

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MR.
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DURING THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING OF CABI'S
AFRICA MEMBER COUNTRIES**

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Focusing on Pesticide Risk Reduction

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The Chief Executive Officer, CABI, CABI Board, CABI Leadership,
Development Partners Present, Fellow Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

Let me take this opportunity to thank CABI for inviting PCPB to this every important workshop. I am personally delighted to be here today to share some experiences on pesticide risk reduction.

My first interaction with CABI was in 1991 when I attended a workshop on identification of microfungi of economic importance in agriculture. Little did I know that I would stand before you to give this keynote address.

PCPB values the partnership that we have had with CABI over the years, which has been strengthened in the last one year or so in addressing matters pesticides related risks.

Ladies and gentlemen I am delighted that PCPB recently entered an MOU with CABI. The main objective is ***"To collaborate in sustainability improving people's livelihoods through transformative agriculture practices, knowledge sharing and improving access to information and identify opportunities to***

reduce pest control products-related risks while safeguarding human health and the environment”.

PCPB is a statutory organisation of the Kenyan Government established in 1985 to oversee all matters related to pesticides in agriculture and public health, and related uses.

I would now like to focus on the topic--Pesticide Risk reduction

As you know, Pest Control Products (PCPs) are inherently toxic substances that are used in management of pests and diseases in agriculture, vectors of diseases in public health, and for control of termites in building construction.

In the recent past, the region has suffered some pests attack on our crops thus threatening food security. For instance, the 2019 Desert Locust invasions in Kenya could have caused a catastrophe without any interventions. The tropical climate pre-disposes us and other African countries to these high and new pest incidences. The pests seem to enjoy out warm climate and tend to proliferate very quickly. There is need for management interventions to reduce losses and ensure food security. Pesticides play a vital role in such pests and disease control. However, pesticides are potentially hazardous to both man and the environment and have to be used responsibly. PCPB therefore advocates for judicious use of pesticides.

In discharging its mandate, the PCPB implements articles 42, 43 and 46 of the Constitution of Kenya on the rights to clean and healthy

environment, right to adequate food of acceptable quality and consumer rights to good health, safety and economic interests, respectively.

During the process of registration all pesticides are evaluated for their safety, quality and effectiveness and only those found to meet the standards are registered/authorized for use in Kenya. Products that are found to be extremely toxic or hazardous may be denied registration or be restricted in terms of use and accessibility to the public. Only products that have been assessed are imported into the Country.

Risk reduction involves reviewing the two main components of risk in risk assessment and making regulatory decisions, that is:

- **hazard** (the intrinsic property of a product) and
- **the exposure**

At the point of authorization of products, the Board considers scientific information provided by applicants and also reviews decisions made by reputable regulatory agencies on the respective molecule, and only those that meet the expected standards are registered.

Ladies and gentlemen, I will highlight some key interventions introduced in Kenya to reduce Pesticide Risk

1. The Ministry of Agriculture reviewed the Pest Control Products (PCP) act and Regulations in consultation with stakeholders. The PCP Regulations were gazetted between August and November 2024. The Pest Control Products Bill is under review. CABI may consider supporting the sensitization of

policy makers on the Bill.

2. PCPB has implemented a risk assessment process that evaluates risk of pesticides to pesticide operators, workers, consumers and to non-target organisms such as pollinators prior to the registration of pest control products. This is in order to protect human health and the environment from unacceptable risk from the use of conventional pesticides.
3. PCPB has been piloting an Operator Risk Assessment tool in collaboration with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, USA and FAO, and other scientists to provide for use scenarios under local conditions for hand held application equipment commonly used in developing countries.
4. Biopesticide regulations were first gazetted in Kenya in 2006. The main objective was to facilitate registration of low-risk pesticides to safeguard human health and the environment, and facilitate trade and market access. The registration of Low-risk products is fast-tracked every year and included as a performance target.
5. PCPB adopted the concept of crop grouping and data extrapolation. This aims at facilitating the approval of pest control products and availing pest management tools for minor uses, reducing the cost of product registration and the time required. We have witnessed an increase on the number of pest control products including biopesticides registered for use on minor crops.
6. Training of stakeholders & awareness campaigns on responsible use of pesticides have been enhanced. In

2023/2024, 121 awareness activities were carried out in various parts of the country.

7. The concept of Spray Service Providers (SSPs) was introduced in the agricultural sector. So far over 2000 SSPs have been trained by PCPB in collaboration with aak-Grow and other stakeholders to offer spray services to farmers. Minimum qualifications for persons operating as spray service providers has been provided for in the new Pest Control products (Inspection and certification) Regulations of 2024.
8. To mitigate risks in case of pesticide poisoning, a 24 hrs Toll-Free Number is a mandatory requirement on all pesticide labels in the newly gazetted labelling Regulations.
9. Enhanced communication on pesticides: The Labelling, Regulations, gazetted in November 2024 requires that all pest control products must have a label with adequate information, with signal words, precautionary pictograms, hazard symbols and be compliant with the Globally harmonized System of classification and Labelling of chemicals (GHS).
10. The government of Kenya has also supported construction of a state-of-the-art laboratory at Pest Control Products Board headquarters here in Nairobi. This will enhance surveillance and analysis of pest control products during & after registration and support pesticide residue analysis in foods and in the environment.
11. Enhanced premises inspection and certification: This aims at monitoring quality of plant protection products in Factories and agrovet.
12. PCPB has deployed Compliance and enforcement Officers to border posts in all major points of entry to prevent the entry of unauthorized pesticides into the country.
13. Domesticated EAC regional harmonized guidelines on

registration of Pest Control products

14. It is also important to note that Kenya is a signatory to a number of Multilateral environmental agreement: PCPB is the Designated National Authority (DNA),-e.g. The Rotterdam convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in international trade, The Montreal Protocol on the Substances that delete the Ozone layer, The Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary movement of Hazardous wastes and their disposal, The Stockholm convention on Persistent Organic Pollutant. Based on the outcomes of the MEAs, Kenya has banned 45 PCPs and Severely restricted 5 products.—There are still challenges even after withdrawal of certain products. For example, Methyl bromide was withdrawn from the Kenyan market because it is listed as an ozone depleting substance in the Montreal protocol. Some countries demand use of Methyl bromide on exported commodities before exportation.
15. We are currently reviewing some molecules that may have safety concerns—Challenge is that some HHPs do not have suitable alternatives.

To minimize pesticide risk, three “Ps” have to be addressed:

1. **Product (pesticide):** Conduct scientific risk assessment--How hazardous is it? What are the exposure scenarios, Does the product pose unacceptable risk? Are there suitable alternatives
2. **Practices**—Review Good Agricultural Practices—Establish minimum effective dose, frequency of application, PHI, advocate use of IPM etc.

3. **People:** behavior change is critical. Enhance awareness creation on responsible use of pesticides

Finally, I would like to appreciate CABI for supporting various activities including:

- Review of pesticides,
- Development of a Post-registration evaluation criteria
- Development of a National Residue Monitoring Framework,
- Capacity building of various stakeholders on crop cropping guidelines, among others.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion to reduce pesticide risks.

Thank you.