

## CROPLIFE SUPPORTS IPM PROJECT IN SOMALIA

CropLife Africa Middle East has been supporting the UNA IPM Project, in Somalia, which is now being run by Dr. Jack Aston.

The Italian UNA NGO consortium was awarded an EC funded project in 2001 to promote IPM principles in Somalia as part of a major International effort to assist in the reconstruction of the country after 14 years of civil war. CropLife is a contributor to this project, contributing both training and financial support.

Phase I of this project started off by recognizing that the small quantities of Agrochemicals sold in the country were being used in the most irresponsible manner and that several of the few products present were also highly toxic (WHO 1a and 1b).

They gave top priority to implementing some Safe Use trainings. These is where CropLife International (then G.C.P.F.), first became involved. Initial SUP training work commenced in the Bosaso region of Puntland in 2001 in association with an NGO programme named "Oasis". Following trainings the project managers produced simple safety message news sheets that were widely circulated in the region.

Following this the IPM project manager decided that the Safe Use module should receive further priority attention. The Kenya SUP booklet on the "Safe Use of Pesticides" was upgraded, translated into Somali and printed in large numbers for countrywide distribution. At the same time a teaching manual "Training Formats for Safe Use of Pesticides" was developed and again printed in large numbers.

The books have formed the basis of all training work in Somalia these last years and both items have recently been reprinted.

A second Phase of the project was approved

by the E.C. in 2003 and again "Safe Use" was a key component, the project was also guided by other NGO's that felt the Somalia situation called for extensive inputs into training activities. Much of this training work was to be directed at the farmer community level. During the early part of this phase the project team developed a set of five high quality posters depicting typical Safe Use messages which were produced for use, alongside the Kenyan Safe Use posters set, at the farmer field days. Many training sessions were held countrywide, training hundreds of stockists, extensionists and students as well as farmers.



Many of these sessions were held in the field, often mango trees.



One feature of the work was the great support that the project had from the many international and local NGO's working on food secu-

ity issues in the country. GTZ, the RED CROSS, CARE, CONCERN, World Vision, IFAD, COSV, COOPI, Agrosphere, GAA, FAO and CEFA are but a few of the important INGO's that have hosted seminars in the country and have had their agronomists and extensionists trained in the simple safe use, IPM messages. The above training work was led and carried out almost exclusively by Kenyan Safe Use experts with valued funding contributions by GCPF and later CropLife International.



As Phase II was reaching its end, the project set up three IPM Training and Promotion Centres in different regions (Garowe, the capital of Puntland state, Hargeisa in Somaliland and Jowhar in Somalia). These centres, when fully operational, will service IPM trainings and visibility work in their respective regions. They have all been provided with modern communications equipment and sprayers and protective clothing for demonstration purposes.

In early April-2006, hard work put in by UNA in

conjunction with the FAO was rewarded with a Phase 3 IPM contract from the EC for a further 30 months of expanded activities. The contract worth 1.1 million EUROS started in late June-2006. Phase 3 will again work closely with the International Aid organizations, providing training work, mostly safety training, which will be greatly expanded and messages will be further spread by local radio and press media and via the Internet (there are Cyber cafes in almost every Somali small town) and the schools.

The project has also just released further publications on Crop Pests and Diseases of Somalia emphasizing IPM methodology but including pragmatic information on the use of Crop Protection Chemicals. Key targets now are 200,000 farmers, key stockists, traders and extensionists who will continue educa-



tional work after project completion.

CropLife's other contribution to this project is the training of trainers (above). Key personal attended a CropLife Train-the-Trainer course, which was held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

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