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REPORT ON VISIT TO DAMASCUS, SYRIA

by Peter Mills

CropLife Africa Middle East

04-August-2006 to 11-August-2006

PURPOSE

- **Training:** conduct **five day** course on **Training of Trainers** in Damascus, Syria, for training staff from various sectors within the MoA, and Syrian Obstocks Program.
- **Training Materials:** hand over training materials to all trainees and other training staff
- **Meeting:** meeting with participants & CropLife Syria.

ACTIVITIES

Friday, 04-August-2006

08h00: **Preparation**

14h00: Depart Pietermaritzburg (by car)

15h40: Depart Durban (SA566)

16h50: Arrive Johannesburg (SA566)

19h05: Depart Johannesburg (EK764)

Overnight: Plane

Saturday, 05-August-2006

05h15: Arrive Dubai (EK764)

14h00: Depart Dubai (EK911)

16h15: Arrive Damascus (EK911)

17h30: **Preparation of venue**

Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Sunday, 06-August-2006

08h00: **Training of Trainers Course: Day 1**

17h30: End of Day 1

Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Monday, 07-August-2006

08h00: **Training of Trainers Course: Day 2**

18h30: End of Day 2

Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Tuesday, 08-August-2006

08h00: **Training of Trainers Course: Day 3**

18h30: End of Day 3

Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Wednesday, 09-August-2006

08h00: **Training of Trainers Course: Day 4**

17h30: End of Day 4

Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Thursday, 10-August-2006

08h00: **Training of Trainers Course: Day 5**

13h00: End of Day 5

14h00: **Certificate Ceremony**

17h35: Depart Damascus (EK912)

21h25: Arrive Dubai (EK912)

Friday, 11-August-2006

04h10: Depart Dubai (EK761)

10h30: Arrive Johannesburg (EK761)

12h10: Depart Johannesburg (SA551)

13h20: Arrive Durban (SA551)

14h20: Depart Durban

15h30: Arrive Pietermaritzburg

16h00: **Reports, administration, data capture**

Overnight: Home

KEY PERSONNEL CONTACTED

- Elias Salhani, CropLife Syria
- Dr. M. Jamal Hajjar, Director, Crop Protection, Ministry of Agriculture
- Nicola Ghadban, Head, Pesticide Division, Ministry of Agriculture
- Eng. Yaakoub Al Maher, Director of Training and Qualifications Directorate
- Eng. Bassam Kaskas, Head, Training Centre for Extension and Agricultural Sciences
- Eng. Suliman Twati, Deputy Head, Training Centre for Extension and Agricultural Sciences
- 14 participants

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Facilitated five day Training of Trainers course for 14 Participants from MoA.
- Presented hard and electronic copies of ToT and Safe Use training materials to all participants and other parties.
- Meeting with participants and CropLife Syria on the way forward.
- Discussed future cooperation with Syrian Master Trainer program.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- All participants to submit training plans by end of September, 2006 to Peter Mills, CropLife Syria and Ali Mohamed Ali (participants).
- Plan for future trainings in Syria (AMA, CLS, PM).
- Translations to be sent when completed by Said Abdella (SA, PM).

CONCLUSION

I have yet to train a more enthusiastic group. The response and dedication was excellent. A huge demand for this type of course, established from discussions with various heads of departments. This needs to be followed up.

It was disappointing that potential partners were not invited, as there seems to be a great potential for them to be involved. Fortunately the Syrian ASP head was on this course.

Peter Mills
11-August-2006



The training was opened by Dr Jamal Hajjar (second from right), Director of Crop Protection. Also present were Elias Salhani, CropLife Syria; Nicola Ghabban, Head, Plant Protection; Yaakoub Al Maher, Director of Training and Qualifications Directorate: Ali Mohamed Ali, CropLife Africa Middle East.



Facilitator, Peter Mills discusses the results of a group exercise.



All participants are filmed during their "Performance" exercise. The video gives individuals feedback on their verbal and non-verbal skills performances.



Fourteen trainers from various sectors within the Ministry of Agriculture attended the Train-the-Trainer course in Damascus, Syria.