the vital and crucial need for a workable regulatory initiative to encourage investments in crop protection innovative technologies, while confirming CropLife's commitment to support the ongoing regulatory harmonization initiatives in the sub-region.

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