



Pesticides Petition Tulinde Maisha Ya Wakenya

Pesticide Use On The Ground



Farmers can't use the correct equipment. It is expensive or not available.



Pesticide labels cannot be understood by some farmers.



Farmers are not aware of mitigation measures, such as buffer zones around their fields.



Many farms are on hill-slopes, so pesticides in the soil run into water-ways.



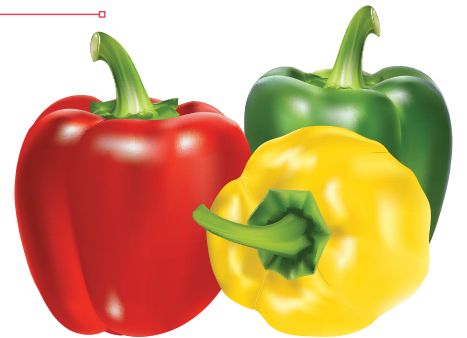
Farmers often cannot afford post-harvest intervals and sell produce before it is safe.



Advice and training on pesticide use is limited.

Shortcomings In Kenya's Regulatory Framework


- Authorities do not do their own, nationally relevant health or environmental impact assessments




Evaluations done in other countries are used in the pesticide registration process, which means local conditions are not considered

For example:

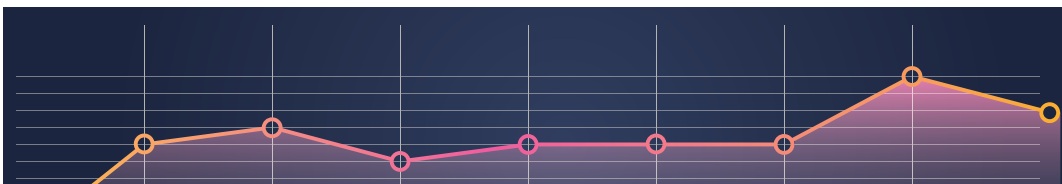
1 The Kenyan diet consists of more maize than Western diets. This should result in lower MRLs for glyphosate in maize in Kenya.



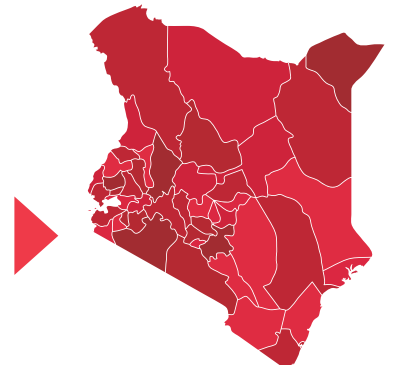
2 The effect of pesticides on European honey bees, might not be the same as the effect of pesticides on local bees (like stingless bees).



3 Many pesticides are only registered for use if they are applied 20m away from homes. Smallholder farmers in Kenya do not have this luxury.

Monitoring and data collection on the impacts of pesticides in Kenya is not regularly done





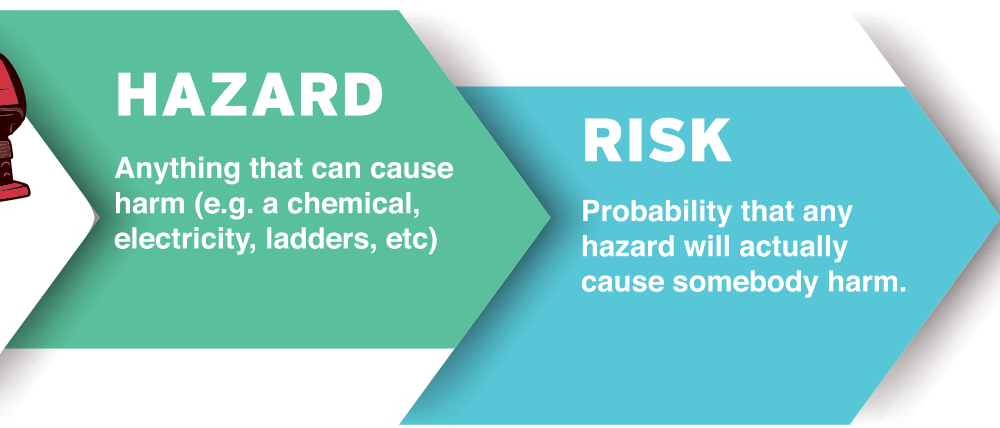
What Big Agrochemical Companies Do Not Tell Us



- Pesticides do not equal food security.
- Stewardship programs that are done in Kenya to teach farmers about pesticides, do not reach all farmers.
- Registration in Europe is still mainly based on risk assessment.
- Pesticides in Europe have been withdrawn because of their health and environmental risks – not because they didn't have tropical pests, or because the pesticides weren't being used by European farmers. The USA pesticides regime has been heavily criticized.
- Multinational pesticide producers are facing numerous lawsuits due to the adverse health effects of some of their products.
- There is no such thing as a 'safe' pesticide. Pesticides are designed to kill.
- We register a pesticide based on the amount of risk we are willing to accept. If the conditions of use mean the risk is too high, then we must look for alternatives.

Difference Between Hazard And Risk Assessment

A hazard is something that can cause harm, e.g. electricity, chemicals, working up a ladder, noise, a keyboard, a bully at work, stress etc. A risk is the probability, high or low, that any hazard will actually cause somebody harm.



A hazard assessment is based on the intrinsic toxicity of a pesticide and does not take into account the degree of exposure. In Kenya, the risk of misuse of pesticides is high because of our smallholder farming context.

In the registration of pesticides in Europe a hazard assessment is valid for certain pesticides under certain circumstances, e.g. pesticides that cause cancer or show mutagenicity, as well as pesticides that show endocrine disrupting activity, as they may act in minute

concentrations. These types of pesticides fall under the 'cut off criteria' meaning, as soon as this type of effect is proven, they will not be registered irrespective of occurrence in food or the environment.

However, this is not generally the case with all pesticides in Europe. In many instances, the degree of exposure does determine risk (i.e. "the dose makes the poison"). A hazard assessment is then often done as a first step in a more elaborate risk assessment process.

Key Concerns

The volume of imported pesticides has more than doubled within four years

From 6,400 tonnes in 2015 to 15,600 tonnes in 2018, with a growth rate of **144%**

There is no data available on the use of pesticides, or the concentrations of pesticides in our water, soil and food.

144%



There Are Products On The Market That Can **Cause:**

- Cancer (24 products)
- Change genetics (24 products),
- Disrupt hormones (35 products),
- Affect our nervous systems (140 products)
- Affect our reproductive systems (262 products)



Petition Prayers



Remove Toxicity

- We pray for a phased withdrawal of the most toxic pesticides, with proven health and environmental effects, which is informed by a study looking at the need for these pesticides and possible alternatives.

Collect Data

- We pray that the Government strengthens the monitoring system on the use of pesticides and increases data collection on pesticide residues in food in our markets

We are not calling for a blanket ban on all pesticides



Your vote for the petition is a vote to protect the lives of Kenyans

Prepared by the petitioners:

