



## Regional Consultation Meeting of CABI'S Africa Member Countries 10-13 June, 2025, Emara Ole Sereni Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

Kenneth Chipere

Principal Research Officer: Pesticide Registration

Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development: ZIMBABWE

Southern Africa Pesticide Regulators Forum(SAPReF) Chairperson: SADC

# Introduction

- ▶ Southern Africa Pesticide Regulators Forum(SAPReF) was formed in 2011
  - ▶ Established to identify common issues in managing and reducing pesticide risks, as many countries in the SADC region lacked the necessary human and financial resources to address them
- ▶ In 2014, SAPReF was endorsed as a subcommittee of the SADC-SPS Committee under the Plant Protection Technical Committee
  - ▶ Advisory role in pesticide risk management
  - ▶ Facilitate capacity building in the sound management of pesticides throughout their lifecycle in the region
  - ▶ Promoting regional information exchange and collaborative pesticide risk management.
- ▶ Membership consists of pesticide regulators and pesticide risk managers from all 16 SADC member states from diverse ministries
- ▶ It also includes technical experts from key supporting institutions (FAO, University of Cape Town, Swedish Chemical Agency, Africa Institute, ICGEB, CPSP, CEJAD)
- ▶ SAPReF was among the major outputs of ACP MEAs 1, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> phases have continued supporting pesticide Risk Management through SAPReF

# Key achievements to date

- ▶ Reviewed the Regional Guidelines on Regulation of Crop Protection Products in SADC Member States(2011) to the SADC Guideline on Pesticide Management and Risk Reduction (2019)
- ▶ SADC Strategy on Highly Hazardous Pesticides to protect health and the environment, 2025-2034”,(approved in June 2025)
- ▶ Harmonised Guidelines for the Registration of Biopesticide Products and Biological Control Agents in Southern Africa”-ICGEB and STDF”,(approved in June 2025)

# SADC Highly Hazardous Pesticide Risk Reduction Strategy

- ▶ Member states are at different stages of HHP Risk Reduction(9/16, identified HHPs using JMPM criteria)
- ▶ Address the low awareness of the risk of HHPs and available alternatives
- ▶ Provides a guiding framework for HHP risk reduction in the region through a coordinated and harmonised approach, promoting collaboration and cooperation
- ▶ No need to reinvent the wheel(222 Pesticide active ingredients identified with 71 in more than one member state)
- ▶ The strategy adopts the JMPM criteria as the harmonised approach for identifying HHPs
- ▶ Risk reduction based on the FAO three-step Risk Reduction process
- ▶ Elaborate on an up-to-date regional list of priority HHPs to facilitate identification of alternatives

# Challenges with mitigation step

- ▶ “Complicated registration processes for biopesticide products and biological control agents” -2/16 have legislation specifically for this group
  - ▶ The harmonised Guidelines for the Registration of Biopesticide Products and Biological Control Agents in Southern Africa
- ▶ Limited capacity for evaluation of products and product dossiers
- ▶ Unavailability and/or limited low-risk alternatives
- ▶ Limited technical and financial resources for research and development
- ▶ Low adoption rates due to inadequate information on “modus operandi of the some of the low risk alternatives such as biopesticides”, availability and affordability of low risk alternatives

# Opportunities

- ▶ The implementation of the Harmonised Guidelines for the Registration of Biopesticide Products and Biological Control Agents in Southern Africa
  - ▶ Provide Member States with a harmonised framework for expediting the registration of biopesticide products and biological control agents
  - ▶ Facilitate the mutual recognition and data sharing for the registration of biopesticide products and biological control agents amongst the SADC Member States
  - ▶ Provide farmers in the SADC Member States with safer and efficacious biopesticide products and biological control agents for pest control.
  - ▶ Establishment of regional partnerships(research institutions, universities, and regulatory agencies to generate necessary efficacy and safety data)
  - ▶ More effective peer-to-peer learning between member states
  - ▶ Enhanced capacity for maximum technical and financial financial collaboration with developmental partners
  - ▶ It attracts investment in the biopesticide sector, driving innovation and growth.
  - ▶ Facilitate cross-border trade within the region by ensuring consistent standards

# Regional Priority Areas

- ▶ Support for the Implementation of the SADC Strategy on Highly Hazardous Pesticides to protect health and the environment, 2025-2034.
  - ▶ Capacity building in the HHPs identification, needs and risk assessment and mitigation
  - ▶ Promote HHPs risk reduction initiatives outside the SADC Region
- ▶ Strengthen pesticide registration systems and technical capacity for risk reduction
- ▶ Support for the Implementation of the Harmonised Guidelines for the Registration of Biopesticide Products and Biological Control Agents in Southern Africa.
  - ▶ Training of regulators on dossier evaluation in line with the guidelines
  - ▶ Pilot testing of the guidelines in member states
  - ▶ Technical and financial assistance in the review of legislation in member states, where possible
  - ▶ Development of protocols for efficacy evaluation
  - ▶ Capacity building to identify and promote biopesticides, BCA, IPM, IVM, agroecological approaches and other low risk alternatives
  - ▶ Development of a regional database for biopesticides, BCA, IPM/IVM packages and agroecological approaches

[achiperek@gmail.com](mailto:achiperek@gmail.com)

**+263773526507**