

REPORT ON VISIT TO YEMEN
by Peter Mills
CropLife Africa Middle East
02-March-2003 to 07-March-2003

PURPOSE

- **Orientation:** introduction to Yemen - personnel, country, agriculture, training systems.
- **Personnel:** meet with YATAM personnel, Syngenta personnel, retailers, and others.
- **Presentation:** short informal presentation on activities, training materials, information sourcing.
- **Training materials:** hand over all CropLife Africa Middle East training materials.
- **Discussions:** on training materials.
- **Training:** observe training sessions for pesticide distributors.

ACTIVITIES

Sunday, 02-March-2003

07h00: Depart Harare (UM367)
08h45: Arrive Johannesburg (UM367)
10h00: **Preparation** work for visit to Yemen
14h15: Depart Johannesburg (EK762)
Overnight on flight

Monday, 03-March-2003

00h25: Arrive Dubai (EK762)
02h30: Depart Dubai (EK961)
04h45: Arrive Sana'a (EK961)
08h30: Depart Sana'a (by car): discussions on all aspects of Yemen agriculture, training, industry
16h00: Arrive Aden
Overnight Aden: Sheraton Hotel

Tuesday, 04-March-2003

08h00: **Syngenta training**
12h30: **Meeting** with training personnel
15h00: **Syngenta training**
20h30: Training ends
Overnight Aden: Sheraton Hotel

Wednesday, 05-March-2003

08h00: **Syngenta training**
12h30: Training ends

14h00: **Visits:** Afternoon in Aden with training & industry personnel

18h00: General discussions over khat!!

Overnight Aden: Sheraton Hotel

Thursday, 06-March-2003

07h00: Depart Aden (by car): discussions on all aspects of Yemen agriculture, training, industry

14h00: Arrive Sana'a

16h40: Depart Sana'a (GF194)

20h10: Arrive Abu Dhabi (GF194)

22h30: Depart Abu Dhabi (GF604)

23h10: Arrive Dubai (GF604)

Overnight on flight

Friday, 07-March-2003

03h40: Depart Dubai (EK761)

10h00: Arrive Johannesburg (EK761)

12h30: Depart Johannesburg (BA6267)

14h05: Arrive Harare

Overnight @ home

KEY PERSONNEL CONTACTED

- Dr. Ahmed ElAghil, chairman, YATAM, Sana'a: CEO ElAghil Trading, Yemen
- Dr. Christine Bronsch, Business Manager, Middle East, Syngenta, Switzerland.
- Eng. Abbas Ali Abdul-Mughni, General Director of Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation, Sana'a.
- Eng. Mohamed Al-Garadi, ElAghil Trading, Sana'a.
- Eng. Taha Y. Al-Nahari, ElAghil Trading, Sana'a.
- Eng. Abdul-Hakim A.M. Ghaleb, ElAghil Trading, Sana'a.
- Ahmed Qaid Saif, Aden Branch Manager, ElAghil Trading, Aden.
- Eng. Shehab Q Al Shamiri, General Director of Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation, Sana'a.
- Eng. Aref Al-Shemari, ElAghil Trading, Sana'a.
- Gary Jacobs, North Safety Products, South Africa.
- Samir Mayas, General Manager, Crown Lubricants, Dubai.
- 26 retailers.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Left electronic copies on CD for YATAM and Dr Christine Bronsch of the following:
 - CropLife Middle East Africa Training Activities.
 - Training Manuals for three courses.

- PowerPoint presentations for three courses.
 - Copies of six "GIFAP Guidelines" booklets.
 - Copy of CropLife Egypt "Dealers Accreditation" course.
 - On-farm incinerator.
 - APRTC IPM training materials.
 - All available pictorial materials.
 - Container management.
 - Old GIFAP training manuals for "farmers" and "retailers".
- Observed training for pesticide retailers.
 - Discussions with all personnel on Yemen agriculture, training needs, training materials.
 - Discussions with Gary Jacobs (in Harare before leaving) regarding protective clothing specs and availabilities - these were provided to YATAM on CD.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Follow up with Gary Jacobs of North Safety Products on prices of protective clothing (PM, YATAM).
- Copy and send Medical Training materials (PM).
- Contact CropLife Egypt for permission to use their Retailers training materials (YATAM).
- Send electronic copy of incinerator to ElAghil personnel (PM).
- Send medical posters (PM, JLA).
- Future courses on safe use training (YATAM).
- Discuss the use and introduction of the "on-farm incinerator" as well as the disposal pit, both of which are described in the training materials on the CD (YATAM).

CONCLUSION

This was an extremely useful and eye-opening visit. I was incredibly impressed with the training undertaken, and the extremely high standards being maintained. Congratulations to Syngenta and ElAghil personnel, and all involved in organising such a diverse group of retailers and for the professional way in which the training was conducted.

Thanks also to Dr ElAghil and his team for the extreme hospitality, that I have not experienced anywhere else in the world.

Regarding training, the standard of trainers and the training is excellent. It would also be good to see some more training on safe use, for both retailers and farmers.

If the use of the incinerator can be discussed with the Ministry and is allowed to be used, it may be useful to try and get those retailers present, to be leaders in their districts by setting these up. First try and test the incinerator at ElAghil Trading, before showing retailers.

As discussed with Dr Christine, she is prepared to take trainer training further, and I leave this in her capable hands.

Select participants for the North Africa Middle East ToT course to be held in Jordan in 2004.

KEY

PM = Peter Mills

YATAM = Yemen Association for Agricultural Materials.

JLA = Jack Aston, Kenya.

Peter Mills

07-March-2004



Training in Yemen is interesting - a comfortable carpet, comfortable cushions, lots of water and most importantly lots of KHAT to chew. Very productive and animated discussions resulted!



The terrain in Yemen is difficult to farm and rainfall is low.



Despite the restrictions, Yemeni farmers still manage to grow healthy crops on these terraces - vegetables and the national crop, KHAT.