

OPENING SPEECH OF ATO FKIRE MARKOS DEPUTY HEAD OF ANIMAL
AND PLANT HEALTH REGULATORY DIRECTORATE

Distinguished Guests

Workshop participants

It is both an honor and great privilege for me to address this important workshop on "Baseline study startup meeting in relation to pesticides in Ethiopia"

Distinguished participants

Ladies and gentlemen

As you all are aware, pesticides are important input for both agriculture and public health sector and their use is widely recognized as indispensable to commercial agriculture , migratory pest control and malarial transmitting mosquitoes management programmes.

However ,all chemical pesticides are inherently toxic and therefore constitute a potential risk to the producer, the consumer, bystander and the environment if they are not properly managed. This risk may result in immediate harm or the effects may take longer to be felt and in practice , most pesticides fall far short of the ideal condition and exhibit a wide range of toxicity for many species including humans. Approximately 1000 active pesticide ingredients are marketed in tens of thousands of formulations .Measures to prevent unwanted impacts from these chemicals are therefore essential.

Distinguished participants

Ladies and gentlemen

Among the 1.2 billion of the world's poorest people, 75% live and work in rural areas, and an increasing proportion use of pesticides without safeguards against their effects on the environment, biodiversity or their own health. Most of these pesticide users lack information and training, and are ill equipped to avoid hazards. Empty containers or residual liquids from spraying are frequently thrown into water courses or buried. For all these reasons, those living near and working with pesticides in poor rural areas of the world are at greatest risk from health effects of these pesticides. The contemporary approach, therefore, should emphasize safe management in their use with particular regard to the health of the users, non target species and the environment.

Distinguished workshop participants

Ladies and gentlemen

We have a long way to go. Reliable measures of pesticide risk reduction need to be developed. And users of pesticides still need to be educated about the safest and most effective methods of pest control now available.

The new Pesticide Registration and Control Proclamation enacted in August 2010 is a major step forward. It replaces the fragmented and inconsistent system of the past with a stronger, more protective, comprehensive health-based standard for all types of pesticides and risks.

Moreover recognizing the importance of sound pest management, the Government of Ethiopia with financial and technical assistance

from the government of Netherlands and Food and Agriculture Organization has recently initiated a Pesticide Risk Reduction Program to improve pesticide management along the entire pesticides lifecycle; from registration and importation of pesticides to their use monitoring including quality control and waste management.

To this end several work packages involving important registration and post registration activities and sub-activities have been elaborated to be performed by the Ministry of Agriculture and relevant stakeholders under a Pesticide Risk Reduction Program. Among the work packages considered in the work plan, one of them is dealing with impact assessment. The goal of this work package is to evaluate the impact of newly developed systems related to post registration. At this stage a baseline study on reference situation will be done focusing on :

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

Therefore, the primary objectives of this workshop are:

- To introduce the objectives of baseline and impact assessment studies
- To decide on the target groups to be involved in the study
- To identify methodologies to be followed with regard the baseline survey and impact assessment studies five years after the implementation of the project.

Therefore, this workshop will bring a good opportunity to you to entertain these objectives through information sharing, exchange of views and ideas to finally come up with sound recommendation of the baseline study with regard to pesticide use, environmental and public health impacts of pesticides and pesticide users knowledge and training and monitoring plan.

Finally, wishing you a successful deliberation I declare the workshop opened.