REVIEW OF THE PESTICIDE REGISTRATION REGULATIONS, 2021 & PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE NATIONAL FERTILIZER QUALITY CONTROL ACT 2019 (to include Agrochemicals and Pesticides)

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By

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Executive Summary

Article 7.5 of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management developed by WHO and FAO, advice countries that the - "*Prohibition of the importation, distribution, sale and purchase of highly hazardous pesticides may be considered if, based on risk assessment, risk mitigation measures or good marketing practices are insufficient to ensure that the product can be handled without unacceptable risk to humans and the environment*". Already over 50% of registered pesticides in Nigeria are in the categories of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs); 80% of the most common pesticide brands used by smallholder farmers are HHPS. Worst so, most of these pesticide active ingredients are banned or phased out in Europe and USA due to their adverse impact on human health, the environment and high toxicity to aquatic life, bees and insufficient data to uphold the principle of preventing harm. While the importance of pesticides in the agricultural sector is known globally, the reality remains that the safe use of HHPs in Nigeria today, and in the near future is unrealistic. The increasing number of pesticide hazards in the country and the continuous rejection of our food export evidence this. This is further collaborated by the absence of comprehensive pesticide regulations and dedicated people-centred pesticide legislation/law in Nigeria.

For the governance of the entire life cycle of pesticides in Nigeria, there is the NAFDAC Pesticide Registration Regulation of 2021, the NESREA National Environmental (Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides) Regulations, S. I. No 65, 2014, and two (2) contentious pesticide bills thought to be in the National Assembly. This document reviews the NADFAC Pesticide Registration Regulation of 2021 and the latest proposed pesticide bill (in the form of an Amendment to the Fertiliser Control Act 2022 to include Agrochemicals and Pesticides Control). This document identifies the gaps in the NAFDAC registration regulation of 2021 and the proposed Amendment Bill of the Fertilizer Act 2019, in the light of best international standard practices, and other country pesticide regulatory experiences.

The review also presents the current institutional framework for pesticide regulation in Nigeria and the existing gap in the pesticide value chain – the unmonitored usage on farms and other public spaces. This review ends with practical recommendations for a more robust pesticide registration regulation, and a people-centred law that ensures the protection of Nigerian lives and the environment, as against having a law that is designed to make the country more dependent on highly toxic pesticides, easing the entry for agrochemical companies, and subjecting the country to external capture and control of our food system.

Top among the recommendations is the need for the relevant MDAs (NAFDAC, NESREA, FISS) to align or harmonize their related regulations in a manner that ensures synergy, clarity in the process and focus in their jurisdiction. Time and effort should not be wasted in the tussle among MDAs as to who should oversee the entire pesticide life cycle.

There is a need for a central pesticide law that harmonises and makes this coordination and process seamless. However, such a law must have the safety of the Nigerian people and our ecosystem as its priority, rather than increasing the dependence of the country's food system on highly hazardous pesticides. The Bills before the National Assembly are not designed for this purpose and should not be considered for passage or signing into law.

While commending NAFDAC for the Pesticide Registration Regulation 2021, there is a need to review the regulation to make it more comprehensive, less ambiguous, and clear i.e. ensure the classification of registered pesticides is following WHO and Rotterdam Convention, and forceful to command compliance.

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REVIEW OF THE PESTICIDE REGISTRATION REGULATIONS, 2021 & PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE NATIONAL FERTILIZER QUALITY CONTROL ACT 2019 (to Include Agrochemicals and Pesticides)

We owe it to Nigerians, our children and the future generation, the moral duty of protecting and defending our health, environment and food sovereignty.

Background:

The use of pesticides in agriculture has been a matter of concern worldwide, due to their negative impacts on both human health and the environment. According to WHO, the number of people affected by pesticide poisoning globally has risen to 385 million per year[1].

In Nigeria, pesticide poisonings are a regular occurrence with one of the most alarming cases happening in 2020 with over 270 people dead as a result of a HHP - Endosulfan found in the community river in Benue State.[2] A significant number of similar HHPs are registered and used in Nigeria, which are already banned but exported by other developed countries in the EU and Asia.

NAFDAC's Green Book product database lists 682 synthetic chemical pesticide products (excluding chemical repellents, biocide, drugs, vitamins, feed, and fertilizer) from 29 Jan 2015 to 05 April 2019. Of these 682 registered products, 58% include active ingredients that are not approved in the European market due to their potential chronic health effects, environmental persistence, high toxicity to fish or bees, or insufficient data to uphold the principle of preventing harm. As of today, the number of chronic health diseases is on the rise in Nigeria. Cancer is becoming more prevalent among men, women and even children, with 72,000 death and 102,000 new cases annually.

The survey carried out by AAPN and the SWOFON (Smallholder Women Farmers Organization of Nigeria) in 2022 shows that 7 out of the most common 13 pesticide products have active ingredients that are linked to cancer or proven to be carcinogenic. These active ingredients include Atrazine, Butachlor, Chlorpyrifos, Dichlorvos (DDVP), Endosulfan, Glyphosate, and Mancozeb.

[1] Boedeker, W., Watts, M., Clausing, P. et al. The global distribution of acute unintentional pesticide poisoning: estimations based on a systematic review. BMC Public Health 20, 1875 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-020-09939-0

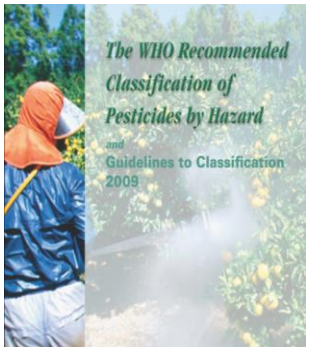
[2] Nigeria: Pesticides caused death of nearly 300 villagers | DW News - latest news and breaking stories | DW |https://www.dw.com/embed/480/av-59457934

As of April 2023, over 20 million Nigerians were reported to be living with chronic kidney diseases[3]. That is over 10 per cent of the citizens living with kidney diseases. The same survey of small-scale women farmers shows that pesticide-active ingredients such as Paraquat and Butachlor are capable of causing kidney diseases along with cancer.

It is shown that 25% of registered pesticide products as of 2019 are proven to be carcinogenic; 63 are mutagenic; 262 are neurotoxic and 244 show clear effects on reproduction. Another study shows that lab results on crops, water and soil samples collected from farms, markets, and rivers in Nigeria show the presence of highly hazardous pesticide residues.[4]

Also, 75% of the surveyed women farmers report health challenges which they attribute to pesticide use. Symptoms like difficulty in breathing, dizziness, headaches, nausea, vomiting, eye problems, skin rashes, catarrh, acute diarrhoea and respiratory problems were among the most common health effects reported.

Over 85 per cent of smallholder women farmers do not use personal protective equipment (PPEs) during pesticide application, due to their unavailability, and the exorbitant prices of PPEs. Many Nigerian farmers are not English literate (cannot read or write English). Many are poor and live in far rural communities where they lack access to digital information to gather knowledge on best agricultural practices. This is even worst as agricultural farm extension workers no longer exist in most places. Farmers rely on rural agrochemical dealers and farmers' cooperatives for information and knowledge on pesticide use and other farm practices. The outcome has been catastrophic for human and environmental health. Unfortunately, many of the farmers live in communities where access to basic health facilities either does not exist or is poor.



WHO categorized pesticides according to their level of hazard - Extremely Hazardous (Ia), Highly Hazardous (Ib), Moderately Hazardous (II), Slightly Hazardous (III), and Unlikely to Present Acute Hazard (U).

This classification informs how the pesticides should be regulated, how they are labelled, who can use them, how they should be used, where they should be used and how they should be phased out.

NESREA National Environmental (Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides) Regulation of 2014, by the definition of "Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides" as Highly Toxic Substances that can harm people, facilities, or the environment, aligns with the WHO classification of pesticides in the group of HHPs (Ib). In essence, they are interested in the environmental regulation of HHPs and other highly toxic chemicals.

[3] Punch Newspaper (2023, April 28). 20 million Nigerians living with chronic kidney diseases – Nephrologist body. Healthwise. https://healthwise.punchng.com/20-million-nigerians-living-with-chronic-kidney-diseases-nephrologist-body/

[4] Heinrich Böll Foundation, 2020, Time for a "Detox" in Agriculture: Challenges of Pesticide Use and Regulation in Nigeria and Possible Solutions. https://ng.boell.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Time%20for%20a%20Detox%20in%20Agriculture_2021.pdf

Our Reality:

- *Over 50% of pesticides registered in Nigeria are Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs).*
- *More than 90% of Nigerian farmers do not know the chemicals they apply on their farms, and food-eating consumers do not know the chemicals in their food.*
- *Most farmers do not read product labels on pesticide products (not necessarily, because they cannot read).*
- *Most farmers are not aware of the various hazards associated with the pesticides' active ingredient, because the health hazards are not disclosed in any way.*
- *Most farmers cannot apply the pesticides safely in the right calibration. This leaves a lot of pesticide residues in the soil, on surface water, in the crops and invariably in the human body.*
- *Over 80% of the farmers do not use personal protective equipment (PPEs), mainly because they are not sold in the many agrochemical stores or by their distributors.*
- *A vast majority of farming communities and villages across the counties do not have functional hospitals and pharmacies but have several unregistered and untrained agrochemical dealers*
- *Even though many of these farmers have rich traditional background of traditional biological pest control methods, this knowledge is hardly applied as farmers forget and prefer the quick use of chemicals.*

The use and exposure to these Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in Nigeria are poorly monitored and poorly regulated along the various stages and areas of pesticide applications.

In more advanced countries, most or all of these pesticide-active ingredients sold and used recklessly in Nigeria, are banned or highly restricted such that they are never sold over the counter to ordinary citizens or are applied only by professionals who are trained and certified as pesticide applicators. This reality does not exist in Nigeria, as the proper framework to ensure that Nigeria does not become a dumping ground for agrochemical companies and developed countries that export their banned pesticides to the Global South is missing.

There is an urgent need to improve the pesticide regulatory framework in Nigeria.

Article 7.5 of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management developed by WHO and FAO states:

"Prohibition of the importation, distribution, sale and purchase of highly hazardous pesticides may be considered if, based on risk assessment, risk mitigation measures or good marketing practices are insufficient to ensure that the product can be handled without unacceptable risk to humans and the environment".

Nigeria has no pesticide legislation. Invariably, it can be argued that currently there is no law which empowers anyone or agency to implement a sanction on pesticide abuse on Nigerians or our environment. Ironic as it seems, it can be said that the only thing saving Nigeria from being a dumping ground of chemical pesticides by international agrochemical companies, is the existing bureaucracy and inter-agency/ministerial overlaps in the current structure.

Over 80% of pesticides used in Nigeria (including the formulation for local manufacturing) are all imported into Nigeria; including those banned in their exporting or manufacturing countries. Once a pesticide is banned in the EU, European law, allows their companies to continue the production, export and sale of the banned pesticide products to countries with weaker human health and environmental laws – like Nigeria. European companies issued a plan in 2018 to export 81,000 tons of pesticides, that are prohibited in their own countries. The main destination of these exports is the global south[5].

Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP) also come from the Chinese and Indian markets, which have almost half of the entire market share in Nigeria. Glyphosate, a restricted chemical banned in India and China, is still being supplied to Nigeria from those countries where it is banned. The double standard on banned pesticides has been a concern of civil society all over the world. This is bringing about stricter pesticide regulations. France in January 2022 passed a law forbidding the manufacturing, storage and export of EU-banned pesticides. Switzerland has also ended the export of 5 banned toxic pesticides. Germany has announced the introduction of regulations to put a stop to the export of banned pesticides in the future. On the importing side, countries like Tunisia, Mexico and Palestine have taken steps to stop the double standard, as they have passed laws stopping the import of pesticides banned in the exporting or manufacturing countries.

The Council of the European Union (EU) presented their 'farm to fork' strategy in May 2020, as one of the key actions under the European Green Deal. The strategy intends to shift the current EU food system towards making their food systems fair, safer, nutritious, healthy, environmentally friendly, organic and sustainable. The strategy foresees several initiatives and legislative proposals, among others, to cut pesticide use by 50 per cent by 2030, improve organic farming, improve front-of-pack nutrition labelling and sustainable food labelling, etc. The strategy aims at improving and protecting the lives of EU citizens and their environment.

[5] BBC News (2020): UK 'operates double standards' on banned pesticides. By Justin Rowlatt, Chief environment correspondent. Published 10 September 2020. https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-54093926

The above background stresses the need for an urgent review and revamping of Nigeria's pesticide regulatory architecture and the introduction of a very comprehensive enforceable law.

The following sections present what a good pesticide regulation should be; the institutional framework for pesticide regulation in Nigeria; the gaps in current legislation and international best recommendations on pesticide regulation.

Qualities of a Good Pesticide Regulation

A good pesticide regulation or legislation should:

1. Protect the life of the people and the environment from the harmful effects of pesticide use.

2. Ensure that pesticides are used safely, in a way that supports farmers to grow safe and safer foods.

3. NOT be designed to support the dependence on chemical pesticides (especially the HHPs). In other words, the regulation should not support increasing sales of chemical pesticides, but rather reduce the use and adverse impact of chemical pesticides.

4. Encourage farmers to grow food safely and sustainably.

5. Not only allow consumers to make informed decisions on the choice of pesticide but give consumers access to redress mechanisms when harm occurs.

6. Be extensive and comprehensive enough to cover areas like:

    a. What pesticide (active ingredient) can be used (i.e. based on WHO or PAN categorization of pesticides by Hazard levels)?

    b. Where it can be used (i.e. open farms, trial labs, public parks and gardens, etc), when and on what (what crop, plans, weed/pest should it be applied)

    c. Who can use the pesticide (professional applicators, certified dealers, or general use)

    d. The maximum residual level (either as a separate regulation)

    e. Trade – what pesticide can we import and export? Can we import pesticides banned in other countries?

Key Principles and Concepts of a Good Pesticide Regulation/ Law:

- ✓ Precautionary Principle: if a pesticide has the potential to cause serious harm (or the likelihood for the hazard to occur is high or safety cannot be guaranteed given country

realities), it should not be used (so the government agency is not exposing the public to harm).

- ✓ The assessment of pesticides for approval should not be risk-based. It should be hazard-based. The Hazard based approach to pesticide approval would not approve a pesticide that is dangerous to bees and other beneficial insects. The risk-based approach may say since the pesticides not directly affecting man (today) we can manage the risk. The problem with the risk-based approach is that a risk that may seem manageable today may have a larger devastating multiplier effect in the long run, on humans and the environment.

- ✓ The regulation and its processes need to be inclusive and accessible to the national public and local civil society groups, farmers, and private sectors in the decision-making process. The consequences of pesticide hazards affect the entire public; hence, decisions on the approval of a pesticide should not be secret, subject to non-disclosure, lack public scrutiny or left at the discretion of a single person or unit of government. The process of drafting the regulation, implementation plan and documentation of outcomes needs to be transparent, open, accountable, and accessible to the public.

- ✓ The regulation must be flexible, and able to change instantaneously as new issues and evidence on pesticides arise. For instance, when new evidence is presented in the second year for a pesticide product that has been registered and approved for say 10 years, a good regulation must immediately stop and deregister such a product without time wasting. A good regulation that puts the life of her citizens above business considerations must not give a moratorium on a proven toxic pesticide at the expense of the life of her people.

- ✓ The objective of good pesticide regulation should be to eliminate the use of extremely and highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) to minimize the dangers of these pesticides while promoting innovation and the use of more nature-based and safer pest control methods.

- ✓ A good pesticide regulation should be robust enough to withstand external and corporate pressure i.e. the need to trade in HHPs may sometimes come with stronger political pressure or pressure from international agrochemical companies and chemical conventions. A good pesticide regulation must be strong enough to put the health and life of her citizens first.

- ✓ A good pesticide regulation must protect all human and environmental rights. It must meet sanctions, punishment and remedial actions that measure the actual or potential harm that is or could be caused by a pesticide.

Review of Pesticide Regulation in Other Countries:

CANADA

The primary federal legislation for regulating pesticides in Canada is the **Pest Control Products Act and its regulations**. The Pest Control Products Act states that no person shall manufacture, possess, handle, store, transport, import, distribute or use a pest control product that is not registered under the Pest Control Products Act, except as otherwise authorised under the Act or unless specifically exempted by the Pest Control Products Regulations.

However, there are other federal legislations relevant to the regulation of pesticides:

- Pest Control Products fees Regulations
- Pest Control Products Incident Reporting Regulations
- Review Panel Regulations
- Pest Control Products Sales Information Reporting Regulations
- List of Pest Control Product Formulants and Contaminants of Health or Environmental Concern
- Pesticide Residue Compensation Act
  - Pesticide Residue Compensation Regulations
  - Assessor's Rules of Procedure
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Act
- Food and Drug Regulations

Some notable sections under the Pest Control Products Act, relating to the registration of Pesticides in Canada:

1. **S.17 provides that a scientific approach should be adopted in evaluating the health and environmental risks of a pest control product in determining if the risks are acceptable.**

   (i)*Among other relevant factors, consider available information on aggregate exposure to the pest control product, namely dietary exposure and exposure from other non-occupational sources, including drinking water and use in and around homes and schools, and cumulative effects of the pest control product and other pest control products that have a common mechanism of toxicity,*

   (ii) *apply appropriate margins of safety to take into account, among other relevant factors, the use of animal experimentation data and the different sensitivities to pest control products of major identifiable subgroups, including pregnant women, infants, children, women and seniors, and*

   (iii) *in the case of a threshold effect, if the product is proposed for use in or around homes or schools, apply a margin of safety that is ten times greater than the margin of safety that*

would otherwise be applicable under subparagraph (ii) in respect of that threshold effect, to take into account potential pre- and post-natal toxicity and completeness of the data concerning the exposure of, and toxicity to, infants and children unless, based on reliable scientific data, the Minister has determined that a different margin of safety would be appropriate.

2. S.8(3) provides that safety information must be provided in workplaces

The section requires that as a condition precedent for registration of any pest control product, applicants must provide in their workplaces, safety information, including a material safety information data sheet for the product. There is a similar provision under the India Insecticides Rules, of 1971

S.**28 (1)** provides that the Minister shall consult the public and federal and provincial government departments and agencies whose interests and concerns are affected by the federal regulatory system before deciding to grant or deny an application or to register a pest control product that is or contains an unregistered active ingredient or about any other matter if the Minister considers it in the public interest to do so.

The validity period for a license issued under the Act is three (3) years.

AUSTRALIA

Australia has a comprehensive pesticides regulatory framework. Its regulatory management also includes systematic efforts of international cooperation with major trade partners and international organisations.

Australia recently conducted regulatory reviews of its management system for pesticides and has reformed its legislative and regulatory practices accordingly.

Policies and institutions governing the pesticide management system in Australia

Australia has a regulatory framework in place that covers both agricultural and veterinary chemicals (commonly referred to as Agvet chemicals).

This framework is referred to as the **National Registration Scheme for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (NRS)** which came into full operation in 1995 and is a partnership between the Commonwealth (central) Government and the states and territories.

The NRS established a single national framework for the assessment and registration of Agvet chemicals, while the states and territories retained their responsibilities for controlling their use once they are sold or supplied to the end-users.

The NRS is an umbrella for legislative and regulatory instruments that govern the pesticide industry. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) administers the NRS in collaboration with other Commonwealth agencies, as well as state and local governments, law enforcement and the judiciary.

Institutions involved in pesticide regulation in Australia.

a. The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992 established a national authority for the registration of Agvet chemicals and sets out the functions and powers of that authority. It contains provisions controlling the import and export of chemicals and for enforcement and inspectors.

b. The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (Agvet Code) sets out the operational provisions for the registration of Agvet chemicals, for regulating the supply of those chemicals and for compliance with, and enforcement of, the Agvet Code.

Lessons to learn from Australia & Canada on pesticide regulatory management structure.

1. The evolution of a single, independent regulator that manages the pesticide registration process has brought significant improvements.

2. Having adequate and predictable resourcing is essential to deliver high-quality regulatory services, and to keep technology infrastructure updated. An updated cost-recovery model has proven successful in Canada and Australia.

3. The international agencies allow countries to access a greater pool of knowledge and resources on pesticide management. Having mandates and explicit criteria on how to consider and adopt international regulatory practice is key to attaining benefits from international integration while ensuring domestic independence.

4. An explicit list of prohibited and restricted use of substances and chemical products improves market transparency and avoids potential legal challenges, by stating what substances constitute unacceptable risks.

5. To ensure adequate regulatory compliance, regulators have implemented different approaches, including the facilitation of reporting of illegal trade and incidents, by industry and users.

6. Systematic stakeholder engagement allows identifying regulatory gaps and increases transparency and accountability.

7. A risk-based approach has to permeate all stages of the regulatory management cycle of pesticides. Regulators benefit also from reflecting pesticide hazards in the registration requirement criteria and enforcement strategies.

INDIA

The Insecticides Act 1968 and the Insecticide Rules 1971 regulates the importation, registration process, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides (pesticides) to prevent risk to human beings or animals and for all matters connected thereto throughout India.

The Insecticide Rules contain robust and comprehensive provisions for the registration of insecticides/pesticides. Some Notable provisions of the India Insecticide Rules on registration include -

a. License granted for registered insecticides has a validity period of three (3) years.

b. Provision for segregation and disposal of date-expired pesticides. Section 10A of the Rules provides that immediately after the date of expiry, all such stocks after being segregated and stamped " NOT FOR SALE" OR NOT FOR USE OR NOT FOR MANUFACTURE, shall be kept by the licensee in a separate place specially demarcated for the purpose with a declaration Date-expired Insecticide, to be exhibited in a conspicuous part of the place.

c. Prohibition against the sale or storage of insecticides within the same building where any articles consumed by human beings or animals are manufactured, stored or exposed for sale.

d. Provisions regarding protective clothing, equipment and other facilities for workers during the manufacture, storage, distribution, and sale of insecticide.

    (i) Medical examination of all persons engaged in the work of handling or contact with insecticide during manufacture/formulation. They should be examined before employment and at least quarterly for those engaged in the manufacture /formulation.

    (ii) First-aid measures should be available and administered before a physician is called.

    (iii) Protective clothing, respiratory devices, keeping sufficient quantities of anti-dotes and first aid medicines.

    (iv) Training of workers

By Section 4 of the Insecticide Act of 1968, The Central Insecticides Board was created with the primary function to advise the Central and State Governments on technical matters arising out of the administration of this Act and to carry out the other functions assigned to the Board by or under this Act.

The Board consists of about 27 members/representatives from different related sectors and agencies, namely:—

(i) the Director General of Health Services, ex officio, who shall be the Chairman;
(ii) the Drugs Controller, India, ex officio;
(iii) the Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India, ex officio;
(iv) the Director of Storage and Inspection, Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community;
(v) Development and Co-operation (Department of Food), ex officio;
(vi) the Chief Adviser of Factories, ex officio;
(vii) the Director, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, ex officio;
(viii) the Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, ex officio;
(ix) the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, ex officio;
(x) the Director, Zoological Survey of India, ex officio;
(xi) the Director General, Indian Standards Institution, ex officio;
(xii) the Director-General of Shipping or, in his absence, the Deputy Director-General of Shipping,

(xiii) Ministry of Transport and Shipping, ex officio;
(xiv) the Joint Director, Traffic (General), Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), ex officio;
(xv) the Secretary, Central Committee for Food Standards, ex officio;
(xvi) the Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, ex officio;
(xvii) the Joint Commissioner (Fisheries), Department of Agriculture, ex officio;
(xviii) the Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Wild Life), Department of Agriculture, ex officio;
(xix) the Industrial Adviser (Chemicals), Directorate General of Technical Development,
(xx) one person to represent the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, to be nominated by the Central Government;
(xxi) one pharmacologist to be nominated by the Central Government;
(xxii) one medical toxicologist to be nominated by the Central Government;
(xxiii) one person who shall be in charge of the department dealing with public health in a State, to be nominated by the Central Government;

(xxiv) two persons who shall be Directors of Agriculture in States, to be nominated by the Central Government;

(xxv) four persons, one of whom shall be an expert in industrial health and occupational hazards, to be nominated by the Central Government;

(xxvi) One person to represent the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is to be nominated by the Central Government.

(xxvii) one ecologist to be nominated by the Central Government.

Section 5 of the Act also constituted a Registration Committee which shall *consist of a Chairman and not more than five persons who shall be members of the Board (including the Drugs Controller, India and the Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India). Their primary function is to register insecticides after scrutinising their formulae and verifying claims made by the importer or the manufacturer, as the case may be, as regards their efficacy and safety to human beings and animals.*

GHANA

The Environment Protection Agency is the authority responsible for the regulation and registration of pesticides in Ghana. The legislation enacted for the regulation of pesticides is the Pesticides Control and Management Act 1996, which was in operation until the same was consolidated to become Part II of the Environmental Protection Agency Act in 2003.

Notable Sections under the Act on Pesticide Registration include-

1. License granted for registered insecticides has a validity period of three (3) years.

2. Section 15 provides that a register of pesticides shall be maintained to record the names and particulars of registered and provisionally cleared pesticides.
3. Section 16 provides that the Agency shall publish in the gazette annually- a list of registered pesticides and their classification; a list of provisionally cleared pesticides;

suspended or banned pesticides; and amendments made to the classification of pesticides.

4. The Act also established a Pesticide Technical Committee and prescribes the functions and composition of the Committee. *Section 30 provides that- "for the purpose of enabling the Board to perform its functions under this Act, there is hereby established at the Agency, a Committee to be known as the Pesticides Technical Committee"*

   The Pesticides Technical Committee is composed of the following members—

   a) *a Chairman appointed by the Board;*
   b) *the Head of the Chemistry Department of the National Nuclear Research Institute of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission;*
   c) *a representative from the Cocoa Services Division of the Ghana Cocoa Board not below the rank of an executive director who shall have expertise in pesticides;*
   d) *the Director of the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture;*
   e) *the Director of the Veterinary Services Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture;*
   f) *a representative from the Ministry of Health;*
   g) *a representative of the Ghana Standards Board not below the rank of a Senior Scientific Officer;*
   h) *a representative from the laboratory of the Customs, Excise and Preventive Service not below the rank of Principal Collector;*
   i) *a representative from the Association of Ghana Industries;*
   j) *a representative of the Ghana National Association of Farmers and Fishermen;*
   k) *a representative from the Ministry of Lands and Forestry;*
   l) *one representative from the Environmental Protection Agency not below the rank of a Senior Programme Officer who shall be the Secretary to the Committee; and*
   m) *a representative of the Ministry responsible for the Environment.*

5. Section 38 provides for collaboration between the Agency and Customs. The section provides to the effect that Custom officers shall assist in the enforcement of the provisions of the Act by preventing the importation of unregistered/prohibited pesticides into Ghana.

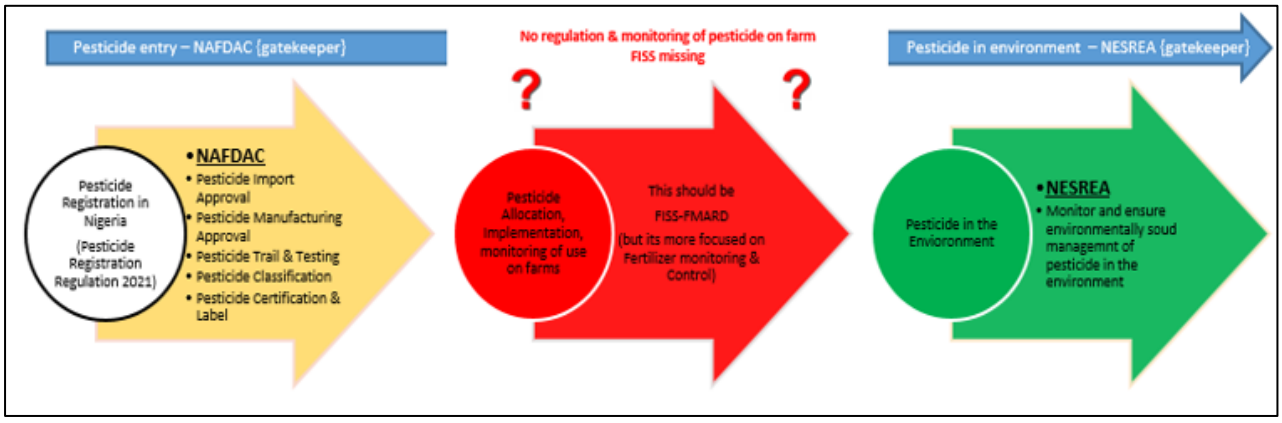
To realize this objective, the section mandates the Agency to provide the Commissioner of Customs with a list of licensed importers and a list of registered and banned pesticides. The section also puts a responsibility on the Commissioner of Customs to keep records of all imported pesticides and to submit copies to the agency whenever it is demanded.

Understanding the Institutional Structure of Pesticide Regulation in Nigeria:

As regards the pesticide regulatory framework in Nigeria, the system seems to be more decentralised (similar to that of Australia) where separate Agencies of the government are responsible for regulating an aspect of pesticide along its value chain (registration, entry, use, and exit/environment). This system allows for checks and balances, as well as proper application of caution in the approval and use of pesticides, especially HHPs. However, the system shows a clear lack of synergy, clarity in processes and poor institutional support from the government. There also exists a central National Committee on Chemical Management (NCCM) that consists of relevant MDAs and is chaired by the Federal Ministry of Environment to improve coordination, synergy, and harmonization of processes on what chemicals (including Pesticides) should be allowed or banned from entering and use in Nigeria. The functioning of the NCCM should also be subject to serious review, urgent revamping and reinforced with committed support strictly from the government.

NAFDAC is the first and oldest gatekeeper of pesticide registration and entry in Nigeria. In December 1992, NAFDAC's first governing council was formed, chaired by Ambassador Tanimu Saulawa was formed. In January 1993, supporting legislation was approved as legislative Decree No. 15 of 1993, and on January 1, 1994, NAFDAC was officially established, as a "parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Health". They are responsible for the type and amount of pesticides that enter Nigeria. While it is mostly assumed that NAFDAC is responsible for monitoring how pesticide will be used on the farm and other public spaces, the Pesticide Registration Regulation of 2021, suggest otherwise, as it is limited only to the registration process of all pesticide products, not who, how, where and when they can be used. This is not the role of NAFDAC.

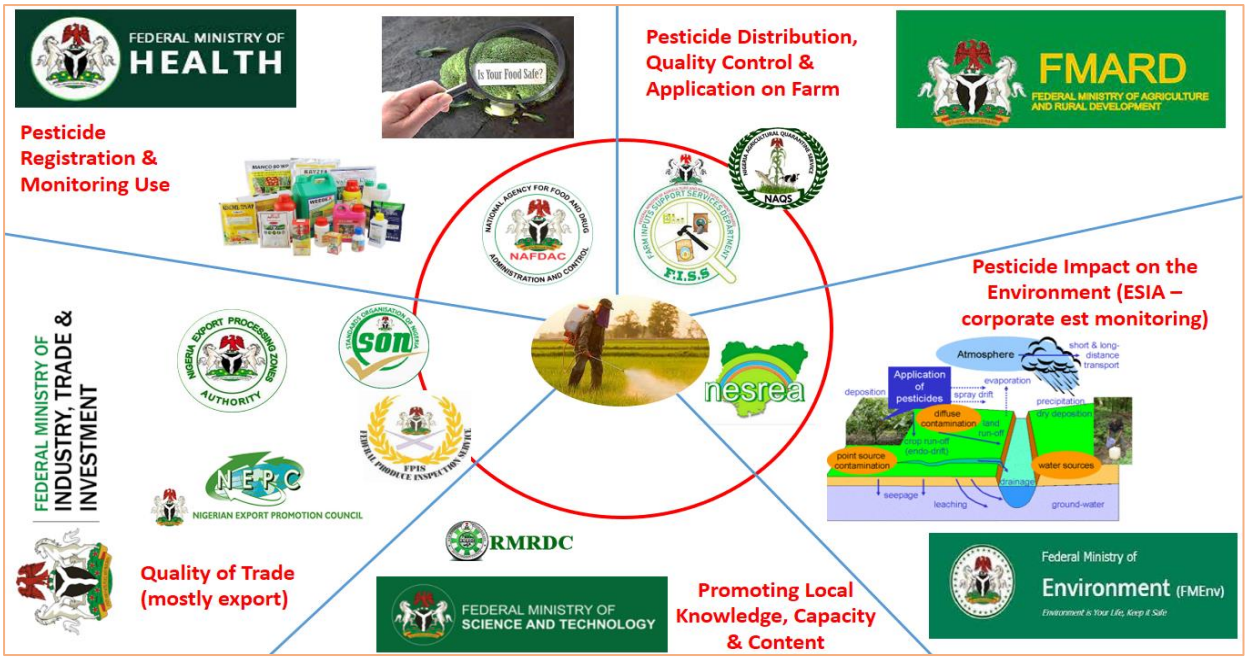
NESREA is responsible for overseeing the exposure of "***hazardous chemicals and pesticide***s" of **HHPS** in the **ENVIRONMENT**, as empowered by the Act that established the Agency in 2007. NESREA's National Environmental (Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticide Regulation) of 2014, clearly shows NESREA's focus on HHPs (not all categories of pesticides). This leaves the middle open – enforcing pesticide allocation, usage and monitoring on the farms, public spaces and warehouses. Primarily the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) should bridge this big gap through a dedicated department or an agency (in collaboration with other MDAs or Councils that are directly involved in field usage of pesticides and other agrochemicals)



NESREA's National Environmental (Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticide Regulation) of 2014, precisely Part III, Section 15 (1 and 2) – **Registration** of Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides, causes friction and overlap with the already established REGISTRATION role of NAFDAC of all Pesticides (including HHPS). The NESREA regulation should desist from registration of HHPs, rather they should offer environmental safety permits for HHPS import or export, only after NAFDAC has registered the Pesticides. This would mean that NAFDAC must ensure the COMPULSORY and proper classification of all registered pesticides following the WHO and Rotterdam Convention (RC).

Regulations should not be designed primarily to fill in, stretch or duplicate roles, it should first ensure synergy, complimenting efforts and offer offers clarity in the process of application and/or redress.

As earlier noted, there exists a wide gap in the entire pesticide regulatory framework on the monitoring of who, how, where, when and how much pesticides can be used in Nigeria. This stage is largely unmonitored, especially on farms, warehouses and public spaces. This gap has caused an overstretching and overlap among the existing working agencies (in this case NAFDAC for testing, approvals & registration, NESREA - environmental management and ecosystem impact of HHPs). There is no designated body, department or agency, preferably under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) that has a **PRIMARY MANDATE** and **VERIFIABLE CAPACITY** to monitor and regulate the use of pesticides on the farm and warehouses. Efforts need to be made to introduce regulation in this aspect of the value chain and support institutional strengthening and oversight in this regard.



The Farm Inputs Support Services (FISS) Department of FMARD

No government agency under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) has the mandate to regulate or enforce pesticide use and application in Nigeria. The Farm Input Support Services (FISS) of FMARD has some underlined mandates that relate to pesticide distribution, quality and use. However, the department seems to show more strength

and commitment to fertilizer policy, implementation and monitoring. With more support, they should be able to effectively ensure strict regulations of pesticide use on the farm in collaboration with farmers' associations, and other social institutions and groups.

The Farm Inputs Support Services (FISS) Department (formally known as the Federal Fertilizer Department) in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) is assigned the mission of - ensuring that Nigerian farmers have easy access to high-quality inputs for their use efficiently and cost-effectively to increase agricultural production, ensure food security and enhance the quality of life of rural farmers.

The main mandate of the FISS department is to make available adequate quantities of high-quality fertilizers (inorganic and organic) and other agricultural inputs to Nigerian farmers to increase agricultural production, ensure food and cash crop self-sufficiency and increase farmers' income. Other mandates include:-

1. Formulation of policy and regulatory framework on fertilizer and other agricultural inputs for the country in collaboration with ECOWAS Sub-Region and D8 Countries
2. Regulate fertilizers quality standards in the country by the National Fertilizer Quality Control (NFQC) Act signed into Law by Mr President in October 2019.
3. Develop, promote and adopt the use of organic fertilizer in the country.
4. Ensure timely availability and equitable distribution of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs in the country.
5. Carry out field trials on a pilot basis in collaboration with Research Institutes on new fertilizer technologies to determine adoption or otherwise.
6. Provide policy advocacy on fertilizer including environmental impact assessment.
7. Development of the Fertilizers and other agricultural inputs Markets nationwide through Public Private Partnership strategy.

NAFDAC Directorate of Veterinary Medicine and Allied Products (VMAP)

NAFDAC's directorate of Veterinary Medicine and Allied Products (VMAP) is mandated to regulate and control Veterinary Medicines, Veterinary products, Pesticides and Agrochemicals. Also included are Feeds, Feed additives and Pet food. The Directorate also conducts Industrial Outreach and research for the sector.

VMAP Structure:

The Directorate is headed by a Director and structured into five (5) Divisions; viz:

1. Veterinary Medicine Division.
2. Animal Feeds & Premix Division
3. Pesticides & Agro-Chemicals Division
4. Inspection, Regulations & Stakeholders Division
5. Veterinary Vaccines & Biologics Division

Functions of VMAP:

1. Providing Science-based advice and information on the quality, safety and efficacy of veterinary medicines, veterinary products, pesticides and agrochemicals.
2. Developing and promoting standards, regulations and guidelines in consultation with other Government Agencies and stakeholders on veterinary medicines, veterinary products, pesticides and agrochemicals.
3. Regulating the manufacture and distribution of feeds, feed ingredients, feed additives and drugs for animals.
4. Regulating foods, feed ingredients and feed additives and drugs for pets and companion animals.
5. Monitoring the safety of foods and medications for animals.
6. Regulating and controlling the use of pesticides and agrochemicals.
7. Conducts inspection and monitoring of production premises of veterinary and allied products facilities.
8. Conducts Scientific Research into various areas of Veterinary and Allied Products.
9. Conducts Industrial outreach.

Among the VMAP Division is the Pesticides and Agrochemical Division (PAD) that –

1. Provide science-based information on the quality, safety and efficacy of pesticides and agrochemicals.
2. Supervise the conduct of field trials for pesticides and agrochemicals and evaluate the data.
3. Developing and promoting standards, regulations and guidelines in consultation with other Government Agencies and stakeholders on pesticides and agro-chemicals
4. Monitor the distribution, sale and use of pesticides and agrochemicals.

National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA),

NESREA has responsibility for the protection and development of the environment, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of Nigeria's natural resources in general and environmental technology including coordination and liaison with relevant stakeholders within and outside Nigeria on matters of enforcement of environmental standards, regulations, rules, laws, policies and guidelines.

Some functions of the Agency are to:

- enforce compliance with laws, guidelines, policies and standards on environmental matters;

- coordinate and liaise with, stakeholders, within and outside Nigeria on matters of environmental standards, regulations and enforcement;
- enforce compliance with the provisions of international agreements, protocols, conventions and treaties on the environment including climate change, biodiversity conservation, desertification, forestry, oil and gas, chemicals, hazardous wastes, ozone depletion, marine and wildlife, pollution, sanitation and such other environmental agreements as may from time to time come into force;
- enforce compliance with policies, standards, legislation and guidelines on water quality, Environmental Health and Sanitation, including pollution abatement;
- enforce compliance with guidelines, and legislation on sustainable management of the ecosystem, biodiversity conservation and the development of Nigeria's natural resources;
- enforce compliance with any legislation on sound chemical management, safe use of pesticides and disposal of spent packages thereof;
- enforce compliance with regulations on the importation, exportation, production, distribution, storage, sale, use, handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals and waste, other than in the oil and gas sector;
- enforce through compliance monitoring, the environmental regulations and standards on noise, air, land, seas, oceans and other water bodies other than in the oil and gas sector;
- ensure that environmental projects funded by donor organizations and external support agencies adhere to regulations in environmental safety and protection;
- enforce environmental control measures through registration, licensing and permitting Systems other than in the oil and gas sector;
- conduct an environmental audit and establish a data bank on regulatory and enforcement mechanisms of environmental standards other than in the oil and gas sector;
- create public awareness and provide environmental education on sustainable environmental management, promote private sector compliance with environmental regulations other than in the oil and gas sector and publish general scientific or other data resulting from the performance of its functions; and
- Carry out such activities as are necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions.

NESREA's Inspection and Enforcement Department is saddled with the responsibility of;

- Coordinating environmental monitoring of facilities, entities or corporate bodies in the brown environment to promote compliance with extant environmental laws, guidelines, policies, standards and regulations for sustainable development.
- Enforce compliance with Laws, Guidelines, Policies and Standards on industrial effluent limitations, noise control, hazardous chemicals management, industrial pollution etc;
- Enforce compliance with the provisions of International Environmental Agreements, Protocols, Conventions and Treaties on Chemicals, Hazardous wastes, Sanitation and such other Agreements that may from time to time, come into force such as:

- Basel Convention for the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes;
- Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
- Minamata Convention on Mercury

- Enforce compliance with Policies, Standards, legislations and Guidelines on Environmental health and sanitation including pollution abatement
- Enforce compliance with any legislation on sound chemicals management, safe use of pesticides and disposal of spent packages thereof;
- Enforce compliance with regulations on the importation, exportation, production, distribution, storage sale, use, handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals and waste other than in the oil and gas sector.

In light of the above, it is expedient and in fact, recommended that there should be a collaboration among these agencies and departments to promote a more effective pesticide-regulation regime in Nigeria. The challenge and impact of highly hazardous pesticide management in Nigeria is enormous and the indiscriminate use and over-reliance on pesticides has been linked to increased risks to food and environmental safety.

There is no gain in saying that highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) have continued to pose unacceptable risks and disproportionately account for the negative impacts of pesticides on human health and the environment, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, including Nigeria, and this has become one of the major obstacles to sustainable development. Hence, time and effort should not be wasted in the tussle among MDAs as to who should oversee the entire pesticide life cycle. There is a need for a central pesticide law that harmonises and makes this coordination and process seamless. However, such a law much have the safety of the Nigerian people and our ecosystem as its priority, rather than increasing the dependence of the country's food system on highly hazardous pesticides.

The NAFDAC Registration Regulation 2021:

The agency charged with the responsibility of registration of pesticides in Nigeria is the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC). NAFDAC was established with the mandate to regulate and control the manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, advertisement, sale and use of food, drugs, cosmetics, chemicals, detergents, medical devices and packaged water (known as "Regulated Products").

NAFDAC's primary mandate is to safeguard public health by ensuring that only the right quality food, drugs and other regulated products are manufactured, imported, exported, distributed, advertised, sold and used in Nigeria.

In carrying out its mandate, NAFDAC performs the following functions-

- *Conduct appropriate tests and ensure compliance with standard specifications; Compile standard specifications and guidelines for the production, importation, exportation, distribution and sale of regulated products;*

- *undertake an appropriate investigation into the production premises and raw materials for regulated products; Pronounce the quality and safety of Regulated Products after appropriate analysis;*

- *control exportation and issue quality certification of Regulated Products intended for export purposes;*

- *undertake registration of Regulated Products; monitor advertisement of Regulated Products;*

- advise federal, state and local governments, the private sector and other interested bodies regarding the quality and safety of, and regulatory provisions on, chemicals;

- undertake and coordinate research programmes on the storage, adulteration, distribution and rational use of chemicals issue guidelines on, approve, and monitor the advertisement of chemicals.

- *establish and maintain relevant laboratories or other institutions in strategic areas of Nigeria; and undertake and coordinate research programmes on the storage, adulteration prevention and rational use of Regulated Products.*

Summary of the Pesticide Registration Regulations 2021. This Regulation prohibits the manufacture, formulation, importation, exportation, advertisement, sale or distribution of pesticides in Nigeria unless the pesticide has been registered with the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) by the provisions of these Regulations.

Bulk importation of pesticides for farm use only shall be exempted from the requirement of authorization of the Agency. No person shall apply for the registration of any pesticide unless such pesticide was manufactured or formulated in an establishment acceptable and approved by the Agency.

An efficacy assessment of a pesticide to be introduced into the market shall be carried out to ensure that the pesticide approved is efficacious for its intended use. This assessment shall be monitored by the Agency and be carried out for two seasons in two different zones or as may be prescribed by the Agency.

The applicant shall state the residue level for the pesticide in all its intended usage in the country and this will be compared with the tolerance level as may be determined by the Agency. The Regulations set out labelling requirements (including instructions for use) for pesticides. Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to prescribed penalties.

To the details;

OBSERVATIONS ON THE EXTANT NAFDAC PESTICIDE REGISTRATION REGULATIONS 2019

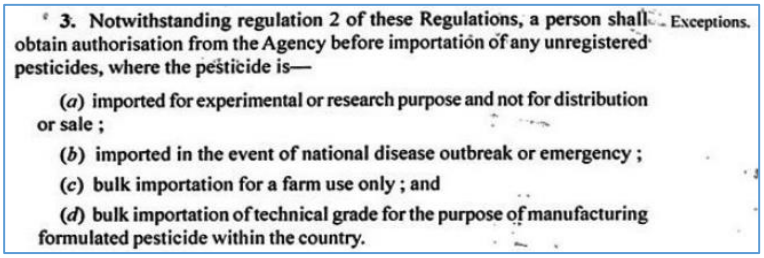
1. The registration process involves the risk-based evaluation of comprehensive scientific data demonstrating that the product is effective for its intended purposes and does not pose an unacceptable risk to human or animal health or the environment.

2. **Section 2 (1)** prohibits the use or importation of Pesticides not registered in Nigeria. The section provides that- ***"A pesticide shall not be manufactured, formulated, imported, exported, advertised, sold, distributed or used in Nigeria unless it has been registered by the provision of these regulations".***

   This section does not take cognizance of the fact that banned pesticides that have been phased out in other jurisdictions may be presented for registration in Nigeria. Accordingly, it is recommended that a new subsection should be introduced to accommodate the prohibition of registration of banned or phased-out pesticides.

   "No pesticides/ active ingredients shall be manufactured, formulated, imported, exported, advertised, sold, distributed or used or registered in Nigeria if they are expired, obsolete or have been phased out in leading markets or their country of origin based on human and/or environmental health concerns".

3. **Section 3 (A)** should be qualified and specific as to the maximum quantity allowed to be imported for experimental or research purposes.



Exceptions.

3. Notwithstanding regulation 2 of these Regulations, a person shall obtain authorisation from the Agency before importation of any unregistered pesticides, where the pesticide is—

(a) imported for experimental or research purpose and not for distribution or sale ;

(b) imported in the event of national disease outbreak or emergency ;

(c) bulk importation for a farm use only ; and

(d) bulk importation of technical grade for the purpose of manufacturing formulated pesticide within the country.

   Section 3(C&D) should be expunged from the exempted lists of pesticides that can be imported into Nigeria without registration, that is:

   (c) Bulk importation for farm use only;

   (d) Bulk importation of technical grade for manufacturing formulated pesticides within the country.

Allowing bulk amounts of pesticide into Nigeria, without registration (testing and the like) can be abused, especially with the reputation of pesticide lobbyists globally. This section, if left at the discretion of the Agency (one person at the head) can be abused, causing a flood of untested and unregistered chemicals into Nigeria. Food safety is a public health issue and cannot be handled in secret or left to the discretion of just an individual in the agency. Such a decision should be taken at a large inter-ministerial committee or council i.e. the National Council on Chemical Management (NCCM) and made publicly.

4. **Section 12** prescribes that pesticide registration shall have a validity period of five years.

> Validity of Registration. **12.—(1) A pesticide registration shall be valid for 5 years from the date of registration or as may be prescribed by the Agency.**

This is too long a period as it is globally recommended that the effect of Pesticides should be analyzed and assessed at least once in three (3) years. Most countries with standard Pesticide regulations prescribe a period of three (3) as the validity period.

It is therefore recommended that the life span for registration should be revised to three (3) years to make it in tandem with global best practices.

4. **Section 13** gives the Agency the power to seal up any premises used or being used in connection with any offence under the regulations. However, the lifting of such a seal should not be subject only to the discretion of the Minister.

The section provides that- "*The Agency shall have the power to seal up any premises used or being used in connection with any offence under these regulations* ***<u>until the product is removed or such time as the commission of such offence ceased or such reasonable time as the Minister may deem fit in the circumstance.</u>***

> **13. The Agency shall have power to seal up any premises used or being used in connection with any offence under these Regulations until such time as the product is removed or such time as the commission of such offence ceased or such reasonable time as the Minster may deem fit in the circumstance.** Power to seal.

The use of 'or' in itemizing the conditions for lifting the seal means that the Minister shall have the power to lift such ban notwithstanding that the hazardous products have not been removed or if the commission of such offence has not ceased.

This is purely a matter of interpretation of the law, and it is recommended that the clause should be reworded to make the condition for re-opening of the premises subject only to removal of the product and strict compliance with the directives and conditions prescribed by the Agency for the re-opening of such premises.

5. **Section 14** prescribes penalties for offenders of the provisions of the regulations.

The current penalties are not proportionate to the threat and negative impact of Highly Hazardous Pesticides. The penalties need to be more severe to deter offenders from willingly contravening the provisions of the Regulations.

The regulation prescribes an imprisonment term of not exceeding one (1) year or a fine not exceeding N800,000.00 or both for an individual whilst a fine of N5,000,000.00 is prescribed for an offending corporate body.

It is therefore recommended that NAFDAC should upwardly review the penalties prescribed for the contravention of the Regulations. Note for consideration – "...be liable to a fine of not less than N1million, and not exceeding N10 million or a fine equal to five times the value of the counterfeited product, whichever is higher, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years.

6. Lastly, it is worth noting that the NAFDAC Regulations focus only on the registration of pesticides in Nigeria while neglecting other important regulatory aspects required to control the production, use and impact of the registered pesticides as seen in other jurisdictions.

Notwithstanding the defects pointed out in the extant Pesticide Registration Regulation and the recommendations made for the review/amendment of the regulation, it is expedient for NAFDAC to reform the entire pesticide registration process to develop risk assessments based on Nigerian peculiar realities and consumption patterns and to step up to international best practices.

To evolve to a more effective pesticide-regulated regime, there are key lessons to learn and adopt from the strategies and structures used by developed countries in achieving an effective pesticide-regulated regime.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ROBUSTNESS OF THE REGULATION

These recommendations are made by global best practices and to promote an efficient pesticide regulation regime in Nigeria. Accordingly, the following additional sections should be included in the Pesticide Registration Regulations-

a. Register of Pesticides- The regulation should impose an obligation on NAFDAC to create a register of pesticides and make the same available to the public. The register should reflect an UpToDate list of registered pesticides and banned pesticides.

b. Expand the registration requirements to explicitly impose an obligation on manufacturers and importers of pesticides to provide safety precautions, equipment and first aid measures for its workers as applicable in other jurisdictions like Canada, Australia and India.

c. Reduction of license registration validity period from five years to three years.

d. Prohibition against assignment or transfer of license registration without first obtaining the written approval of the Agency.

e. Upward review of the penalties prescribed for contravention of the Regulation. The penalty should be stiffer and more severe to deter violations. Leaving the penalties as presently structured is an encouragement for the provisions to be violated.

f. After section 8 – The use of the Pesticide, a section should be inserted to reflect the toxicity and class of product use. i.e -

   "The Agency shall upon evaluation of the toxicity and intended use of a pest control product assign a class for the pesticide product following WHO recommendation. This should inform the usage such as:

   (i) Severely restricted
   (ii) Restricted
   (iii) Commercial and agricultural use
   (iv) Domestic
   (v) Any other class as may be determined.

g. Considering the poor English literacy rate in the country especially among rural farmers and traders, there is a need for NAFDAC to introduce toxicity colour codes on pesticide products (aside from the usual labels) in Sections 9 and 10 of the NAFDAC Pesticide Registration Regulation of 2021. This will inform the mass of farmers, traders and consumers who cannot read about the various toxicity level of the products based on the categories of active ingredients. Such colour code systems should be following the recommendation on product usage/over-the-counter trade classes.

Such colour coding will determine the accessibility and necessary handling of the various categories of pesticide products based on their toxicity. For instance, toxicity labels namely: red label (extremely toxic/hazardous), yellow label (highly toxic/hazardous), blue label (moderately toxic/hazardous), and green label (slightly toxic/hazardous), are mandatory labels employed on pesticide containers in India identifying the level of toxicity of the contained pesticide. The scheme follows the Insecticides Act of 1968 and the Insecticides Rules of 1971

Red (WHO - Ib)	Severely restricted / Restricted	Cannot be traded over the counter, to be sold and applied only to registered trained and certified individuals, organisations, or bodies.
Yellow (WHO - Ib & II)	Restricted	Cannot be traded over the counter, to be sold and applied only to trained and certified individuals, organisations, or bodies.
Blue (WHO - III)	Commercial Agriculture Use	Can be traded over the counter. To be sold and applied only to trained and certified individuals, organisations, or bodies.
Green (WHO - U)	Domestic Use	Can be traded over the counter

h. The registration regulation seems unclear on “conditions for the cancellation of registration”. A separate section should be used to highlight this.

i. Since the Pesticide Registration Regulation (2021) covers the registration of manufacturing locally, it should have statements to discourage counterfeits and adulteration. We can add a section –

Control of Counterfeit and adulteration Products.	**13. (1b)** No person shall adulterate, counterfeit, or offer for sale any pest control product or label or packages for pest control products. (2) No person shall reuse a label or container or package of a registered product without authority from the registrant. (3) Any person who adulterates or counterfeits or is found in possession of adulterated or counterfeit pest control products, labels or packages commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine of not less than N1million, and not exceeding a N10 million or a fine equal to five times the value of the counterfeited product, whichever is higher, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years.

The NAFDAC Pesticide Registration Regulation 2021 is a commendable effort by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to regulate the registration, distribution, and use of pesticides in Nigeria. The above recommendation should be considered in the review and updating of the 2021 Pesticide Registration Regulation.

In addition, to cover the investment loss of investors who after a product registration (within the 5 years registration period), are forced to deregister, recall, remove and destroy a now-banned pesticide product in Nigeria (following a NAFDAC or FMARD decision for public and environmental safety reasons), the Federal government through the Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC) should design an insurance policy like the Regulatory Risk Insurance. This will provide coverage for losses or damages that may result from changes in government policies, laws, or regulations that impact businesses and investments. This type of insurance can help protect agricultural businesses from financial losses due to unexpected regulatory changes that may affect their operations, such as restrictions on pesticide use, land-use regulations, or changes in import/export policies.

The updated NAFDAC Registration Regulation should compel all applicants to register their products against any regulatory and policy changes so that NAFDAC can immediately enforce a ban on any product where scientific evidence has been presented to cause acute harm to humans and/or the environment.

THE REVIEW OF THE FISS-FMARD PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE NATIONAL FERTILIZER QUALITY CONTROL ACT 2019 (TO INCLUDE AGROCHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES)

Although Nigeria has no pesticide control bill, we must not be hasty in making a bad, contentious pesticide law that only seeks to promote sales and profit for agrochemical companies.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- In 2019, there came into existence the National fertilizer quality control Act CAP No. 23 Laws of the Federation, 2019 domiciled in the Department of Farm Input Support Services (FISS) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- In 2021, there was a bill for an act to provide for the Establishment of the Nigerian Pesticide Council and related matters HB 1396 called Nigerian Pesticide Council, 2021 sponsored by Hon. Muntari Dandutse Mohammed which had gone through 1st reading, 2nd reading, public hearing and technical committee. FISS and Crop Life supported this bill. AAPN actively participated in all these activities.
- In 2022, one of the supporters of the Nigerian Pesticide Council, 2021, FISS, beat a retreat (on the basis that CropLife an internationally dictated company cannot be on the Council to police pesticide use in Nigeria). CropLife members at the national assembly also agreed to be removed from the council, on the claim that they just wanted a pesticide council established.
- FISS opted for a bill to repeal the national fertilizer quality control act, cap No. 23 laws of the Federation 2019 and enact the national fertilizer and agricultural pesticide control bill 2022 to provide an improved regulatory framework for the manufacture, importation, sale and distribution of fertilizer and agricultural pesticides in Nigeria; and other related matters. ***{HB 2224: National Fertilizer and Agricultural Pesticide Control (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2023}.***

General Observations on the Proposed Fertilizer Amendment Act 2019 to Include Agrochemicals and Pesticide:

- The use of pesticides goes beyond agricultural pesticides. In this wise, this bill is limited in its applicability. See the exempt clause 20(4) under this Bill.
- FISS's provisional mandate to add agrochemicals to their hitherto fertilizer quality control functions came via a Head of Service memo OHCSF/MSO/93/Vol. III dated 9th June 2014 on "Approved Organizational Structure for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development". FISS was created in 2014 as a full department to handle the complexity of the growth enhancement scheme (a national policy for expanding the access of farmers to agricultural farm inputs to millions of farmers, in partnership with the private sector) to manage and coordinate the programme with all states of the federation, including registration of farmers, management of farmer identities to improve targeting
    - ✓ Growth enhancement support scheme
    - ✓ Farmers' registration and identity management services

- ✓ Agricultural input market development
- ✓ Fertilizer and **agrochemicals** quality control

FISS was created in 2014, got the fertilizer quality control Act in 2019 and now in 2022 is proposing Fertilizer and agrochemicals quality control. Why the afterthought? FISS has provided a 9-point justification for the proposed amendment of the existing fertilizer quality control Act to incorporate agro-chemicals with the new nomenclature to be named and addressed as “Fertilizer and Agro-chemicals Quality Control Act”:

1. To develop a holistic regulatory system that would handle both fertilizer and agrochemicals in a coordinated manner as obtainable in other Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member states.
2. It will provide an avenue for easy coordination as the two most important products are currently being regulated by the same Authority (i.e. Farm Input Support Services Department) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as contained in the approved organogram of the department by the office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSOF). The FISS Department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development **has been monitoring the quality of agrochemicals in the country alongside fertilizer** under a full fledge division based on its approved structure and mandate.
3. The Selling of Fertilizers and Agro-chemicals (herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides etc.) and other agricultural inputs are being carried out in the same location or selling points which provide an avenue for easy coordination of **quality control** activities of the two products.
4. The Farm Inputs Support Service Department being the implementing authority has the requisite enough trained agricultural professionals, and scientists (entomologists, agronomists, soil scientists, agricultural economists, pathologists, horticulturists, etc.) to **regulate the production and marketing (sales) of fertilizer and agro-chemicals** product in Nigeria.
5. The FISS department has already established the **database of the agrochemicals (pesticides) operators in the country** as well as the framework for regulating the subsector.
6. The FISS department has already trained and deployed **fertilizers and agro-chemicals quality control inspectors** to all 36 states of the federation including the FCT and will continue to do so to ensure sanity in the fertilizer and agro-chemical businesses operating in Nigeria to protect the interest of the teeming farmers and entrepreneurs in general.
7. The world over, all agro-chemicals matters are domiciled and vested in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which in Nigeria is being handled by the Farm Input Support Services (FISS) department as an authorized or implementing authority.
8. Research on the efficacy and effect of agrochemicals and fertilizers are normally conducted during field trials by Agricultural Research Institutes and Universities together as directed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

9. The already established fertilizer quality control and regulatory system has developed an electronic online portal platform for the registration of operators and this can be leveraged using the same personnel to **register the agro-chemical operators** to save government costs if a separate entity is created to handle agro-chemicals (pesticides) separately.

Based on the 9-point justification by FISS, this bill appears to be a MARKETING bill aimed at quality control of fertilizers and agrochemicals.

- The title of the Bill suggests that the bill will provide an improved regulatory framework for the **manufacture, importation, sale and distribution** of fertilizer and agricultural pesticides in Nigeria. Sustainable agriculture (IPM, organic farming, agroecology) is not promoted by the Bill. Matters dealing with obsolete pesticides and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)/Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP) are not addressed.

- The Bill does not recognize NAFDAC's role in regulating all classes of pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, miticides, disinfectants, nematicides, acaricides, plant defoliants, growth inhibitors, etc) used for household (indoors and outdoor uses), public health, agricultural and industrial purposes, agrochemicals, fertilizers (organic and inorganic), bio-pesticides, bio-fertilizers

- In the Nigeria Bill, the whole of **Part I** is about objectives, scope and permit or certificate of registration. The primary objective of the Bill is to ensure fertilizer quality to which pesticides are attached as an incongruous appendage. The part addresses the application for a permit, certificate of registration, issuance of permit and certificate of registration, keeping of records & validity of the permits/certificates, fees to be paid, and cancellation of permits/certificates. **The section is majorly about money that can be generated from the registration of fertilizers and pesticides.**

- **Part II** of the Bill deals with prohibited activities which include among others, operating with an expired permit or certificate of registration. It talks about not selling fertilizers with ingredients destructive to plants, conversion or diversion of fertilizer, obstruction of duly authorized officers from carrying out their duties and responsibilities and selling unbranded fertilizers. **There is nothing about pesticides in this Part.**

- **Part III** on Inspection and Enforcement Powers gives officers the power to gain access to premises, makes it mandatory for manufacturers, blenders, importers or distributors of fertilizers to display their permits or certificate of registration, and powers the minister to stop sales in case of violations, allowable variations in the weight of fertilizers and labelling. **There is nothing about pesticides in this Part.**

- **Part IV** deals with the functions and powers of the prescribed authority in respect of agricultural pesticides. These include:
  - ✓ Registration of pesticides

- ✓ Regulate sales, manufacture, formulation, packaging, labelling, transportation, distribution, storage, usage & license or accredit marketers (dealers and agents)
- ✓ Control advertisement & quality, form, type and quantity of imports and exports
- ✓ Establish and operate quality control labs and monitor residues
- ✓ Formulate and implement policies for safe and effective use, including applications of the "prior informed consent" procedure.

This part confers power for cancellation of registration of pesticides with evidence of unacceptable hazard. It also gives other conditions for suspension, withdrawal and cancellation of registration such as false or incomplete information, prescribed standard of quality, safety or efficacy not complied with or premises for manufacturing, storage, etc. being unsuitable. This part provides for requirements for registration in various categories (experimental use permit for 3 years subject to renewal & 5-year full registration subject to renewal after re-evaluation) and prescribes all kinds of fees – registration fees, processing fees, service fees, screening fees, maintenance fees, etc. The section provides for protection of regulatory data/proprietary and confidential information, especially for first-in-time registrants of active ingredients but data concerning health and environmental effects are not confidential. The registration procedure and establishment of tolerances criteria for pesticides demand that comprehensive scientific data be submitted on toxicity and efficacy proving that the product is effective and not hazardous to humans and the environment; evidence of field bio-efficacy and residue trial results is also required from a relevant research institute in Nigeria. The part also provides for the storage, disposal and transportation of pesticides whose registration has been suspended or cancelled but may also permit the continuous sale of existing stocks. This part provides for the implementation of Articles 10-12 of the Rotterdam Convention concerning hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade concerning imports and exports responses - prior informed consent. Manufacturing Permit is required for pesticide production in Nigeria. Sales records are required, and only registered products can be advertised. Pesticides can only be marketed by approved dealers, agents, distributors, importers, manufacturers, etc in approved premises and none shall display or sell any pesticide that has been de-registered, banned or expired.

Part V, section 34 provides for eleven (11) offences about pesticides, three (3) categories of penalties and enforcement of compliance.

- ⚠ The offences do not cover the **use of de-registered and banned pesticides**.
- ⚠ Probable offenders include any registrant, commercial or private applicator, wholesaler, dealer, retailer, distributor, applicant for registration, producer, or other person and seem to exclude **manufacturers and importers**
- ⚠ Enforcement of compliance shall be by the Inspectorate division of the Nigerian Pesticide Prescribed Authority.

Section 35-41 provides for offences about the manufacture, importation and distribution of fertilizers and provides stiff penalties. It is not clear whether sections 40-41 also apply to pesticides, wherein it states that the court shall have jurisdiction to try offences under the Bill and award compensations aimed at remedying any injury caused to the farmer or end user, the manufacturer or blended; and the affected community.

Part VI provides for the power to make regulations by the Minister which by definition means the Minister responsible for Agriculture. The Minister may by regulation appoint a **National Fertilizer Technical Committee** (NFTC) as an advisory body to the prescribed authority.

Part VII – Miscellaneous provides among others that the Minister may establish a **Technical Committee on Agricultural Pesticides** to collaborate with the Prescribed Authority comprising of the following MDAs whose representative shall not be below the rank of Assistant Director

(i) Ministry of Health (NAFDAC)

(ii) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (2 Representatives)

(iii) Ministry of Environment

(iv) Ministry of Trade and Investment

(v) Ministry of Justice (Legal Adviser)

(vi) Ministry of Labor and Productivity

(vii) Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON),

(viii) CropLife Nigeria (2 Representatives)

(ix) Nigerian Society for Plant Protection (NSPP)

(x) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)

(xi) Nigerian Customs Service

(xii) A Representative of the Nigerian Farmers Association

(xiii) Civil Society Organizations with a speciality in Agricultural Pesticides

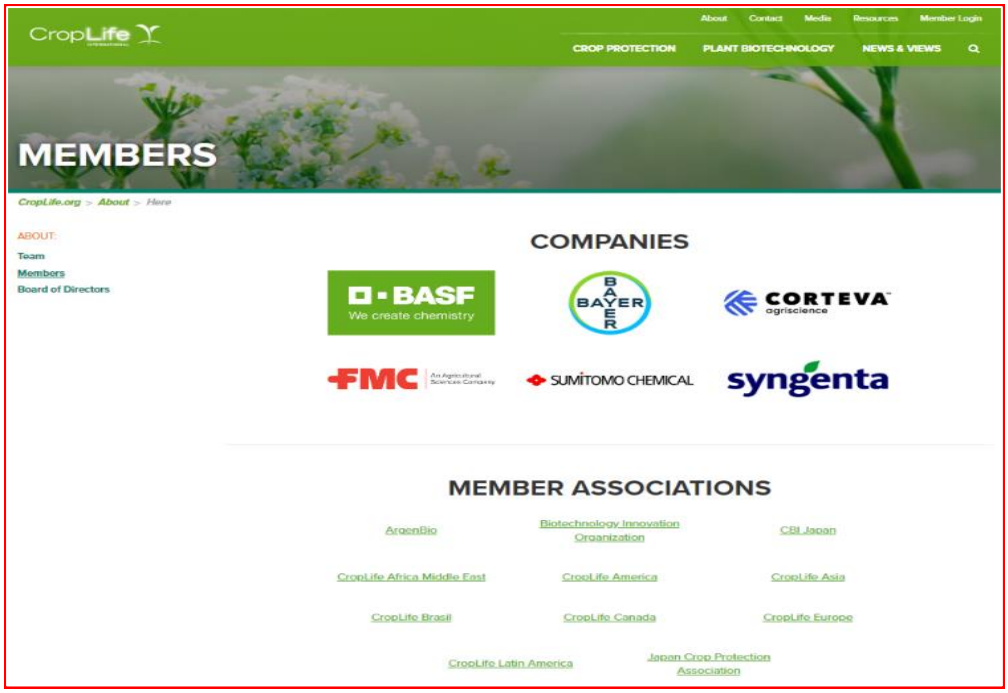
It is shocking that the same FISS that withdrew their support from the Pesticide Council Bill 2021, on the note that CropLife should not be a member of the council, is now Nicodemously including CropLife NIGERIA back in their proposed amendment. This is cause for suspicion on why FISS is insisting on forcing CROPLIFE into the council membership.

CropLife Nigeria being in the Council should not be accepted. In addition, having two seats on the Technical Committee on Agricultural Pesticides Council is unacceptable. CropLife Nigeria is funded and controlled by CropLife International with multi-million dollar agro companies that control the largest global food market, and have numerous lawsuits against them globally for toxic chemicals, human rights abuses and patent theft allegations.[6]

Having such an internationally affiliated and sponsored organization in a National Council is a threat to Nigeria's food sovereignty especially with its reputation globally as a core food lobbyist.

To represent the private sector, Nigeria has other local private-sector agrochemical associations like the Nigeria Agro Input Dealers Association (NAIDA), and the Organic Fertilizer Producers and Suppliers Association of Nigeria (OFPSAN). These and many reputable local private agrochemical associations should be added to the council, not CROPLIFE.

[6] See Appendix

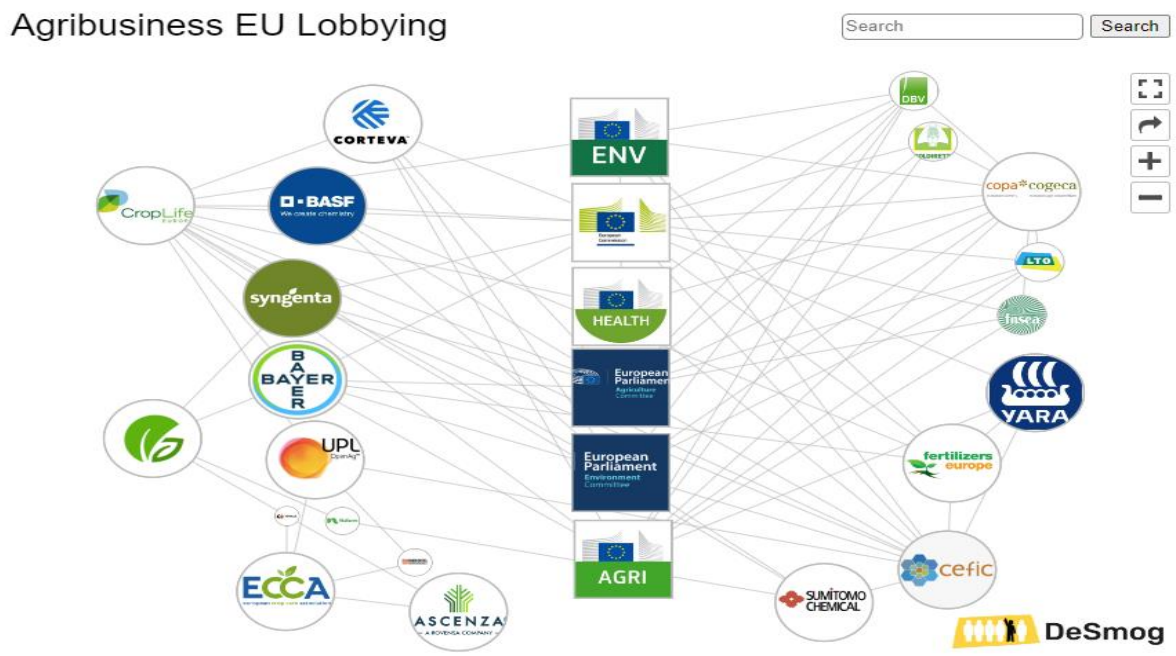


https://friendsoftheearth.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Toxic-Trading-EN.pdf

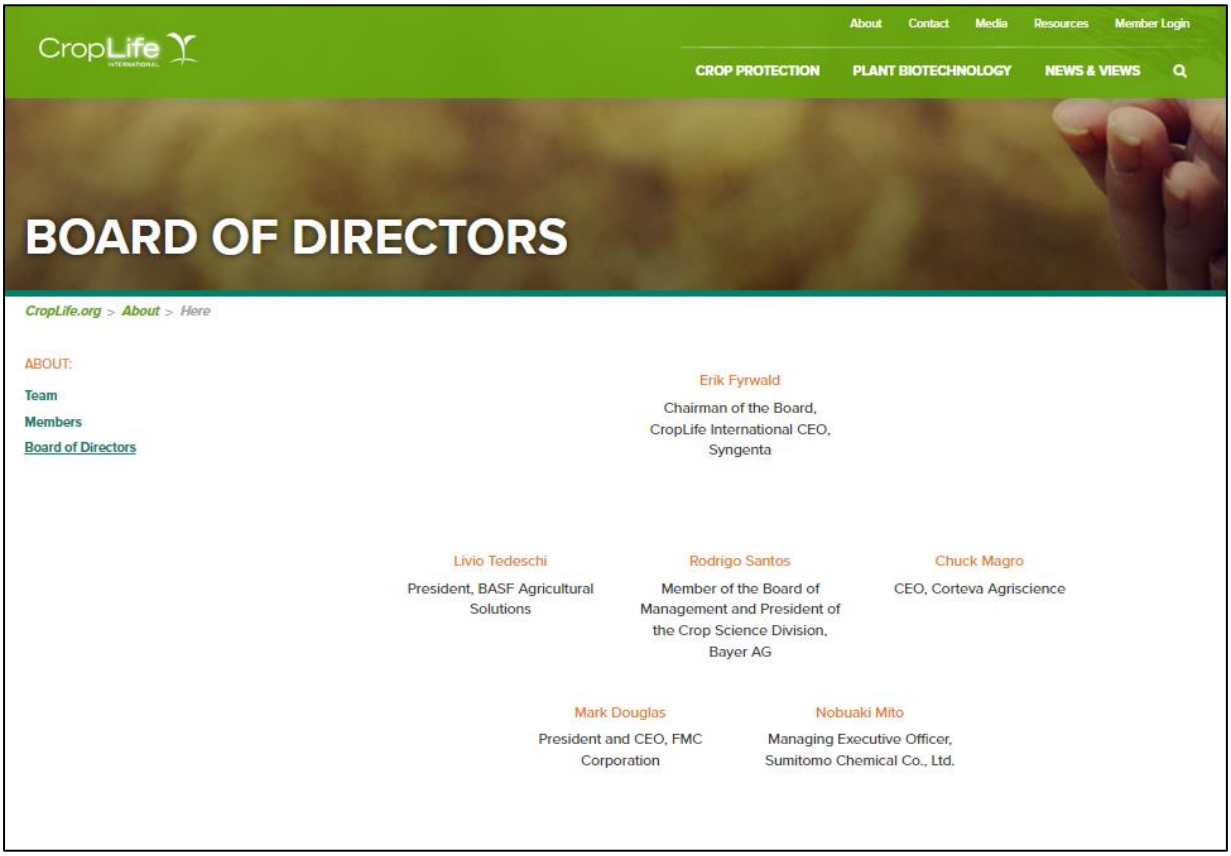
https://friendsoftheearth.eu/publication/toxictrading/

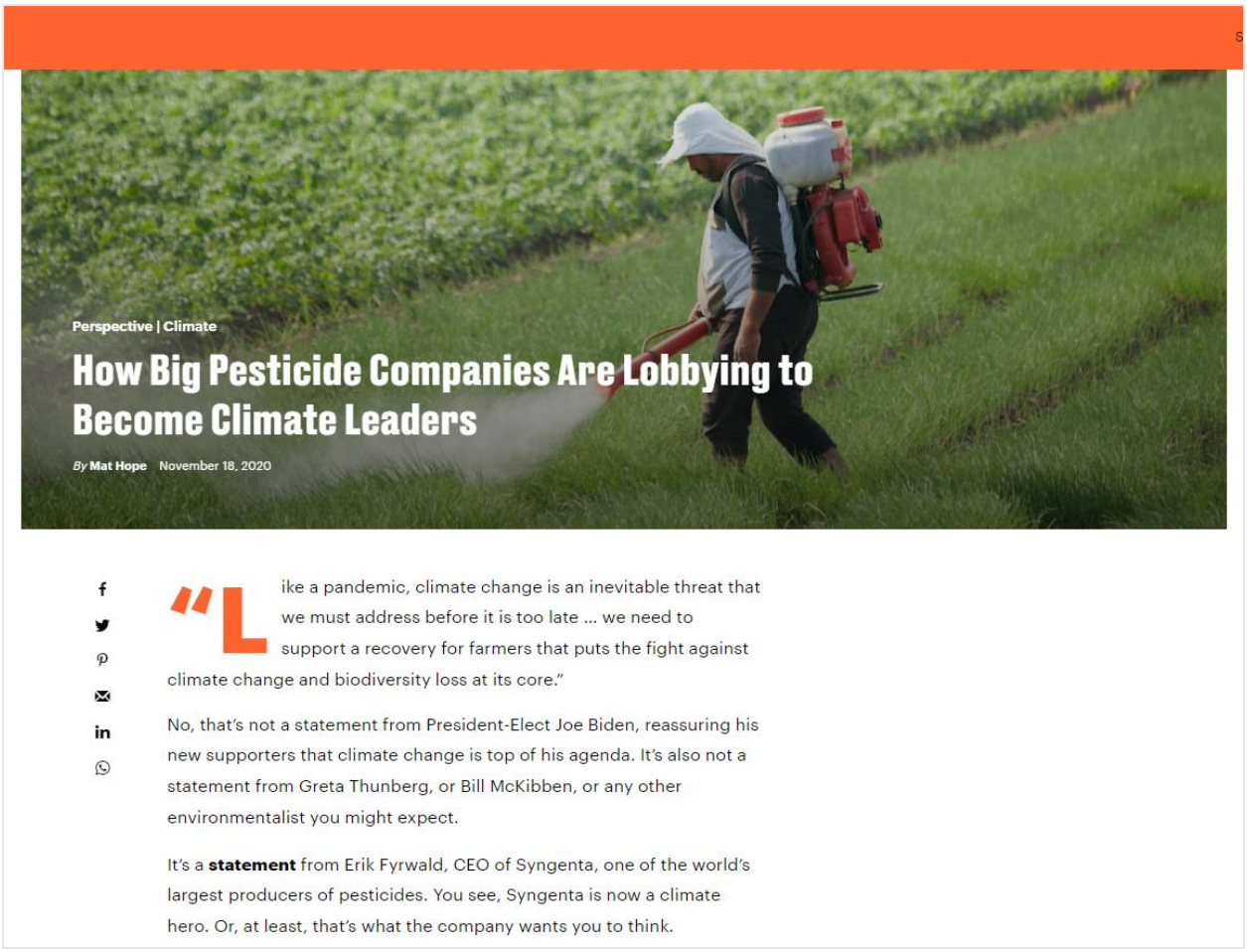
https://www.desmog.com/2021/12/09/network-agribusiness-chemicals-pesticides-lobbying-eu-sustainable-climate-farming/

Since then, leading industry associations and agrochemical companies have used their lobbying might to push back against core European measures aiming to lead the transition to a more sustainable way of farming. These companies are connected through their various trade group memberships, and have deployed many tools — from networking events to lawsuits — in order to counter Europe's push to phase-out pesticides and reduce fertilizer use.



Read more about the industry's climate lobbying at DeSmog's agribusiness database.





Perspective | Climate

How Big Pesticide Companies Are Lobbying to Become Climate Leaders

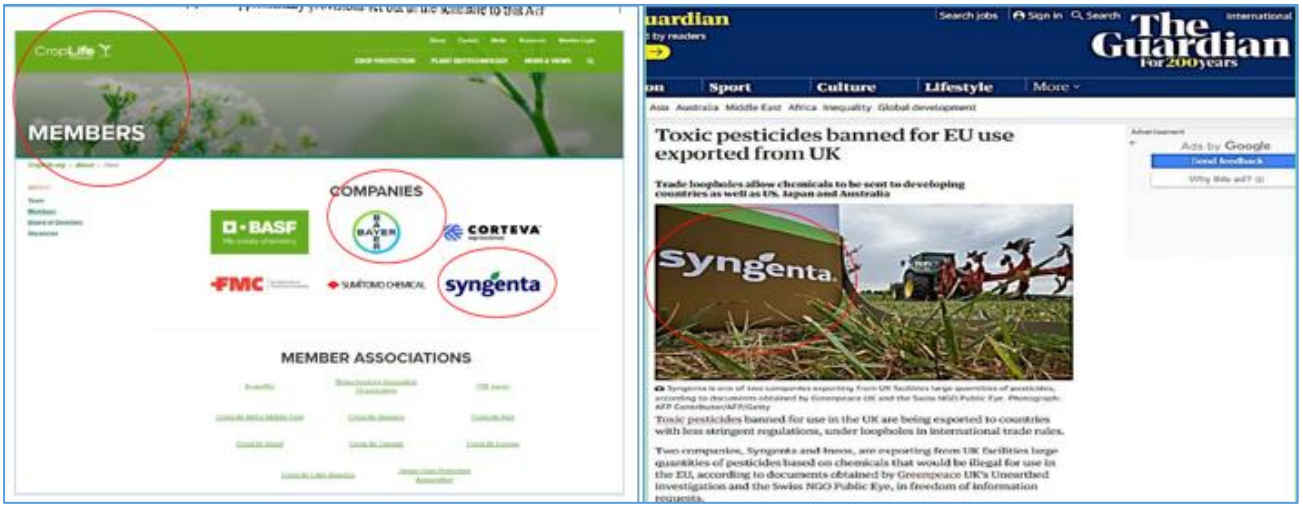
By **Mat Hope** November 18, 2020

"Like a pandemic, climate change is an inevitable threat that we must address before it is too late ... we need to support a recovery for farmers that puts the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss at its core."

No, that's not a statement from President-Elect Joe Biden, reassuring his new supporters that climate change is top of his agenda. It's also not a statement from Greta Thunberg, or Bill McKibben, or any other environmentalist you might expect.

It's a **statement** from Erik Fyrwald, CEO of Syngenta, one of the world's largest producers of pesticides. You see, Syngenta is now a climate hero. Or, at least, that's what the company wants you to think.

https://sentientmedia.org/how-big-pesticide-companies-are-lobbying-to-become-climate-leaders/



Failures of the Proposed Pesticide Bill(s)

Failures of the Proposed Bill (Amendment of the National Fertilizer Quality Control Act of 2019 to include control of Agrochemicals and pesticides). These failures are the same flaws identified in the proposed Nigerian Pesticide Council, 2021 (HB 1396):

- ⚠ The bill has failed at what a regulatory system should address which is to protect people and the environment from the harmful effects of pesticide use. It supports the sale of pesticides and promotes safe use, which is difficult in Nigeria due to very poor knowledge about pesticide application, poor market practices, poor monitoring of pesticide application, unconducive weather conditions, largely unavailable protective equipment, lack of professional pesticide applicators, limited disclosure on associated pesticides hazard, poorly functional medical facilities, etc.

- ⚠ The bill does not state what can be used in terms of active substances and products, where they can be used and on what. It does not state who can use which pesticides. It does not state allowable residue levels in food and the general trade and protection requirements.

- ⚠ The bill falls short of the key concepts of accessibility, flexibility and transparency.

- ⚠ The bill does not seem to build on the strengths of the EU model and mitigations the associated weaknesses thereof.

- ⚠ The bill must take into consideration all the listed control and regulatory measures which it has failed to do in its entirety.

- ⚠ The bill does not cover or give explicit details on:

    - ✓ *What can be used - active substances and products*
    - ✓ *Use - where and on what*
    - ✓ *Use - who can use which pesticides*
    - ✓ *Food - Maximum Residue Levels*
    - ✓ *Trade - what can appear on imported and exported food*
    - ✓ *Protection - how the impact of pesticides can be minimized*

- ⚠ The bill does not provide power to other agencies that should be concerned and cover other aspects of the value chain and stages of pesticide use and enforcement. By sponging and revoking the powers of NAFDAC, NESREA, FCCPC, NAQS, etc. It is calling for an overhaul of the entire system and imposing too much power on the Minister of Agriculture. This should not be. A good pesticide regulatory system should be highly decentralised for checks and balances in the system.

KEY RECOMMENDATION AND CALL FOR ACTION

What is the point of rushing, if we are heading in the wrong direction?

1. The National Assembly should not consider any of the pesticide-related bills presented by the Farm Input Support Service (FISS) Department of FMARD, as they lack transparency, accountability, openness and provisions for public participation. The proposed amendment has not been presented or discussed with any stakeholders nor to state or non-state actors.

2. The bills are not designed to ensure the safety of Nigerians or provide redress mechanisms for citizens exposed to pesticide hazards. Both bills are surrendering Nigeria's food sector to foreign control. Hence, there is a need to engage the promoters of the Bills to understand the continuous insistence of having a foreign-sponsored association (CROPLife) in a National Council- as against other nationally controlled agrochemical/input associations.

3. Sections of the Repeal and Re-enact Bill dealing with Pesticides should be expunged and put together into a separate Bill for the creation of a Pesticide Council for Nigeria following the Kenya example. The fertilizer bill should not the amended to include agrochemicals and pesticides, as evidence shows it is not a well-thought process, rather it is a response to the identified flaw in the Pesticide Council Bill. Besides, the proposed amendment, as presented is scattered and hastily.

4. A new Pesticide Control Bill 2023 should be drafted with the primary aim of protecting the health of Nigerians, protecting their biodiversity and preventing foreign influence in her food sector. Such a bill must be drawn from international best practices – ensuring the safety of life, application of precaution, and openness in the pesticide approval process, ensuring informed consumer choices via full disclosure, and promoting integrated pest management (IPM) approach and safer farm practices, etc.

5. A new Pesticide Control Bill 2023 should be put together by a wider group of state and non-state actors from the government, CSOs, farmers associations, other consumer rights groups, as well as experts on food safety issues in Africa, and presented to the new National Assembly and office of the Presidency.

6. The new Pesticide Control Bill 2023 should recognise and make provisions to strengthen the existing regulatory agencies and institutions; allowing for several regulations along the entire pesticide value chain from registration to usage (in farms, warehouses, stores, schools, public gardens, etc) and environmental monitoring. The bill should also provide clarity as to the jurisdiction of the various agencies, offering clear process and synergy; all under the coordination of a central coordinating body – a Council on Pesticide and Other Agrochemicals in Nigeria. The Council should execute oversight and joint approval of pesticide and other chemical management in Nigeria.

Listen to Nigerians Speak

As one of the **largest importers of pesticides on the African continent**, Nigeria faces mounting human and environmental health challenges due to their high use. A significant number of these pesticides are **highly hazardous** and already **banned** in regions like the European Union. Nigeria therefore should **STOP THEIR IMPORTATION**.

As of November 2022, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control's (NAFDAC) Green Book product database lists about 680 synthetic chemical pesticide products (excluding chemical repellents). More than half of these products include active ingredients that are **not approved in the European market** due to, for example, their potential chronic health effects, environmental persistence, high toxicity for fish or bees, or insufficient data to uphold the principle of preventing harm.

Surveys have shown that up to **80%** of the most frequently used pesticides by small-scale farmers in Nigeria are Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs). Pesticides are classified as highly hazardous if they cause serious or irreversible damage to health or the environment. They can **cause cancer or genetic defects, impair fertility or harm unborn children**. Women farmers are vulnerable, especially to pesticides that are hormonally active or known to disrupt the endocrine system.

The risk of toxic pesticides also extends to end consumers as pesticide residues have been found on farm produce exceeding the Maximum Residual Level. Pesticides also contaminate water via infiltration, surface runoff, and drift. They accumulate in the soil and exert adverse effects on soil life – sometimes for decades.

The frequent and high use of these toxic pesticides has also **negatively impacted export opportunities**, with the European Union restricting the import of Nigerian agricultural products such as dried beans due to high levels of pesticide residues considered dangerous to human health.

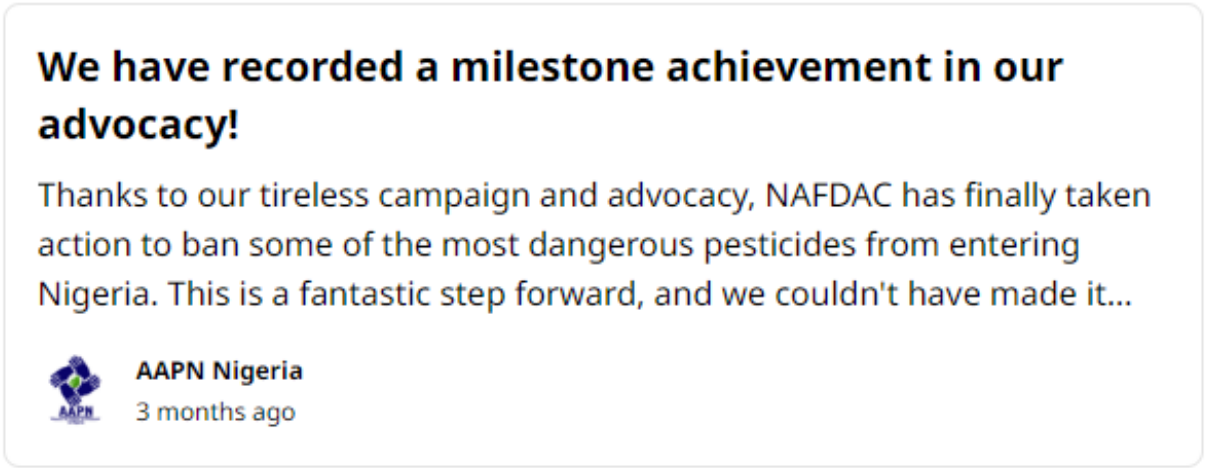
Despite being banned in their home jurisdictions, **European companies continue to export these hazardous pesticide products to Nigeria** and other African countries, creating a double standard in the pesticide trade.

We call on the Federal Government of Nigeria through the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC):

- **To comprehensively review the list of registered pesticide products** with the view of phasing out and banning the most hazardous substances. Pesticide products with active ingredients are considered too dangerous and toxic for the European market and people, should not be sold in the Nigerian market.
- **Raise this issue with the European Union** and demand fair trade practices that prioritize the health and well-being of farmers and consumers in Nigeria.
- **Enforce strict regulations on the use of pesticides by farmers**, provide adequate training and education on safer and sustainable agricultural practices, and support the adoption of organic farming to reduce the overall reliance on chemical pesticides.

Watch this explainer video to understand the issue better - **https://youtu.be/0e7RVuRguxk**

Updates



Reasons for signing

See why other supporters are signing, why this petition is important to them, and share your reason for signing (this will mean a lot to the starter of the petition).

Remmy Nweke (DigitalSENSE Africa)
8 May 2023

Very Important petition to save lives of Nigerians. NAFDAC, NESREA and co must wake up. Nigerians lives matter!

♡ 0

Report

Divine Chinyere
7 May 2023

The dangers this pesticide poses to humans health are alarming

♡ 0

Report

Blessing Akhile
6 May 2023

Nigerians have the right to safe food

♡ 0

Report

Kate
1 May 2023

There should be no place for pesticides or any other toxins anywhere in the world. They do more harm than good even if people are getting their "perfect" foods. Containers of nonfood products say "do not ingest" yet are people not doing that when they eat products that have been sprayed with... Read more

♡ 2

Report

Emmanuel Nwaike
28 Apr 2023

Emmanuel Nwaike
Supposed

♡ 0

Report

Grace Yaro
28 Apr 2023

To save lives of d end users In i direct consumers thru food of these hazardous pesticides

♡ 0

Report

Ibukun Onabanjo
28 Apr 2023

We need to keep ourselves healthy and safe. What we eat should not become poison

♡ 1

Report

Bolanle Babalola
28 Apr 2023

These pesticides are killing us and reducing our lifespan. It endangers our food production and makes it unsafe for us to eat our locally produced foods. Vegetables and fruits. Please ban the use of these highly hazardous pesticides.

♡ 2

Report

Angela Ajayi
25 Apr 2023

It affects all of us and we need a change

♡ 1

Report

Oseghale Anita
25 Apr 2023

It is dangerous to the health and well-being of the Nigerians

♡ 1

Report

Ade Bodunde
15 Apr 2023

Hazardous chemicals destroys environment, health, and adds to problem of climate change

♡ 1

Report

Grace Oyediji
14 Apr 2023

I'm signing because they're dangerous to our health and soil

♡ 2

Report

Nanbam Go'ar
14 Apr 2023

Some citizens resort to the chemiçals to kill themselves

♡ 1

Report

Funmilola Susan Ayodele
14 Apr 2023

The product is hazardous to our health and can lead to canser

♡ 0

Report

Efiom Duke
14 Apr 2023

Due to the danger those Chemicals cause to human Health.

♡ 0

Report

Taiwo Otitolaye
14 Apr 2023

Stop poisoning us through harmful chemicals that poison our foods, our soils. This has csused several DEATHS AND DISABILITIES.
Enough to the importation of harmful chemicals!

♡ 2

Report

Hamza ALIYU
13 Apr 2023

Peticides find their way into the human body through the food chain

♡ 1

Report

Maria Ukpanyang
13 Apr 2023

The whole of humanity is threatened by one hazard or the other like inexplicable deseases/illnesses hitherto unknown.

♡ 1

Report

Faith Ntem
13 Apr 2023

It is unfit for human consumption.

♡ 0

Report

Azubike Nwokoye
13 Apr 2023

We need to protect our health and eat nutritious food.

♡ 0

Report

Oluwakemi Tope
7 Apr 2023

High negative impacts (both long and short) on ecosystem

♡ 1

Report

Victor Fabunmi
6 Apr 2023

It impacts negatively on the environment, food safety, health and economy.

♡ 1

Report

Nnimmo Bassey
6 Apr 2023

For the sake of environmental and human health. Nigeria cannot be a dumping ground for hazardous chemicals.

♡ 1

Report

Al-Mahroof Muhammad
6 Apr 2023

I am signing because i owe it a duty to protect myself, my environment and my loved ones from the hazardous effect of the pesticides

♡ 1

Report

Javan Ofula
5 Apr 2023

Saying to dumping of harmful products in Africa

♡ 0

Report

Deborah Ewing
5 Apr 2023

People and the planet we depend on before profit. There are less harmful alternatives to these chemicals.

♡ 0

Report

AAPN Nigeria
2 Apr 2023

The West (Global Northern countries) exporting their ban chemical pesticide from their own countries for health and environmentally reasons to poor developing countries even when they know the safety gaps here, is pure evil, colonial, and an environmental injustice. Its pure abuse of human right. This should be stopped. All international convention that promotes such abuse on the mass of poor African for the benefit of their counties and the few greedy puppets in African government should be sued and made to pay compensation.

♡ 0

Report

Idris Ayuba
24 Mar 2023

I'm not comfortable with what is going on

♡ 1

Report

Safiya Balarabe
24 Mar 2023

Am signing this because am against the use of chemicals that will be harmful to our health should be stoped

♡ 0

Report

Olawale Babas
24 Mar 2023

This exploitation must stop

♡ 1

Report

About AAPN

The Alliance for Action on Pesticide in Nigeria (AAPN) is a loose coalition of over 80 civil society organizations, farmers and farm input dealers associations, academia, researchers, and interested members of the public. The Alliance seeks to increase public awareness of pesticide issues for informed pesticide choice, and usage and shift to safer sustainable farm methods and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems/methods. The alliance also seeks to ensure improved pesticide regulations in Nigeria; protect both human and environmental health, guard Nigeria's food security, and improve food sustainability.

Members of the AAPN

Action Aid Nigeria
Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)
All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN)
Alliance for Action on Pesticide in Nigeria (AAPN)
Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria
Association of Women in Trade and Agriculture (AWITA)
Aubree Associates
Be The Help Foundation
BFA Food and Health Foundation
Biodiversity Education and Resource Centre (BERC)
Cal-Maji Foundation
Caritas Nigeria
Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria
Centre for Environmental Education and Development (CEED)
Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID)
Centre for the Protection of Rights of Consumers and Workers (CEPRICOW)
Chen Education and Development Empowerment (CEDE Nigeria)
Clean Energy and Safe Environment Initiative (CESEI)
CNC Consultation (Agric, Livelihood/Humanity)
Coalition Against Paraquat (CAP)
Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria
Code Earth/RSECESSA
Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPws)
Dataphyte
Development Initiative for Change and Empowerment (DICE)
EAT Africa
Ecocykle
EnvironNews
Environmental Rights Action (ERA)/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (FoEN)
Evergreening Network for Forest and Land Restoration (ENFORLAR)
Farm and Infrastructure Foundation (FIF)
Federation of Agricultural Commodities of Nigeria (FACAN)
Food Literacy Centre
Friends of the Earth Nigeria (FoEN)
Gender and Community Empowerment Initiative
Giolee Global
Good Governance Team, Nigeria
Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF)
Heinrich Boell Stiftung Nigeria
Hypertension Africa
Ikot Ekpene Women Food/Cash Crop MPCS
Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC)
Leap Environmental Projects Limited
Michael Adedotun Oke Foundation
Nature Care Resource Centre
Network of Women in Agriculture Nigeria (NWIAN)
Nigeria Agro Inputs Dealers Association (NAIDA)
Nigeria Young Farmers
Nigerian Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (NIFAAS)
Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers Association (NIWAAFA)
Organic and Agroecology Initiative of Nigeria (ORAIN)
Organic Fertilizer Producers and Suppliers Association of Nigeria (OFPSAN)
Organic News
P. I. B Global Services LTD
Positive Youth Transformation Initiative
Potato Farmers Association of Nigeria (POFAN)
RichMatrix & Co.
Sabon Gari Peace Initiative
SCL Juriya Project
Smallscale Women Farmers Organisation in Nigeria (SWOFON)
SmartAg Solutions Ltd
Soribta Nigeria Ltd
Stewards of the Environment for Sustainable Change Initiative (SESCI)
Surge Africa Organisation
Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev Nigeria)
T.R.E.E Initiative,
Great League of Pioneers for Community Sustainable Development (GLOP-CSD)
Trade Network Initiative (TNI)
Transparency and Economic Development Initiatives
Urban-Rural Environmental Defenders (U-RED)
Village Farmers Initiative (VFI)
Women Empowerment Program (WEP)
Young Men's Christian Association Mada Hills
Independent Researchers, Farmers, Academia, Medical Laboratory Scientists & Public Health

Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) is an ecological think tank and an advocacy organization promoting environmental/climate justice and food sovereignty in Nigeria and Africa.

HOMEF's vision is for an ecologically just world where all beings live in harmony with Mother Earth and her driving mission is: working to support a wholesome ecological and socially cohesive/inclusive communities where people live in solidarity and dignity.

HOMEF's work tackles problems created by the agricultural model that is basically colonial and sees food as a commodity thereby generating hunger and encouraging biodiversity erosion through approaches including by using genetic engineering in agriculture and harmful agricultural chemicals such as the HHPs.

HOMEF also focuses on tackling problems relating to harmful extractives and the exploitation of nature and peoples. HOMEF has created a dynamic knowledge space through her Ikike Programme to drive the change she seeks. This space fosters development and sharing of knowledge as well as interrogation of concepts, policies and actions on various issues, ranging from environmental/climate justice, agriculture, re-source democracy and overall socio-ecological transformation.

Consultants

Prof. Simon Irtwange (Professor of Agricultural Processing and Storage, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria) and Barrister Oreoluwa Adeyemi (Managing Partner at Richmatrix & Co.) conducted this review.

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