



R.E.A.P. Realizing Enhanced Agricultural Productivity

Sponsored by

Giving African Agriculture A Boost

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CropLife Foundation and CNFA, Inc. Launch Crop Protection Demonstration Project in Kenya and Malawi



**BAYER
CROPSCIENCE**

**DOW
AGROSCIENCES**

MONSANTO

**PIONEER A DUPONT
COMPANY**

SYNGENTA

**RUMARK:
RURAL MARKET
DEVELOPMENT
TRUST**

**AGMARK:
AGRICULTURAL
MARKETS
DEVELOPMENT
TRUST**

**CROPLIFE
AFRICA/MIDDLE
EAST**

CROPLIFE KENYA

CROPLIFE MALAWI

With the goal of developing substantive efficiencies in African agricultural production, CropLife Foundation joined with CNFA, Inc. to demonstrate the contributions that modern crop science technologies can make toward improving crop yields and freeing women and children from the back-breaking chore of hand weeding.

In October 2008, 25 demonstration plots were established both in Kenya and Malawi, using crop protection products contributed by Bayer CropScience, Dow Agrosciences, Monsanto, Pioneer, a DuPont company and Syngenta Crop Protection through a network of agrodealers supported by CNFA, Inc.

This newsletter will serve as an on-going report of progress being recorded in the pilot project and other developments in the program. Subsequent newsletter editions will serve to keep stakeholders in the project up to date with key milestones in the program.

African crop yields are one-third of the world's average for most crops. As potential food shortages loom, donor, development and government agencies are assessing technologies and policies that promise to significantly increase food production in Africa. Among these technologies are increased use of fertilizers, irrigation, improved maize seeds, pest management systems and biotechnology.

Unfortunately, the problem of weeds in African agriculture is not currently being adequately addressed. And yet, solving the weed problem in Africa is critical if farmers are to attain optimal yields and gain the full value of additional use of fertilizer, irrigation and improved seeds. For example, African farmers lose 20-100% of their potential crop production due to uncontrolled weeds, such as Striga spp. Fields are often abandoned or never planted due to weed infestations.

The primary method of weed control by smallholder farmers in Africa is hand weeding with short-handled tools. Women and children spend billions of hours in the drudgery of weeding fields by hand. However, weeds grow so prolifically that not enough weeding is done or is done too late to prevent serious yield losses.

The spraying of herbicides to remove weeds from African farm fields is a viable and proven technology which could be readily adopted with subsequent large yield increase. Herbicides have been tested for forty years in Africa and have been widely-



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NEW WAYS TO STOP BACK BREAKING WEEDING.



A Sales Representative of Farmchem Ltd demonstrates to a group of farmers how to use a pressurized knapsack sprayer in Embu District.



The application of herbicide

adopted by large-scale commercial farmers but not by smallholders, who lack training in their use and ready access. Research has shown that, if smallholders used herbicides, there would be a 99% reduction in the hours required for weeding.

Farmers would have significantly more time available to plant additional crops, apply fertilizers, harvest more crops, and their children could attend school. Herbicides have shown to be one-third the cost of hiring workers to pull weeds by hand.

To address these constraints, CropLife Foundation (CLF) and CNFA, Inc. have launched a pilot project in Kenya and Malawi to demonstrate the feasibility and impact of the proper use of herbicides in expanding agricultural production, increasing efficiency and raising farm family incomes in Africa. A principal investigator is overseeing the plantings of maize, ground nuts and chick peas and the use of various herbicides, fungicides, seed treatments and post harvest protectants. Results of the field tests will be compiled and published in early 2009.

About CropLife Foundation

CropLife Foundation was created in 2001 to promote and advance sustainable agriculture and the environmentally sound use of crop protection products and bioengineered agriculture. Through sound science-based research and education, the organization helps global agriculture economically produce safe, high quality, abundant food, fiber and other crops, thus ensuring food security and alleviating poverty, suffering and hardship.

About CNFA, Inc.

CNFA, Inc. is dedicated to increasing and sustaining rural incomes in less developed areas of the world by empowering farmers and rural entrepreneurs. CNFA, Inc. focuses on commercial activity, locally defined needs and leveraged investment to foster the economic empowerment of rural residents and enterprises all along the food value chain—from farmers to local suppliers and processors to larger companies, financial institutions and distributors and exporters.

For More Information [Click Here](#).

To view the news release about this project go to:

http://www.croplifefoundation.org/cpri_articles.htm#africa

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For more details visit www.croplifefoundation.org and read **Solving Africa's Weed Problem**

being applied to a demonstration plot.



A demonstration plot in Embu that has been treated with herbicide. Notice how the herbicide has killed all the weeds. The Project has set up demonstration plots in Kenya and in Malawi aimed at creating awareness about the use, characteristics, quality control and benefit of herbicides.



Mr. Justice Chingonda (in front), from Malawi who is the Principal Investigator for the Herbicide Project with Mr. Esborne Baraza (left) helps a farmer in Embu District, prepare a plot to be used for the herbicide demonstration.