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INTER-AFRICAN PHYTOSANITARY COUNCIL CONSEIL PHYTOSANITAIRE INTERAFRIC

WORKSHOP ON THE HARMONIZATION OF PESTICIDES REGULATION IN AFRICA,

TUNISIA

1ST TO 3TH OCTOBER 2013



GENERAL REPORT

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1. Introduction

As a part of the Budget programs' activities to be implemented by the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of African Union (AU-IAPSC) for the year 2013, a three days workshop on the harmonization of pesticides registration in Africa was organized in Tunis from 1st - 3th October 2013.

The workshop was attended by 09 country representatives over 10 invited. Participants came from National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) of Burundi, Chad, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and some experts (Annex 2).

2. Objective of the workshop

The objective of the workshop was to consolidate the draft of the harmonized pesticides registration prepared during the experts meeting held in Alexandria – Egypt in 2012 and reviewed in Addis Ababa in 2013 during the meeting of some African countries.

The specific objectives were:

- To review, consolidate and validate the draft harmonized pesticides registration;
- To identify strategies and key actions needed to further streamline and harmonize registration of pesticides and to promote information exchange and work-sharing amongst African member States pesticides registration authorities;
- To set priorities after the validation of the draft registration.

The proposed agenda was adopted with minor modifications (Annex1).

3. Opening session

3.1. Welcome remarks

The welcome address was delivered by Mrs Amel Nafti; Counselor of the Tunisian Minister of Agriculture. In her remarks she thanked AU-IAPSC for organizing the workshop in Tunisia, and wished successful deliberations and a good and peaceful stay of participants in Tunisia. She assured all necessary assistance from the Tunisian government.

This was followed by the opening speech of the Director of AU-IAPSC. On his speech the Director thanked the participants for responding positively to the invitation to attend the workshop. He recalled that the establishment of a common pesticide regulation for Africa is one of the recommendations of the member countries during AU-IAPSC's general assemblies.

The Director of the AU-IAPSC then outlined the steps already completed in the process of developing the document. Finally, he stated the issue of the meeting, which was mainly to achieve the objectives of the workshop.

3.2. Opening speech

The opening speech was presented by Mr Jamel Maabane; General Director of Protection and quality control of Agricultural products of the republic of Tunisia. He argued that Tunisia was an essentially agricultural country, faced like other African countries with

the problems of pesticides. He hoped that the establishment of an overarching provision for pesticide management will provide good solutions to many problems of pesticides faced by many African countries. He also expressed his gratitude to the African Union Commission (AUC), to participants and encouraged them to come up with suggestions that will pave the way to further consolidating the document and raising awareness of pesticides management in Africa. The General Director then declared the workshop officially opened.

4. Proceedings

4.1. Special presentation

A series of interventions on power point began with two presentations that threw light on the necessity and importance of a harmonized system of pesticides management in Africa, presented by **Prof. Salah A. Soliman**, Professor of Pesticide, Chemistry & Toxicology at Alexandria University for the first presentation, and the second on the Tunisian experience in obsolete products disposal, shared with participants by **Mr Aabdelbaki laabidi**, Head of Department of Chemical analysis, Laboratory Pesticides of Tunisia.

4.2. Country presentations

In this session, countries represented at the workshop presented their countries' version of pesticides regulations, comments of the draft pesticides regulation forwarded to them earlier and proposed their inputs. The various inputs were gathered by the secretariat of the meeting (IAPSC) in a single document. Then submitted for discussion and improvements to two working groups: A group of French-speaking countries and another for English-speaking countries. The results of both groups were re-examined and synthesized by a mixed group, then presented in power point in a plenary session.

A series of questions and explanations followed, to allow AU-IAPSC staff and experts to better understand the different contributions for a faithful integration of inputs in the next draft.

4.3. Recommendations

Every year new pesticides are introduced to the global market. Before these new products are granted approval, distributed, and made available to users they must be rigorously assessed by national governments to ensure that they meet current health, environment and safety standards. Older pesticides already on the market are also re-evaluated to guarantee that they continue meeting these standards. This process of pesticide regulatory review and registration is mostly carried out by each country and hence is often duplicative and resource-intensive.

Building upon what has already been bilaterally or multilaterally achieved, we believe that, through strengthened cooperation, we will be able to achieve the following:

-The outcomes of this meeting are recommended to be a base block for the efforts that will be made by representatives of other regional blocks, so we all can come up at the end with a final system for harmonization of regulation of pesticides in Africa. However, data submitted for registration must include:

Country information about residue analysis, Pre-Harvest Intervals (PHIs) and re-entry intervals;

Acceptable levels and standards of protection to humans, animals and environment;

- Data requirements (dossiers) for pesticide agents and their registration submission are coordinated globally by all stakeholders so that work-sharing between regulatory authorities in collaborating countries can be maximized;

- Regulatory systems for pesticides will be harmonized to the extent that data reviews for pesticides are prepared in a standardized format on a national or regional basis that can be used to support independent risk assessments and regulatory decisions made in other countries or regions;

- Preparing and adopting a unified dossier format to be used by registrants when submitting data required for identifying product(s) and its risks;

- The pesticide regulatory system must encourage licensing and regular training for involvement in important pesticide safe use and handling and application responsibilities, e.g. application, equipment etc.

- Making available national, regional, multilateral and international databases listing or prioritizing schedules for regulatory reviews of pesticides to all countries so that a government receiving a request and planning a review can identify if others have also reviewed the pesticide or who is planning to review it. This will lead to reducing time and cost to both governments and industries by not duplicating tedious, costly and time consuming preparations, retesting and re-evaluating common and integral data and reports.

- Quickly but efficiently introducing safer pesticide products and replacing the more hazardous ones in the market, in order to protect human health and the environment. Moreover, it will facilitate safe trans-boundary movements of agricultural commodities.

- Experimental protocols for different pesticides, including bio-pesticides, should be harmonized and be based on Good Experimental Practices.

- A necessity of establishing and strengthening Quality Control laboratories for pesticide formulation in each African country. Countries are encouraged to establish their own national analytical laboratories measuring pesticides residues and build their own analytical capacity whenever possible. Countries which have established such capacity will be requested to assist /cooperate with those lacking such capacity;

- As there are many different specialty / minor used crops produced in small cultivated areas or which are non economical interest for registrant in most African countries, attention must be paid to the importance of having a system to register pesticides for minor use.

- The registration system must allow for the use of some specific pesticides to combat pest of national important crops in case of there is no registrant for such pesticide, emergency use permit.

5. Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony was marked by the following four statements:

- The Senior Scientific Officer-Entomology at AU-IAPSC, Dr. Abdel Fattah reminded assembly of the methodology that was used to achieve the result;

- From Experts, represented by Professor Nabil;

- From Participants made by the representative of Ghana;

- From the Director of AU-IAPSC, who thanked the spirit of work and dedication shown by the participants and experts. He announced that the draft resulting from this meeting will be refined by experts, taking into account the contributions made by member countries and submitted to the most experienced technical and legal authorities on the matter for reading and formatting.

- From the Director General of Agriculture, who congratulated the participants and experts for their dedication to work; before declaring the workshop closed, he first wished a safe journey back to all to their respective localities.

**WORKSHOP ON THE HARMONIZATION OF
PESTICIDES REGISTRATION IN AFRICA
1-3 SEPTEMBER 2013 TUNIS-TUNISIA
DRAFT AGENDA**

Time	Event	Presenter
Day I		
09.00-10.00	Registration	
10.00-11.00	Opening ceremony : *Speech of AU-IAPSC Director *Opening speech *Group Photo	Tunisian Authorities
11.00-11.30	Coffee/Tea Break	Moderator
11.30-12.00	Welcome speech of the Senior Scientific Secretary and review of the agenda	Dr .Amer
12.00-12.20	The importance of a harmonized pesticides management system	Pr .Salah
12.00-12.30	The Tunisian experience in obsolete products disposal	Mr. Aabdelbaki Laabidi
12.30-13.00	Discussions	
13.00-14.30	Lunch	
Countries' presentation:		
14.30-14.45	- Pesticides Management in Algeria , comments and inputs on the draft regulation	
14.45-15.00	- Pesticides Management in Burundi , comments and inputs on the draft regulation	
15.00-15.15	- Pesticides Management in Gabon , comments and inputs on the draft regulation	
15.15-15.30	- Pesticides Management in Ghana , comments and inputs on the draft regulation	
15.30-15.45	Coffee/Tea Break	
15.45-16.00	- Pesticides Management in Gambia , comments and inputs on the draft regulation	
16.00-16.15	- Pesticides Management in Malawi , comments and inputs on the draft regulation	
16.15-16.30	- Pesticides Management in Togo , comments and inputs on the draft regulation	
16.30-16.45	- Pesticides Management in Tunisia , comments and inputs on the draft regulation	
16.45-17.00	- Pesticides Management in Chad , comments and inputs on the draft regulation	
17 00-17.15	- Pesticides Management in Sudan , comments and inputs on the draft regulation	
17.15-17.45	Discussion	
Day 02		
09.00-09.20	Presentation of the draft common pesticide regulation for Africa	Pr .Nabil
9.20-9.30	Discussion	
9.30-10.15	Presentation of the draft text's revision procedure	Pr .Salah
10.15-10-	Coffee/Tea Break	

30		
10.30-11.45	Setting up of different working groups	
11.45-13.15	Re-reading of draft regulation and participants' inputs	
13.15-14.45	Lunch	
14.45-16.30	Re-reading of draft regulation and participants's inputs	
16.30-16.45	Coffee/Tea Break	
16.45-18.00	Re-reading of draft regulation and participants's inputs	
Day 03		
09.00-10.30	Revision of the draft regulation	Pr Salah (moderator)
10.30-10.45	Coffee/Tea Break	
10.45-11.00	Presentation of the draft regulation	
11.00-11.30	Discussions	
11.30-13.00	Recommendations	
13.00-14.30	Lunch	
14.30-15.30	Closing ceremony *Speech of SSO-E *Speech of Experts *Speech of Country's representative * Speech of AU-IAPSC Director *Closing speech	Dr Abdel Fattah Pr Nabil Mrs. ANSAH from Ghana Dr Mezui M'Ella

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REGISTRATION IN AFRICA
1-3 SEPTEMBER 2013 TUNIS-TUNISIA
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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