



Representing the Plant Science Industry



An International Centre for Soil Fertility
and Agricultural Development

ASSESSMENT OF THE 2004 ACTIVITIES
related to
THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Prepared by :

Bama O. YAO
WCA Hub Coordinator
CropLife Africa Middle East
28 BP 437 Abidjan 28, Côte d'Ivoire

www.croplifeafrica.org

Raphaël VOGELSPERGER
Agro-Input Marketing, MIR Project
IFDC
11 BP 82 Ouagadougou 11, Burkina Faso

www.ifdc.org

CONTENT

<i>Acronyms</i> _____	3
1. Background _____	4
1.1 CropLife Africa Middle East / IFDC Africa Division _____	4
1.2 The MoU _____	5
1.3 The 2004 Action Plan _____	5
2. Common activities in 2004 _____	5
2.1 Workshop for Revitalization Plan of Cotton Inputs Market _____	5
2.2 Meeting with the AGRODIA Association _____	6
2.3 Training of Trainers (ToTs) _____	6
2.4 Fourth Regional Meeting of Agri-Input Trade Associations _____	6
2.5 Creation of FACIA _____	7
2.6 Strengthening of CropLife National Associations _____	7
2.7 Technical Partners Meeting for Harmonization of Regulations on CPPs _____	7
2.8 Capacity Building Workshop for Retailers in Ghana _____	7
2.9 Information Collection on CPPs Regulations _____	8
2.10 Awareness Creation of the Regional Decision Making Institutions _____	8
2.11 Synthesis on CPPs Regulations in ECOWAS Countries _____	8
2.12 Regional Workshop to elaborate a "Road Map" on CPPs Regulations _____	9
2.13 Regional Harmonisation Process on Seeds Regulations _____	9
2.14 Report on the MoU in "Afrique Agriculture" _____	9
2.15 Websites Links _____	10
2.16 Sharing of information and documentation _____	10
3. Perspectives _____	10

ACRONYMS

AAG	Agrochemicals Association of Ghana
AFITO	Association des Fournisseurs d’Intrants agricoles du Togo
AFSTA	African Seed Trade Association
CILSS	Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (9 Sahelian countries)
CPPs	Crop Protection Products
CropLife	Association representing the plant science industry in Africa and the Middle-East; affiliated to CropLife International the global federation representing (formerly GIFAP then GCPF)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West Africa States (15 countries)
EPA	Environment Protection Agency (Ghana)
FASEPE	Favorable Socio-Economic and Policy Environment (project implemented by IFDC)
GAIDA	Ghana Agri-Input Trade Association
ICM	Integrated Crop Management
IFDC	An International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development
IFDC-A	IFDC Africa Division
INSAH	Institut du Sahel (CILSS organization)
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
MIR	Marketing Inputs Regionally (project implemented by IFDC)
MISTOWA	Networks of regional Market Information Systems and Trade Organizations in West Africa (project implemented by IFDC)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAs	National associations of CropLife network
PPRS	Plan Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union (8 countries)

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 CropLife Africa Middle East / IFDC Africa Division

CropLife Africa Middle East (CropLife-AME) is a regional professional organization representing the Plant Science industry in Africa and the Middle East. Its members are major CPPs producers such as, BASF, Bayer CropScience, Calliope Arysta LifeScience, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont de Nemours, FMC, Makhteshim Agan, Monsanto, Sipcam, Sumitomo and Syngenta, and is present in 30 countries through national associations of the industry.

It is affiliated to CropLife International, the global federation present in more than 90 countries in the world.

The mission of CropLife-AME is the promotion of agricultural technology in the context of sustainable development, through:

- ◆ Plant science technology and stewardship as a central pillar of sustainable agriculture;
- ◆ Promotion of Integrated Pest/Crop Management (IPM/ICM), Safe and Responsible Use of plant science products;
- ◆ Support to pro-business, science and risk-based national and regional regulatory initiatives on plant science products;
- ◆ Communication for openness and accessibility in order to build partnership and cooperation with other stakeholders on societal issues.

IFDC, an International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development, is an international public organization with a global presence and staff in locations around the world. The mission of IFDC is to assist developing countries to increase agricultural productivity in a sustainable way through the development and the transfer of technologies and marketing expertise on agri-inputs (plant nutrients in association to natural resources and other agri-inputs) that are both efficient and safe for the environment.

For many years, the Africa Division of IFDC (IFDC-A) through some of its projects (MIR, FASEPE and MISTOWA), has been implementing activities with national associations, which are also members of the CropLife-AME network. In some cases, IFDC-A even supported the reinforcement and capacity building of these agri-input trade associations.

Synergies between CropLife-AME and IFDC-A are made possible due to:

- ◆ a common quest for global food security;
- ◆ convergence in their missions and objectives to increase agricultural productivity in a sustainable way;
- ◆ convergence in their values such as technology, involvement and responsibility of the private sector, sustainability and openness to all other stakeholders;
- ◆ complementarities in their expertise in agri-input technologies;
- ◆ the need to share human and financial resources through strong alliances with complementary partners;
- ◆ the focus of the Policy and Market Development Programme of IFDC-A on all agri-inputs, including CPPs and seeds;
- ◆ the commitment of CropLife-AME to Integrated Crop Management (ICM).

In order to formalize their collaboration and define partnership areas, CropLife-AME and IFDC-A decided to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

1.2 The MoU

A MoU between CropLife-AME and IFDC-A was signed on April 14, 2004 in Bamako, Mali, for and by President of CropLife-AME and the Director of IFDC-A.

The MoU covers all African countries, with a special focus on ECOWAS countries, for a period of five (05) years (2004-2009).

Four main collaboration areas have been identified:

1. Support to the creation and strengthening of agri-input trade associations;
2. Capacity building of other stakeholders of agri-input markets (farmer based organizations, public organisations, etc.);
3. Support to regulatory harmonization and policies, with regard to agri-inputs;
4. Information on the agri-input markets.

The partnership is assessed annually and during a meeting between the two parties.

1.3 The 2004 Action Plan

The Action Plan for 2004 (May 2004 – April 2005) focused mainly on strengthening of, and capacity building in the national associations. Nevertheless, regulations and market information activities on CPPs were also considered.

2. COMMON ACTIVITIES IN 2004

The following activities were conducted in partnership between CropLife-AME and IFDC-A, from May 2004 to April 2005. The benefits of each common activity are specified.

2.1 Workshop for Revitalization Plan of Cotton Inputs Market

Venue: Bamako, Mali, May 18 2004.

The common activity: IFDC/MIR organized a regional workshop for the validation of a *Plan of Revitalization of the Regional Cotton Agri-Input Market*. CropLife was represented at the workshop by ADPA Mali, the national association in Mali. The logical framework and the plan of action discussed during the meeting were sent to CropLife for comments.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ IFDC benefited from the contributions of CropLife to the *Plan of Revitalization* proposal.
- ◆ CropLife could defend the interests of its members.
- ◆ CropLife is well informed and aware of the *Plan of Revitalization*.
- ◆ IFDC has a strong partner for the implementation of the *Plan of Revitalization*.

2.2 Meeting with the AGRODIA Association

Venue: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 24 June 2004.

The common activity: IFDC/MIR organized a first contact meeting between CropLife and the Association of Agri-input Wholesalers and Retailers of Burkina Faso (AGRODIA). The meeting was held at IFDC's office in Ouagadougou.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ CropLife was introduced to AGRODIA, and vice versa.
- ◆ A collaboration between CropLife and AGRODIA started.

2.3 Training of Trainers (ToTs)

Venue: Accra, Ghana, 13-17 September 2004.

The common activity: CropLife organized a ToTs session for its national association in Ghana (AAG) and in Togo (AFITO) and for members of the public sector (EPA, PPRSD). CropLife invited one participant from IFDC/MIR to attend the course and supported the costs of the training. The CropLife training consultant facilitated the workshop.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ The IFDC representative was trained to train and MIR benefits from the skills developed by the participant.
- ◆ IFDC is better informed on the values, objectives and training approach of CropLife.
- ◆ IFDC benefits from the training documents of CropLife.
- ◆ CropLife has trained an IFDC representative and can seek for his support for forthcoming trainings related to CPPs (especially in French).
- ◆ IFDC could improve its relationship with all participants and the national associations.

2.4 Fourth Regional Meeting of Agri-Input Trade Associations

Venue: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, October 5-6, 2004.

The common activity: IFDC/MIR organized the 4th annual meeting of West and Central African Agri-Input trade associations. The meeting consisted also in the constitutive general assembly of the Federation of African Agri-Input Trade Associations (FACIA). CropLife attended the meeting as a partner.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ CropLife could meet with all main agri-input trade associations of West and Central Africa, during a unique event.
- ◆ CropLife could share ideas and its experience with the participants, with regards to the creation of the federation.
- ◆ IFDC could rely on an active partner to support the creation of FACIA.

2.5 Creation of FACIA

Venue: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, October 7, 2004.

The common activity: IFDC/MIR supported the ceremony of the creation of the Federation of African Agri-Input Trade Associations (FACIA). The CropLife representative was the chairman and the moderator of the ceremony.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ The ceremony benefited from an honorable and dynamic chairman.
- ◆ CropLife started a partnership with FACIA.
- ◆ IFDC played a facilitation role by pushing forward its partner CropLife-AME.

2.6 Strengthening of CropLife National Associations

Venue: Accra, Ghana, December 16-17, 2004 (**national associations of Ghana, Nigeria, Togo**)

Venue: Bamako, Mali, December 21-22, 2004 (**national associations of Mali, Burkina F., Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal**)

The common activity: CropLife organized and financed two workshops for strengthening and capacity building for its national associations. IFDC facilitated the workshops.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ CropLife benefited from the facilitation expertise of IFDC.
- ◆ The links between CropLife national associations and IFDC were reinforced.
- ◆ FACIA has stronger members.

2.7 Technical Partners Meeting for Harmonization of Regulations on CPPs

Venue: Bamako, Mali, 22 February 2005.

The common activity: CropLife, IFDC and CSP/INSAH met to discuss on a strategy for CPPs regulation harmonization initiative in West Africa. This action will serve for orientation for the regulatory meeting during the West and Central Africa Hub meeting in April 2005 in Cotonou.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ CropLife, IFDC (and INSAH) are identified as the technical actors of the process.

2.8 Capacity Building Workshop for Retailers in Ghana

Venue: Kumasi, Ghana, 14-18 March 2005.

The common activity: IFDC/MIR and CropLife/AAG co-organized and co-financed 2 events at the same time:

- ◆ a technical training workshop for 53 members of the Ghana Agro-Input Trade Association (GAIDA). Trainers were members of the Agrochemical Association of Ghana (AAG) who benefited from the ToTs described at 2.3.
- ◆ an advanced training on technical skills organized for the AAG trainers by the CropLife Training Consultant.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ Logistics and finances were shared.
- ◆ IFDC benefited from the training skills of AAG to train members of GAIDA.
- ◆ CropLife could conduct a follow-up on the training.
- ◆ Cooperation between AAG and GAIDA is strengthened.

2.9 Information Collection on CPPs Regulations

Period: July 2004-April 2005.

The common activity: IFDC/MIR and CropLife collected, shared and updated information on CPPs regulations in ECOWAS countries.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ CropLife and IFDC benefited from the network and partners of each other to get updated information.
- ◆ Shared information is available for forthcoming common actions on CPPs regulations.

2.10 Awareness Creation of the Regional Decision Making Institutions

Period: October 2004-April 2005.

The common activity: IFDC/MIR and CropLife informed and sensitized their institutional partners (especially WAEMU, but also ECOWAS and CILSS) on the need to develop a regulatory harmonization scheme on CPPs in the region.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ CropLife benefited from the close links between IFDC/MIR and regional institutions.
- ◆ IFDC benefited from the support of the plant science industry represented by CropLife.
- ◆ Awareness and coordination approach has been created to serve as a common basis for forthcoming common activities.

2.11 Synthesis on CPPs Regulations in ECOWAS Countries

Period: January-April 2005.

The common activity: IFDC/MIR prepared tables synthesizing the status of CPPs regulations in ECOWAS countries. The tables were finalized with CropLife.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ CropLife benefited from IFDC/MIR's CPPs status overview.
- ◆ IFDC benefits from the input of the private sector represented by CropLife.

- ◆ A common status overview is available for forthcoming common activities.

2.12 Regional Workshop to elaborate a "Road Map" on CPPs Regulations

Period: April 2005.

The common activity:s CropLife and IFDC/MIR co-organized and co-financed a workshop on the harmonization of CPPs regulations during the annual workshop of the West and Central Africa Hub of CropLife. Participants were decision-makers of ECOWAS/WAEMU countries. A common "roadmap" was elaborated to start the process of regional harmonization on CPPs regulations.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ Logistics and finances were shared.
- ◆ CropLife benefited from the partnership between IFDC and WAEMU/ECOWAS, and from the experience of the process that was conducted by IFDC, WAEMU and other partners on seeds regulations.
- ◆ IFDC benefited from the lobbying capacities and from the technical expertise of CropLife.
- ◆ A harmonization process is engaged.

2.13 Regional Harmonisation Process on Seeds Regulations

Venue: Dakar, January 2004 and Lomé, November 2004

The common activity: WAEMU, in partnership with FAO, IFDC/MIR and other partners, organized 2 regional workshops:

- ◆ in January 2004 in Dakar, to elaborate a roadmap for the harmonization of seeds regulations;
- ◆ in November 2004 in Lomé, to validate the technical proposals made by the consultants;

A third workshop is about to be organized during the first semester of 2005 to validate the regional regulation documents and an implementation strategy project.

On request of IFDC/MIR, CropLife was invited to these workshops. Although CropLife could not attend the meetings, they were informed on the process.

Impacts of the partnership:

- ◆ CropLife is fully informed on the process engaged for seeds regulations.
- ◆ CropLife and IFDC benefit from the experience on seeds regulations, and can use it as a basis for the process planned for CPPs regulations.

2.14 Report on the MoU in "Afrique Agriculture"

Period: June 2004.

The activity: CropLife organized a publication to inform on the MoU in the magazine "Afrique Agriculture".

Impacts:

- ◆ The partnership between CropLife and IFDC is visible to all stakeholders.

2.15 Websites Links

Period: December 2004 and March 2005.

The activity: IFDC established links with the CropLife website, at 2 levels:

- ◆ On the Afamin website : www.afamin.net
- ◆ On the general IFDC website : http://www.ifdc.org/Related_Links/index.html

CropLife-AME established a link with the IFDC website on its new website:

<http://www.croplifeafrica.org/index.php?action=content.display&mid=179&cid=182&mp=>

Impacts:

- ◆ The CropLife / IFDC partnership is visible to all visitors of the IFDC, Afamin and CropLife- websites.

2.16 Sharing of information and documentation

Period: from April 2004 to April 2005

The activity: IFDC and CropLife shared several documents on a regular basis. Some of these are:

- ◆ From CropLife: Annual Report (2002/03), case study “Water Matters for Sustainable Agriculture”, Reference Guide “Biosafety Frameworks Addressing the Release of Plant LMOs”, “Guide for Industry on the Implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides”, “Agricultural Biotechnology, Facts for Decision Makers” by AfricaBio, “List of Website links for Approved / Registered CPPs and MRLs by Country” by ECPA;
- ◆ From IFDC : IFDC Annual Report 2004, MIR Newsletters 1 & 2, MIR Information Note on Seed Regulations, MIR Information Note on the Creation of FACIA, MIR Brochure.

Impacts:

- ◆ CropLife is better informed on some regional activities related to agri-inputs.
- ◆ IFDC is better informed on issues related to CPPs and ag-biotech.

3. PERSPECTIVES

As planned by the MoU, a second common action plan will be established for the period running from April 2005 to April 2006.

There are at least 4 components that may be developed during the forthcoming period:

1. A main common activity may be the harmonization process of the registration of and regulations on CPPs, under the aegis of WAEMU and ECOWAS.

2. Besides, the efforts made to strengthen national CropLife associations have to be followed up, and the collaboration between CropLife AME and FACIA reinforced.
3. Common capacity building trainings for agri-input wholesalers and retailers, and for farmers, could be planned in several countries.
4. Finally, the information flow on CPPs could be reinforced through the new CropLife AME website, and through the IFDC/MISTOWA project.