

SOUTHERN AND EAST AFRICAN REGULATORY COMMITTEE ON HARMONIZATION OF PESTICIDE REGISTRATION

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**MRL Workshop Alexandria, Egypt,
March 30-April 2, 2009**



Introduction:

- The South East Africa Regulatory Committee on Harmonisation (SEARCH) - 1996
- ✓ Aims to promote and harmonize the regulatory legislation and procedures related to the registration and handling of agrochemical pesticides, based on international standards.
- ✓ The member countries of this initiative are: Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- ✓ Sponsor: CropLife Africa Middle East

Achievements

- Harmonized Application Form being implemented.
- Harmonized label, with GHS incorporated, drafted and implementation by the different countries await amendment of regulations.
- Harmonized Trial Protocol (Efficacy & Residues): for Maize, Cotton and Sugarcane have been drafted.
- Guidelines:
 - a. Generic Product Registration Guidelines drafted, discussed and adopted.
 - b. Bio-pesticides guidelines and application forms for macro-, micro- and bio-pesticides.
 - c. Re-packing and Small Pack Guidelines to be finalized, accepted and implemented.

Weaknesses

- Countries with legislation in place experienced time delays in introducing and implementing SEARCH. In these instances, legislation and regulations had to be amended to accommodate the SEARCH system. Unfortunately, the process involved is time consuming and often involves a number of stakeholders.
- Poor fund no facilitation for national consultation.
- SEARCH is an informal structure that lack political intervention



Weaknesses cont'

- Slow progress of the harmonization initiative due to significant differences in climatic, agro-ecological conditions and the cropping system.
- To overcome this in 2006, the 14 member countries were split into three groupings defined as follows:
 - a. Eastern Africa Group = Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia
 - b. Southern Africa Group = Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique and Angola,
 - c. IOC group = Mauritius and Madagascar to proceed with the IOC harmonization initiative together with Reunion, Seychelles and Comoros.



The EAC Mini-SEARCH Group – Achievement as from 2007- to date

- 8 crops have been selected: barley, coffee, cotton, tea, flower, maize, sugar cane and tobacco
- A data base of list of pests and diseases common to all 4 countries has been established on each of these crops with list of a list of allowed plant protection products and some of which are not registered in the the country
- Developed crop technical itinerary basing on GAP
- Adopted EAC documents & protocols on harmonised registration procedure.



Could there be a fast track registration procedure?

- EAC group has accepted in principle, the idea of reducing the number of efficacy field trials in order to get a provisional registration: **1 cycle/season and 3 sites/countries** Instead of 2 to 3 years usually required.



Is SEARCH something that should be expanded in Africa?

- The African pesticides market represents for the manufacturers only 0.5% of the total world yearly turnover, it doesn't look very attractive to them.
- Harmonization of selected elements of pesticide registration is necessary to reduce the time from submission of a registration package to a decision on that registration and will permit increased co-operation among regulators.
- However, the common data package must be supplemented with unique national studies a key to the national risk assessments, and as a result, the national registration decision.



Way forward

Where do we go from here to further our workshop goal?



Thank You!!