



NEWSLETTER REPORT

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1. Product Stewardship Activities

1.1 Exhibitions

Agricultural exhibitions are important platforms for farmers to learn about old and new technologies that can be used to improve productivity of crops and animals. The Agrochemicals Association of Kenya/CLK participated in expos organized by Remington Africa Limited in collaboration with Meru, Kisii and Bomet county governments. Remington Africa is a corporate event company with

interests in the agribusiness sub-sector to provide trainings for farmers through groups or farmer organizations.

The events brought together stakeholders from various sub sectors including agricultural research, farming organisations, seeds, fertilizers and the agrochem industry.

AAK was able to engage and train over 2,000 farmers on responsible use of pesticides.

Table 1: Farmers trained on responsible use of pesticides in Meru and Kisii counties

Date	Farmers expos	Farmers reached
29/08/2019	Meru County (Nkubu town)	1028
25/09/2019	Kisii County (Kisii University)	1501
24/10/2019	Bomet County	1298
	Total	3,827



Deputy governor Meru county addressing the participants during the event at Meru, Nkubu stadium



AAK officer demonstrating SSP concept to farmers during the Remington Farmers Expo at Kisii University grounds



Remington Africa Ltd Kisii farmers Expo



The Agrochemicals Association of Kenya/CLK participated in expos organized by Remington Africa Limited in collaboration with Meru, Kisii and Bomet county governments.

1.2 Fruits, Vegetables and Herbs Conference and Exhibition, 2019

AAK had the opportunity to participate in the third edition of the Fruits, Vegetables and Herbs Conference and Exhibition, 2019. The event was held from the 25th to 27th September 2019 at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies, Nairobi.

This year's theme was: "Enhancing market access through aggregation, food safety and compliance to standards in fruits, vegetables and herbs".

This was a good platform for AAK to demonstrate the Spray Service Provider (SSP) Concept, an initiative that is rapidly gaining momentum in the industry. This event also provided an environment for stakeholders in the horticultural industry to discuss and chart the way forward regarding market access and trade, finance in agriculture, food safety, aggregation, value addition, devolution, innovations and technology for Kenya's fruits, vegetables and herbs. Conference participants were drawn from a cross section of the horticulture industry actors and decision makers, including leading fresh produce exporters, domestic consolidators, researchers, industry professionals, scientists, and academia.



AAK officer demonstrating the concept of Responsible Use during the event at Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS), Nairobi.



This year's theme was: "Enhancing market access through aggregation, food safety and compliance to standards in fruits, vegetables and herbs".

2. Partnership

2.1 Breakfast Meeting to Discuss VAT and Other Emerging Issues within the Agriculture Industry held on 24th September 2019 at the Eka Hotel, Nairobi

The breakfast meeting with the CEOs of member organisations of Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK)/CropLife Kenya was convened to brainstorm and come up with the way forward on the emerging issues within the agrochem industry - issues pertaining to VAT, PVOC, Empty Pesticide Containers (EPCs) and the recent anti-pesticides campaigns in Kenya.



Participants at the CEOs breakfast meeting



Mr Amuyunzu addressing the participants

Emerging Issues Discussed

2.1.1 Management of Obsolete Stocks

Management of obsolete pesticides is increasingly becoming an issue. A number of reasons contribute to the accumulation of obsolete stocks. AAK managed to clean up 212 tonnes of obsolete stock in 2014 which was costly. While we engage PCPB on revalidation of expired products we also need to optimize our forecasts and work with our tender customers, particularly public institutions, to make sure that they are not piling up expired stock.

2.1.2 Empty Pesticides Containers (EPCs) Survey

The National Waste Management Bill and Policy "Polluter Pays principle" is meant to streamline waste management at national, county, corporate and individual level. The Waste Management Bill is targeting individual polluters, hence the need for the industry to be proactive in managing its EPCs. The industry, in partnership with the Business Advocacy Fund, has therefore initiated a survey on EPCs generated by the agrochem industry and calls upon its members to support the consultant who will be conducting the survey.

2.1.3 Pest Control Products (PCP) Bill and Regulations

The PCP Bill and regulations review process is at an advanced stage. Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is underway on the PCP regulations. The bill is still at the cabinet secretary's office and yet to be tabled to the Cabinet.

2.1.4. Anti-Pesticide Campaigns

The major issue discussed was the anti-pesticide campaigns in Kenya. The meeting was informed that the litigations in the United States (US) may have given rise to the activism. The release of the white paper on pesticides was the peak of the activism through "Route to Food" and the Petition on issues surrounding pest control products which was filed with the Departmental Committee on Health for enquiries. The Association has put in place a Task Force Working Group (comprising industry members and PCPB) to develop strategies aimed at correcting the narrative being pushed against PCPs.

3. Anti-Counterfeit Activities

Counterfeiting and trade in illegal pesticides is still a serious threat to the industry. As counterfeiters continue to sell fraudulent products, the genuine pesticide companies are faced with threatening statistics and slumping sales due to these fake products since farmers tend to purchase cheaper products. Further, the socio-economic impact, coupled with the health and environmental concerns of these fake products, impede the development of the pesticide industry and agricultural sector at large.

This justifies the efforts by AAK and member companies in the fight against such criminal activities. Apart from cleaning the supply chain through accreditation, AAK has engaged key stakeholders including law enforcement agencies, supply chains together with the pesticide industry in the fight against this vice through awareness creation programs. The exercise will continue until the supply system is streamlined and void of counterfeiters.

3.1 Accreditation

During this quarter, under the program dubbed "cleaning the supply chain", AAK carried out accreditation exercises for two of its member companies, Osho and Ultravetis. The same was conducted to distributors alongside an agro-dealer strengthening program in Kilifi and Embu counties.

Table 2: Participants

	Company/Agro-dealers	Accredited
1	Osho Chemical Industries Ltd	55
2	Ultravetis	25
3	Embu	37
4	Kilifi	35
	Total	152



Ultravetis staff being taken through the history of the agrochemical industry in Kenya.



Participants being taken through the industry Code of Conduct.



Osho staff undergoing accreditation and Responsible Use (RU) training at Osho offices, Industrial area, Nairobi.

3.2 Agrodealer Associations Strengthening Program

AAK held forums with Embu and Kilifi counties agro-dealer associations on 29th August 2019 and 3rd September 2019, respectively. This exercise aims to address the challenges faced by County Agrodealer Associations (CAAs) in Kenya. AAK believes agrodealers are an essential link between agrochemical companies and pesticide consumers (farmers). The focus of the program is therefore, to help agrodealers increase and expand their membership base and also to ensure self-regulation amongst themselves.

The main expectation is the formation of associations which will help them to develop an advocacy and influencing platform that links them to the county governments, AAK and other key stakeholders. Through the associations, agrodealers can channel issues affecting them directly to the governments and other no-governmental organizations. The step will also enable them to articulate business values, advance their knowledge and information access. Apart from formation of associations, AAK expects to achieve;

3.2.1 Self regulation

Self-regulation is an important component of the supply system. This will help address the constraints of access to genuine pesticides. The one day event attracted officers from Pest Control Products Board (PCPB), County government Ministry of Agriculture and other industry players.



Participants follow presentation on Code of Conduct at Panesic hotel, Embu



Participants during discussions on benefits of forming agro-dealer association at Panesic hotel, Embu

3.2.2 Code of Conduct

AAK requires agrodealers to obtain valid licenses from PCPB and to ensure that their staff are technically qualified to deal in pesticides. Once they undergo the agrodealer awareness training, they are issued with a certificate and a sticker upon signing an agreement with AAK to abide by the Code of Conduct.



Participants during a forum at Makuti Villa Resort, Kilifi County



Group photo of the Participants at Makuti Villa Resort, Kilifi County



Participants follow presentations at Panesic hotel, Embu

3.3 Anti-Counterfeit border sensitization

AAK believes that most of the illegal and counterfeit products make their way into Kenya through the porous borders. For this reason, AAK in collaboration with PCPB prioritized to sensitize border officers and pesticide stakeholders at the border points to facilitate the level of awareness on counterfeiting.

AAK strategized on this since it is through sharing of experiences related to the enforcement of the various mandates on illicit trade, including counterfeiting that the entire country can benefit and profit from legitimate business.

The conferences, for the first time, gathered together responsible authorities involved in combating illicit trade in Kenya and included representatives from enforcement authorities (Police, regulatory authorities and the Anti-Illicit Trade Working Group), cross border traders, agrodealer associations, county government department of agriculture, farmers among others.



ADA, Busia county addressing the forum at Malaba border point, Gidee Guest House



Officer from the office of DCI making his remarks during the forum at Malaba border point at Gidee Guest House Hous.



CEO-AAK giving his remarks during the forum at Busia, Busia ATC

The event reached over 100 stakeholders as shown:

Sr.#	County/border point	Venue	DD/MM/YYYY	Participants
1	Busia	Busia ATC	24/10/2019	43
2	Malaba-Bungoma	Gidee Guest House	25/10/2019	85
	Total			128

The main objectives of conferences was aimed at:

- Improving understanding, highlighting the difficulties being faced by enforcement authorities and customs and helping to bring into light, more cohesive approaches to fight against counterfeits.
- To identify strategies and key actions needed to further streamline and harmonize fight against illicit trade on pesticides and to promote information exchange and work-sharing among the relevant stakeholders/authorities.

The major border points AAK is targeting includes Malaba, Busia, Taveta, Namanga and Oloitoktok.



An officer from Kenya Police giving his address in Busia forum, Busia ATC



Participants during the plenary session



An address from Kenya Police from the border in Malaba, Gidee Guest House



Participants during Malaba forum at Gidee Guest House



Plenary session at Malaba, Gidee Guest House.



Regional Manager, Anti-Counterfeit Authority giving his remarks during the Malaba forum at Gidee Guest House.



AAK-CEO during his closing remarks, Busia forum at Busia ATC.



Officer from DCI giving his remarks during Busia forum at Busia ATC



"Counterfeiting is a must Win Battle"
...AAK believes that most of the illegal and counterfeit products make their way into Kenya through the porous borders.

4.0 Regulatory Policy and Standards

4.1 Meeting with Key Value Chain

Agrochemicals Association of Kenya has developed a pro-active strategy and action plan to contain this through the Pesticide Technical Working Group. A successful workshop was held for the all key value chains (tea, coffee, horticulture, potatoes, cereals and flowers) on 17th August 2019 to sensitize them on the safety of pesticides so as for them to cascade down the value chains.

4.2 CropLife East and Southern Africa Hub and Regulatory Workshop

This year, CropLife Africa Middle East (CLAME) in collaboration with the Agrochemicals Association of Kenya held HUB and Regulatory Workshop in Nairobi Kenya at the ParkInn Hotel, Nairobi from 20th to 21st August 2019. The meeting brought together industry and regulatory authorities players with the aim of sharing the latest information around pesticides management and use in order to continuously improve environment and specifically tools that are in reach of farmers. Critical to the discussions were issues facing many countries including proliferation of illegal and counterfeit pesticides, need for stronger associations, well-defined regulatory provisions for handling changing agricultural productions scenarios.



Group photo - Hub and Regulatory Workshop



Workshop in session

Table 4 below summarises the priority areas that were discussed.

Topic	Priority Areas	Recommendations/Proposed activities
Association management	Assessment of national associations in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity of staff - Capacity of executive members - Financial sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Associations (NA) need to critically review the role of staff/management and that of the Board members • CLAME to give support to NA in ESA on association management • NA to undertake an internal evaluation to determine if their internal revenues are enough to cover operational costs, their dependency on 3rd party income and their recent trend in income revenues • Identify deficiencies of each NA and how CLAME can support the NA
Communication	To identify communication needs for each NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants were urged to take advantage of communication resources that are available from CLAME and CLI • To customise available material for enhanced outreach in their respective countries • Support for awareness campaigns and material development at association level. Budget requests to be considered in 2020 budgets
SSP way forward for National Associations	To further enhance the SSP program and ensure protection of CLAME, NA and project against any liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing a disclaimer by the SSPs. A sample was shared with the member countries. The template to vary from country to country. • No certificate of competence except in cases where the government is involved in training of SSPs such as in Kenya • Signing of an agreement between associations and member companies which undertake the training of SSPs
Stewardship	PPE is to be a prime focus for 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA to take up PPE as priority to improve availability and use • Need to put pressure on the government for reduction of taxes on PPEs
	FAW Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLI has provided funds for regional training. Tentative date is early 2020, 2nd or 3rd week of January. The Association to cascade the training to member companies
	Container management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The associations were requested to submit requests for support from CLAME in regards to container management
	Resistance management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from CLAME is to be given for achievement of MOA labelling by 2023 in the region.

4.3 On taxation of Pest Control Products (PCPs)

President Uhuru Kenyatta on 7th November 2019 assented to the Finance Bill, 2019 where agricultural pest control products will enjoy zero rating. This takes effect immediately. This is a big win for the Industry!!

4.4 Regulatory Impact Assessment on PCP regulations

Agrochemicals Association of Kenya has engaged the services of a consultant to review the Pest Control Products Act and the draft Pest Control Products Bill 2017. The consultant has commenced the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) of the proposed Pest Control Products (PCP) Regulations, 2019 to determine the benefits to be obtained from the regulations as well as the costs of imposing the regulations to industry players and prepare a Regulatory Impact Statement, Explanatory Memorandum and Notice in line with the Statutory Instruments Act, 2013. The industry will be informed about the results of the assessment.



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