

Regulatory Harmonization Initiatives in Africa Middle East

Ali Mohamed Ali

Regional Coordinator, CropLife Africa Middle East, Alexandria University Symposium on Pesticides

ABSTRACT

Africa and Middle East is a vast region of 75 countries, where existing Different Regulatory Systems with absence of regulations in many countries and similar regulatory problems. CropLife Africa Middle East initiated regulatory harmonization initiatives to address regional groups with cooperation Mandate of regional organizations. These activities cover 52 countries to harmonize regulatory system and Linkages with governmental and inter-governmental Organizations and allying building with stakeholders sharing interest and attracting partnerships in the process.

Regulatory Initiatives in Place (Covering 52 countries)

- (1) North Africa Middle East Initiative.
- (2) Southern and East Africa Regulatory Committee on Harmonization (SEARCH).
- (3) Inter-State Committee of the arid zone of the Sahel (CILSS) (The Sahelian Pesticide Committee CSP).
- (4) Phytopharmaceutical Committee of the Humid Zone of West and Central Africa (CPHAOC).
- (5) Pesticides Committee of Central Africa (CPAC).

(1) North Africa Middle East Initiative

Members: (18 countries)

Algeria	Lebanon	Qatar	Tunisia
Bahrain	Libya	Palestine	UAE
Egypt	Morocco	S. Arabia	Yemen
Jordan	Oman	Sudan	
Kuwait	Iraq	Syria	

Achievements:

- Harmonized Application Form (Accepted-Implemented by 15 countries)
- Harmonized Label Project (unanimous acceptance)
- Harmonized Registration Certificate (unanimous acceptance)

Ali, A.M.

Future Agenda:

- Quality control measures
- Mutual recognition of trial results
- Common data base
- Information exchange

Mandate:

- Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)

(2) Southern & East African Regulatory Committee on Harmonization (SEARCH)

Members: (14 countries)

Angola	Madagascar	Namibia	Zambia
Botswana	Malawi	South Africa	Zimbabwe
Ethiopia	Mauritius	Tanzania	
Kenya	Mozambique	Uganda	

Achievements:

- Harmonized Application Form (Accepted-Implemented by 10 countries).
- Harmonized Label (Accepted-Implemented by 7 countries).
- Trial protocols including residue protocol (Accepted by 8 countries-implemented by 5).
- Registration Guidelines on Generic products (Accepted by 7-implemented by 5).
- Biopesticide Guidelines (Accepted by 12-implemented by 4).
- Repacking & Small Pack Guidelines (Accepted by all 14 countries).
- Border Control Document (in circulation).

Sub-grouping of SEARCH: (3 regional Groups)

- (1) East Africa Group (4 countries).
- (2) Southern Africa Group (8 countries).
- (3) Indian Ocean Group (5 countries).

What Follows:

- Creation of regional technical group deciding on registration application dossiers including data).
- Terms of reference of Working Groups.

Future Agenda:

- Feedback on sensitization discussions.
- Finalize data base for 8 major crops.
- Review of GAP and certain of Common GAP document (8 countries).
- Creation of Common trial protocols for major crops.
- Resolution on Structure and Composition of Working Group.
- Proposal for Implementation of Harmonized protocols, GAP documents & Common data base

Mandate:

- Common Market of East and Southern Africa (COMESA).

(3) The Sahelian Pesticide Committee (CSP)

Members (9 Sahelian countries):

Bissau Guinea	Cap Verde	Mauritania
Burkina Faso	Gambia	Niger
Chad	Mali	Senegal

Mission & Objectives:

Drive Phytosanitary Policies for Sahelian countries.

Organization:

- Based in Bamako, Mali.
- Part of Sahelian Institute-Instruct du Sahel (INSAH).
- Has a president & Permanent Secretary.

Achievements:

- Common registration of pesticides for the 9 countries.
- Common dossier submission form.
- Common Labeling.
- Unique registration body.

Mandate: (Member state driven).

(4) Phytopharmaceutical Committee of the Humid Zone of West and Central Africa (CPHAOC)

Members (5 countries):

Benin	Guinea Conakry
Côte D'Ivoire	Togo
Ghana	

Ali, A.M.

Mission & Objectives:

Coordinate and Harmonize Phytosanitary activities/policies on registration, Distribution, and uses in the Coastal Zone of West Africa.

Organization:

Operate with national pesticides committees of member status.

Achievements:

- Creation of a website (IS/SPHYT) as communication tool located with the Pesticide Committee in Côte D'Ivoire.
- Harmonized dossier submission form.
- Similar labeling procedures.
- **BUT:** Individual country trial protocols and registration bodies.
Mandated by: (Member state driven).

N.B:

- Nigeria, Liberia & Sierra Leone are left aside.
- Nigeria conducts product registration through 2 different bodies.
(NAFDAC + Min of Environment).

(5) Pesticides Committee of Central Africa Comité Phytosanitaire d'Afrique Central (CPAC)

Members (6 countries):

Cameron	Equatorial Guinea
Chad	Gabon
Central Africa Republic	Republic of Congo

Mission & Objectives:

Drive a common regulatory initiative for Phytosanitary policies of the CEMAC countries

Organization:

Unique central registration body similar to CSP in Sahel.

Achievements:

Common registration and regulatory system adopted and signed by the Ministers of agriculture of the 6 CEMAC countries

Mandate:

- Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC).
- Inter African Phytosanitary Council of the AU.

**Harmonization Process in West Africa in the near future
(The West African Initiative)**

Mandated by: ECOWAS & WAEMU with technical and Financial Support of CropLife Middle East and IFDC.

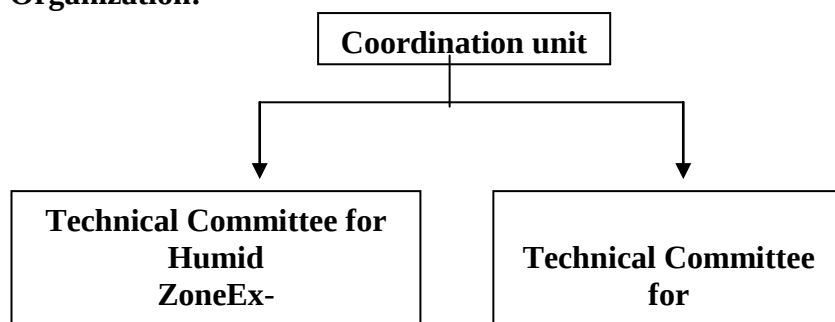
Members: 17 countries i.e. 15 ECOWAS/WAEMU states + Mauritania + Chad (CILSS, but ECOWAS/WAEMU).

Achievements: Draft harmonization framework submitted following a study in 6 major countries where pesticides are widely used (validated by country).

Validation:

- May 2007 on Lomé by country regulatory authorities & Pesticides managers.
- Framework to be submitted for adoption by political authorities of ECOWAS, WAEMU & CILSS by Nov.2007.

Organization:



Looking Ahead

- * Regulatory harmonization remains a strategic priority.
- * Linkages with governmental and inter-governmental Organizations are essential.
- * Alliance building with stakeholders sharing interest.
- * Attracting partnerships in the process.