

REDUCING RISKS OF PESTICIDES IN ETHIOPIA

Joint collaborative project on pesticide registration and post registration

Background and context

Over the last 10 years, the Ethiopian government has been concerned about the safe disposal of obsolete pesticide stocks. However, the country is still not free from obsolete pesticides and large quantities of contaminated containers and pesticide application equipment remain scattered over the country. In addition, residue problems have been reported on some export crops. This reflects a mismanagement of pesticides at different stages of their life cycle in the country.

One of the basic problems in the management of pesticides is the lack of a proper registration system in Ethiopia. Pesticide registration is still in the development stage and expertise is limited.

At the same time, Ethiopia is in the process of intensifying its agriculture both to meet national demands for food and to increase agricultural exports (e.g. coffee, flowers, and vegetables). As a result, pesticide overuse and misuse was documented over the last decade.

Pesticide management therefore receives much attention from the government in order to attain high quality agricultural produce for local consumption and export, protect public health and natural resources. In view of this, the Government of Ethiopia has initiated a national programme to improve pesticide management

along the pesticide life cycle: from the registration and import of pesticides, to use and monitoring, and including quality control and waste management. In 2006, the Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Department (APHRD) initiated a strategy for pesticide use reduction and introduced IPM on cotton and awareness building on misuse of pesticides, in close collaboration with FAO and local NGOs. In the meantime, APHRD requested FAO assistance to review the pesticide legislation and to assess the capacity of national laboratories with regard to pesticide formulation and residue analysis. It also requested Alterra Wageningen-UR, in the Netherlands, to support the development of local technical capacity for the registration of chemical pesticides and bio-pesticides.

During a workshop in Addis Ababa, in September 2008, it was decided to design one comprehensive programme in order to cover the various above mentioned activities. APHRD, Alterra Wageningen-UR, the Swedish Chemical Agency (KemI) and FAO started a joint collaboration on pesticide risk reduction in Ethiopia. This collaborative project is intended to figure as a pilot for other countries in Africa.

Objectives

- To develop a legal framework for the registration and post registration of pesticides (proclamation and relevant regulations).
- To develop a proper pesticide registration system for Ethiopia and train local staff on dossier evaluation.
- To develop a post registration system (including pesticide residues and quality control, monitoring, inspection, pesticide storage, capacity building and training).
- To develop a formal consultation platform that will support APHRD with advice on (post)registration issues.
- To execute an impact assessment of the new (post) registration system.

Project partners

The main project partners are:

- Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Directorate (APHRD), MoARD, Ethiopia
- Alterra, Wageningen University and Research Centre, the Netherlands
- Swedish Chemical Agency (KemI), Sweden
- Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)



Project approach

The project is divided into 5 work packages.

Work package A: Legal framework

A new legal framework for pesticide management was already elaborated before the start of the project. The goal of this work package is to ensure consistency between the legal framework and the methodologies, guidelines and approaches that will be developed during the project.

Work package B: Development of a registration system for pesticides

This goal of work package B is to develop a:

1. Pesticide administrative registration management unit
2. Scientific evaluation system for the registration of chemical pesticides and bio-pesticides.

APHRD staff will receive intensive on-the-job training in dossier evaluation. A manual of procedures, new application forms, a database and web page with registered pesticides, etc., will be developed in order to strengthening the pesticide registration system of Ethiopia. The evaluation system will focus on biological efficacy, human health aspects, pesticide residues and environmental issues.

Work package C: Development of a post-registration system for pesticides

The goal of this work package is to develop a well functioning post-registration system and covers the development of:

1. Reference laboratory for pesticide residues and quality control
2. Monitoring system
3. Inspection system
4. Storage of pesticides
5. Public awareness and capacity building of professionals
6. Training of pesticide distributors, retailers and pesticide applicators, and
7. Empty container management.

The approach will focus on capacity building, while much attention will also be given to the development of guidance, standards and protocols.

D. Sustainability of the developed systems

This work package intends to develop procedures and methodologies to support the scientific aspects of pesticide registration and monitoring. Scientific expertise will be developed at 2 levels: First, at APHRD-level for routine-based dossier evaluation; and second, at University level in order to scientifically underpin the development of new methods and procedures in the future.

In addition, particular attention will be given to the administrative and financial sustainability of both the registration and the post-registration system. Feasibility studies will be carried out to assess the best options to long-term continuity and financial sustainability of the various proposed systems.

E. Impact assessment

The goal of this work package is to evaluate the impact of the newly developed systems related to (post) registration of pesticides. At the start of the project (2010) a study on the reference situation will be done focussing on:

1. Pesticide use by farmers
2. Environmental impact of pesticide use
3. Impact on human health of pesticides use
4. Existing capacity of professionals, and
5. Knowledge of pesticide users.

After 5 - 10 years the study will be repeated and the impact of the activities within project will be evaluated.

Funding of the project

The following parties have indicated their interest in participating in the project.

- The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Ethiopia, as representative of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Food Safety (LNV)
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) Additional funding will be sought to realise all the objectives of the project.

Contact

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