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REPORT ON VISIT TO DAMASCUS, SYRIA

by Peter Mills

CropLife Africa Middle East

24-August-2007 to 03-September-2007

PURPOSE

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

ACTIVITIES

Friday, 24-August-2007

08h00: **Preparation**
14h00: Depart Pietermaritzburg (by car)
16h00: Depart Durban (BA6218)
17h10: Arrive Johannesburg (BA6218)
19h05: Depart Johannesburg (EK764)
Overnight: Plane

Saturday, 25-August-2007

05h05: Arrive Dubai (EK764)
07h00: **Preparation**
14h00: Depart Dubai (EK913)
16h15: Arrive Damascus (EK913)
17h30: **Preparation of venue**
Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Sunday, 26-August-2007

08h00: **Training of Trainers Course: Day 1**
17h30: End of Day 1
Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Monday, 27-August-2007

08h00: **Training of Trainers Course: Day 2**
18h30: End of Day 2
Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Tuesday, 28-August-2007

08h00: **Training of Trainers Course: Day 3**
18h30: End of Day 3
Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Wednesday, 29-August-2007

08h00: **Training of Trainers Course: Day 4**
17h30: End of Day 4
Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Thursday, 30-August-2007

08h00: **Training of Trainers Course: Day 5**
13h00: End of Day 5
14h00: **Certificate Ceremony**
Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Friday, 31-August-2007

08h00: **ToT Training Materials update and revision**
Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Saturday, 01-September-2007

08h00: **ToT Training Materials update and revision, Newsletter**
Overnight: Rotana Hotel, Damascus

Sunday, 02-September-2007

08h00: Depart hotel
11h00: Depart Damascus (EK912)
14h05: Arrive Dubai (EK912)
16h00: **ToT Training Materials update and revision, Newsletter**
Overnight: Dubai

Monday, 03-September-2007

04h25: Depart Dubai (EK761)
10h35: Arrive Johannesburg (EK761)
14h00: Depart Johannesburg (SA8737)
13h20: Arrive Pietermaritzburg (SA8737)
16h00: **Reports, administration, data capture**
Overnight: Home

KEY PERSONNEL CONTACTED

■ Elias Salhani, CropLife Syria.

- Ruba Bishara, CropLife Syria.
- Eng. Yacoub Al-Maher, Director of Training and Qualifications Directorate.
- Ja'far Ghussain, Head of Pesticides Department, MoA.
- Eng. Suliman Twati, Deputy Head, Training Centre for Extension and Agricultural Sciences.
- Nidal Assaed, facilitation assistant, MoA.
- Mohammad Maher Al-Khaznawi, facilitation assistant, MoA.
- 12 participants.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Facilitated five day Training of Trainers course for 12 Participants from industry and public sector.
- Revision and updating of all ToT materials.
- 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.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- All participants to submit training reports to CropLife Syria (participants).
- Plan for future trainings in Syria (AMA, CLS, PM).

CONCLUSION

A very responsive group! This group enjoyed the training thoroughly and there was great appreciation for the course. From comments on evaluation forms, they have all learned a lot and are motivated to put this all into practice. Therefore, cascade training using partners should now be the major priority and effort from CropLife Syria.

Greatly appreciate the efforts of Elias Salhani and Ruba Bishara from CropLife Syria and the Debanne Group, as well as all the staff at the training centre, and facilitation assistants, Maher and Nidal, who all made this a very successful training course.

Peter Mills

03-September-2007



The training was opened and closed by Ja'far Ghussain, Head of Pesticides Department, MoA, Mr. Yacoub Al-Maher, Director of Training and Qualifications Directorate, Elias Salhani, CropLife Syria and Peter Mills, CropLife Africa Middle East.



Kamil Ghandour gave an excellent lesson, using models, diagrams and other training tools, on construction of a pesticide store.



Twelve trainers received their certificates from Ja'far Ghussain, Head of Pesticides Department, MoA, Mr. Yacoub Al-Maher, Director of Training and Qualification Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Elias Salhani, President of CropLife Syria.



Both Nidal Assaed and Mohammad Maher Al-Khaznawi provided invaluable facilitation assistance throughout the course.