



PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS BOARD

Withdrawal of high risk plant protection products and the implications for market access

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Outline

- Introduction
- Challenges/impact of pesticides risk reduction measures
- Interventions/opportunities
- Recommendations



Introduction

- PCPB is a Statutory organization of Kenya Government established under an Act of parliament, the Pest Control Products Act, Cap 346, Laws of Kenya of 1982
- The Act regulates the importation and exportation, manufacture, distribution and use of pest control products (**PCPs**)
- There are 6 main subsidiary legislations– registration, licensing, import/export, labeling, packaging and advertisement, disposal regulation, fees and other charges
- Amended in 2006, 2014, 2015 and 2024. There is a new draft PCP Bill 2024.
- PCPs for use in crop production and public health regulated by PCPB, VMD - veterinary medicines and other animal health products, NEMA-industrial chemicals



PCPs regulated by PCPB

Range of Pest Control Products regulated by PCPB:

- Conventional chemical pesticides
- Biopesticides: Botanicals, biochemicals, microorganisms, natural enemies
- Any compound or substance that enhances or modifies the physical or chemical characteristics of a pest control product to which it is added e.g **adjuvants and wetting agents**
- Technical grade active ingredients
- The above products are used in crop production & public health



Importance of Agriculture in Kenya



- ❑ Agriculture is vital to Kenya's economy, contributing significantly to GDP and employment, especially in rural areas.
- ❑ The sector employs over 40% of the population and sustains 70% of the rural population
- ❑ Kenya is a major exporter of Fresh horticultural produce, tea and coffee globally.
- ❑ In 2023, Kenya earned Ksh. 156.69 billion from Horticultural exports



Challenges in the horticultural sector



- ❑ In the recent years, there have been a decrease in the flower and vegetable export earnings
- ❑ Challenges include:
 - High cost of production
 - Logistical challenges: air fright, sea
 - Pests and diseases e.g. FCM, FAW, *Tuta absoluta*
 - Rejection of vegetables in the export market due exceedances of MRL set for pesticides



Pesticide risk reduction

Impact/challenges

- Pesticide risk reduction measures have led to withdrawal from the market many pesticides which are regarded as highly hazardous pesticides especially in the EU which is Kenya's main trading partner.
- There has been increased activism in Kenya against use of pesticides; leading to petitions and court cases
- Growers are left with limited number of tools to deal with the many plant pests and diseases
- Rejection of vegetables in the export due to exceedances of the lowered MRLs for the withdrawn pesticides and pest presence in the produce.



Impact contd'

- Low crop yields due to pests and diseases
- Loss of export market
- Affect food security
- Reduced economy growth and loss of peoples livelihoods.



Interventions

The changing regulatory environment for pesticides have brought several opportunities:

- In 2019 PCPB developed Guidance document on risk assessment of pesticides (in collaboration with Wagengen University with the support from the Dutch Government).
- PCPB has reviewed several registered active ingredients reading to restrictions or withdrawal of some products from the market (CABI has supported some activities).
- Developed guidelines for registration of biopesticides (Low risk products)
- Mechanism of fast-tracking registration of low risk products has been put in place (these products are given priority and requirement for local efficacy trials is reduced.



Interventions cont'

- Formation of Minor Crops Technical Working Group to address the challenges of PPP approved of minor crops. Through the efforts of this group many low risk products have been registered. (CABI AND COLEAD has supported various activities)
- PCPB in collaboration with other stakeholders developed Kenya Crop Grouping and data extrapolation guidelines. This has facilitated registration of alternative products (CABI has supported capacity building of the agrochemical industry on this guidelines).
- There has been increased awareness creation activities on responsible use of pesticides
- Promotion of concept of spray service providers: farmers who receive training to apply pesticides.
- Development of National Pesticide Residue Monitoring Framework (with support from CABI).



Interventions cont'



- Construction of PCPB residue laboratory
- The lab has a section dedicated to monitoring of pesticide residues in food commodities, water and soils.
- Data collected will be used for decision making



Recommendations

- ☐ Continuous collaboration with stakeholders
- ☐ Technical assistance for Kenyan horticultural SH be to comply in order to meet market requirements
- ☐ Capacity building/ strengthening National bodies so that they can provide guidance, ensuring compliance and facilitating market access.



End

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