

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

1. QUESTION NO 1

Laws – local and International:

LOCAL: Plant Protection Act No. 5 of 1997, Plant Protection Regulations of 1999

INTERNATIONAL: Stockholm Convention on POPs, and Rotterdam Convention and Basel Convention

2. QUESTION NO 2

Measures taken by Tanzania:

(i) Ban of Captafol, Parathion for health and environmental reasons 1986???, Ban of all Endosulfan formulations 2013?, Ban of Lindane 2013?

(ii) Restriction of several products: (a) Highly hazardous products (b) Fumigants, (c) Technical material (d) WHO Class I (e) Pesticides for timber treatment, etc.

(iii) Licensing of all firms dealing with pesticides business in Tanzania after certification of their technical competencies particularly on skills on pesticides knowledge

(iv) General pesticides management intervention control of imports by establishing permit systems

3. QUESTION 3:

Efforts:

- (i) Preventing women and children from engaging in any form of Pesticide business or pesticides application
- (ii) Training of safe handling and use of pesticides to these groups and community at large particularly to groups involved in pesticides business (sellers, pest controllers, formulators, etc)
- (iii) Proposed the initiation of surveillance system for pesticide poisoning in Tanzania.

4. QUESTION NO 4:

Few studies have been conducted but focusing farmers in general. You can refer the following publications:

- (i) Lekei EE, Ngowi AV, London L. Underreporting of acute pesticide poisoning in Tanzania: modelling results from two cross-sectional studies. *Environ Health*. 2016 Nov 29;15(1):118. PMID: 27899148 DOI: 10.1186/s12940-016-0203-3
- (ii) Lekei EE, Ngowi AV and London L. Farmers' knowledge, practices and injuries associated with pesticide exposure in rural farming villages in Tanzania. *BMC Public Health* 2014; 14: 389 doi:10.1186/1471-2458-14-389.
- (iii) Lekei EE, Ngowi AV and London L. Hospital-based surveillance for acute pesticide poisoning caused by neurotoxic and other pesticides in Tanzania. *Neurotoxicology* 2014;45:318-326.
- (iv) Lekei EE, Ngowi AV and London L. Pesticide retailers' knowledge and handling practices in selected towns of Tanzania. *Environ Health* 2014;13:79doi:10.1186/1476-069X-13-79
- (v) Lekei E E, Mkalanga H, Mununa FT. Characterization and potential risks of pesticides registered and used in Tanzania, *Africa Newsletter on Occupation Health and Safety* 2014;24:56-59

- (vi) Lekei E E, Ngowi AV, London L. Under reporting of acute Pesticides Poisoning in Tanzania 2015. International Journal of Environmental Health (In Press).
- (vii) Kaoneka B, Lekei E, Rwazo A, Matee J. Safety implication of pesticides use in vegetable cultivation. Example: Small scale farmers in Dar es Salaam. African newsletter on occupational health and safety 2010;20:16-19
- (viii) Lekei EE, London L and Ngowi AV. Human exposures arising from the import and distribution of pesticides in Tanzania – 2007.

Majority can be accessed electronically.

5. QUESTION 5:

Training:

We conduct training on safe handling and use of pesticides twice annually – every May and October at the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) based in Arusha each year. We also conduct outreach training by sending our trainers to various locations in the country depending on local demands. These programs are conducted by the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) based in Arusha, Tanzania – under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Training modules on pesticides are specifically developed based on target groups and needs.

Public Media sensitization:

We provide media sensitization to the public regarding risks involved in pesticides handling. This is done by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and TPRI.

6. QUESTION NO 6:

- (i) Regular inspections to assess use and handling to farmers and provision of technical advice on safe handling
- (ii) Biological monitoring whereby farmers (particularly large scale farmers) are tested for pesticides exposure and given advice. This is done by TPRI under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.
- (iii) Analysis of pesticide residues in food and feeds for consumer protection. This is done by TPRI
- (iv) Survey of Highly Hazardous Pesticides which is currently in progress aiming at elimination of these hazardous products.

7. QUESTION NO 7:

- (i) Restriction including elimination of highly hazardous pesticides
- (ii) Ban of Products for health and environmental reasons eg Endosulfan, Lindane, and Methyl Bromide etc.

8. QUESTION NO 8

Training programs on the use of alternative pest control techniques including IPM, natural products, organic farming etc. We have also authorized registration of Biopesticides which are believed to be less hazardous compared to synthetics. Few such products are already in the market.

9. QUESTION 9

We do not have such direct examples at the moment but we have court cases for products used contrary to the National Law eg counterfeiting, use of unregistered products, use of products which have expired, using pesticides with inadequate labels.

10. QUESTION 10

Challenges include inadequate financial support to implement enforcement activities, residue monitoring programs, quality control, inadequate of some laboratory equipment and inadequate capacities on some of the specialized skills on pesticides risk assessment.

RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Q.1. Laws being enforced by our government to regulate the use of pesticides include the following:-

1. Pesticides Control and Management Act, 1996
2. The Plant Protection Act, 1997
3. Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 2003
4. The Public Health Act, 2009
5. Environmental Management Act, 2004
6. Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) Act, 2003
7. The Standards Act, 2009
8. International Health Regulations, 2005 enforced at points of entry

Q. 2. Successful measures taken by our government to prohibit, ban, restrict and phase out pesticides that are harmful to human health.

2.1. A well elaborate food control system is in place, which is under the following levels of operation:-

- (i) National Level: Formulation of policies related to food safety
 - We have in place a national regulatory authority, the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority which is overall responsible for all matters related to food safety
 - Government Chemist Laboratory Agency, which is responsible for analytical duties for food safety
- (ii) Local Government Authorities
 - Responsible for routine enforcement of laws that a related to food manufacture and selling outlets
- (iii) Points of Entries
 - Responsible for food import control to protect our consumers from unsafe food
- (iv) Training Institutions
 - To carry out long and short term programmes related to food safety to equip the personnel with necessary knowledge and skills in food sciences
 - Carry out researches related to food safety

2.2 We have in place several legislation that addresses matters related to food safety including national standards that addresses issues related to pesticides in food

We have in place an institution, National Environmental Management Council responsible for environmental management

2.3 Agricultural Extension Services that promote application of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

2.4 Government Chemist Laboratory Agency is responsible for controlling industrial and consumer chemicals including pesticides

2.5 Tanzania Pesticide Research Institute is also responsible for controlling safety of pesticides to users

Q.3. Efforts undertaken by our government to prevent and mitigate detrimental impacts of pesticides on the health vulnerable group:-

- a) Prohibition of use of non registered pesticides
- b) Regular inspection of pesticide selling outlets by relevant authorities
- c) Monitoring of pesticides in Agricultural produce
- d) Setting limits pesticides in National Food Standards
- e) Prohibition of agricultural activities in waste disposal sites
- f) Agricultural extension services that protect farmers from direct contact with pesticides during application

Q. 5. How our government has assured that pesticide users and consumers are informed of the hazards and risks of pesticides used in food

- This is achieved through Information, Education and Communication that delivered by different stakeholders mainly Health, Agriculture and Environment sectors. The Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority has a special department that is responsible for Information, Education and disseminating information to the general public on issues related to food safety. The Ministry responsible for health has a Section that is responsible for Health Education and Promotion through various media.

Q. 6 Good Practices the government has initiated to assess, monitor, prevent and mitigate the risks of exposure to hazardous pesticides by having in place food control system and capacity to monitor status of pesticide residues in agricultural produce

- Post harvesting inspection of agricultural food products
- Setting national standards through Tanzania Bureau of Standards for cereal and cereal products entering local market
- Evaluation of products before registration by regulatory authority (Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority) for entering our local market
- Food import control at points of entry that include cereal and cereal products

Q.7 Registration of all selling outlets that deal with pesticides by TPRI. The Government Chemist Laboratory Agency also control the use of pesticides as a consumer chemical

Q. 8. Efforts supported by our government to reduce the use of pesticides in agricultural food production banning the use of DDT as pesticide in agro production of maize