



Ban Harmful Active Ingredients Currently in Use in Kenya

It is concerning that Kenyans have been exposed to a dangerous trend - with the noted rise in cases of food safety owing to the heavy use of harmful agrochemicals in crop production and food preservation. The Ministry of Agriculture must act now!

The active use of harmful agrochemicals has not only jeopardised Kenyan's right to a clean and safe environment, but also the right to safe food as enshrined in article 42 and 43 of the Kenyan constitution respectively.

Some of these agrochemicals approved for use by the Pest Control Products Board, contain harmful active ingredients (such as Carbendazim, Carbofuran, atrazine, acephate, and permethrin among others) that have been found to be carcinogenic, mutagenic, endocrine disruptors and harmful to aquatic and terrestrial life.

Of particular concern is that these harmful active ingredients - majority being produced by European companies are not approved for use in Europe. This is because of their negative impacts on human health.

Why are these harmful ingredients being sold in Kenya? Has Kenya become a dumping site?

In 2005, Kenya ratified the Rotterdam Convention that aims at promoting shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm.

Why is the Pest Control Products Board approving these harmful ingredients to be used in Kenya?

The continued use of these harmful agrochemicals in food production has left Kenyans helpless as the very authorities/institutions responsible for protecting both consumers and smallholder farmers are at the forefront in promoting massive use of agrochemicals.

As Kenyan consumers and smallholder farmers, we are calling on the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Honourable Mwangi Kiunjuri, the Pest Control and Produce Board and Ministry of Health to impose a ban on all agrochemicals that have harmful ingredients. This will uphold our right to chemically free food, protection of our farmers, the environment and the full assurance that Kenyans have guaranteed access to safe and healthy food - from seed to plate.