



Agrochemicals Association  
of Kenya



# Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK)

The background of the report cover is a collage of agricultural scenes. The top half shows a group of people in a field, with one person in a white shirt and a hat looking at a plant. The bottom half shows a field of young corn plants under a bright, hazy sky with trees in the background. The text 'JANUARY TO MARCH 2022' and 'ACTIVITY REPORT' is overlaid on the top half of the image.

**JANUARY TO MARCH 2022**  
**ACTIVITY REPORT**

## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The overall objective of this pillar is focused on the internal well-being of the association and seeks to enhance the association's ability to successfully deliver on its mandate and ensure the vibrancy and sustainability of the sector.

### AAK holds its physical Annual General Meeting (AGM)

After holding virtual AGMs in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 restrictions that included social distancing, on March 25, 2022 the Agrochemicals Association of Kenya/CropLife Kenya (AAK/CLK) was able to hold its 63rd physical Annual General Meeting at the Serena Hotel Nairobi, as per the requirements of Registrar of Societies. This was later followed by a networking event which brought together members and stakeholders for a relaxed evening.

The following are board members of the association - 2022/2023.



Patrick Amuyunzu  
Chair  
*(Arysta LifeScience Kenya Ltd)*



Mr. Wachira Mureithi  
Vice Chair  
*(Ultravetis E.A Ltd)*



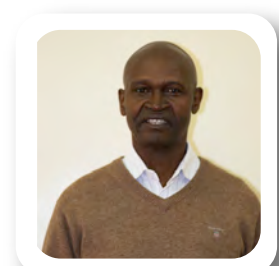
Mr. Fredrick Otieno  
Treasurer  
*(Syngenta E.A)*



Mr. Manoj Shah  
Ass. Treasurer  
*(Osho Chemical Industries Ltd.)*



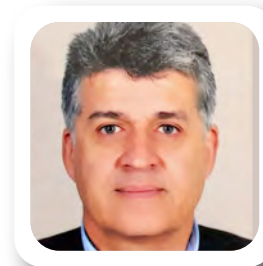
Mr. Hezekiah Macharia  
*(Twiga Chemical Industries)*



Dr. Mwangi Gitonga  
*(Lessos Veterinary Supplies Ltd)*



Mr. Evans Mutuva  
*(Pest Management Association  
of Kenya (PEMAK))*



Mr. Laurent Perrier  
*(Bayer E.A Ltd)*



Mr. Mwangi Muthee  
*(Bio Medica Laboratories Ltd)*

For purposes of management of the association's investments, the association was also able to elect its trustees for the year 2022/2023 at the AGM

The following were elected as the trustees of the association:

**Dr. Bimal Kantaria**  
Elgon Kenya Ltd

**Dr. Wachira Maina**  
Highchem Essentials

**Mr. Ngugi Muchane**  
Ultravetis East Africa Ltd

**Mr. Richard Sikuku**  
Willowood Africa

**Mr. Junghae Wainaina**  
Juanco SPS



From right to Left: Dr. Wachira Maina – Highchem Essentials, Dr. Ngugi Muchane – Ultravetis East Africa Ltd, Dr. Bimal Kantaria – Elgon Kenya Ltd, Mr. Richard Sikuku – Willowood Africa and elected in absentia was Mr. Junghae Wainaina – Juanco SPS Ltd.

The association takes this opportunity to welcome on board its trustees 2022/2023

## PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

Our Product Stewardship team strives to provide guidance on the responsible handling of pesticides from the manufacturing stage and along the supply chain, during application of the products, and finally at the disposal stage.



## | Responsible-use trainings |

Training on responsible use of pesticides is a key objective of product stewardship at AAK. In the 1st quarter of 2022, we engaged with several of our stakeholders in dissemination of information on what needs to be accomplished for crop protection products to be used with minimal risk to human health and our environment.

The target audience for the trainings are farmers, agrodealers, AAK member company staff and stakeholders in the agricultural sector.

## | Farmer trainings |

In partnership with respective county governments, 11 farmer field days were held in 6 counties of western Kenya/Nyanza under the KCDMS project. A total of **1,932 farmers** were trained on the responsible use of pesticides as well as the advantages of using Spray Service Providers who had been recently deployed to their communities.

The farmer field days gave an opportunity for the SSPs to be issued with motorized pumps, certificates, and ID cards in the view of their potential clients, thus creating legitimacy and credibility for the new SSPs.



Awarding certificates and distribution of motorized pumps in Vihiga County



Motorized pump distributions in Mumias County

We wish all our trained SSPs the best as they serve the farmers more so with the anticipated African army worm menace.

## | Training of key tomato farmers to enhance food safety |

The tomato value chain can be classified as one of the high-risk value chains due to its significant crop protection requirements coupled with the widespread consumption of the vegetable in Kenya. On about 3,000 Ha of land, Kajiado County produces **12%** of the country's tomatoes, **valued at Kshs. 2.3 billion.**

To enhance food safety in this critical value chain, AAK/CLK emphasizes the adherence to pesticide label recommendations, the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) during pesticide application. In collaboration with partners, the association trained 205 key tomato farmers from Loitoktok which is a major tomato production region in Kenya.



Farmer trainings - Use of Sprayer Pump

The training held in Rombo focused on the advantages of IPM by using high yielding disease-resistant seed varieties, proper crop nutrition which provides tolerance to diseases and pests as well as the use of conventional and biological pesticides to manage the major pests of the crop.

The farmer training was held in partnership with the county government of Kajiado, Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project, KALRO, KEPHIS and AAK member companies.



Farmer trainings – Hazard classification

## AAK Member and Partner Capacity Building

The agricultural space comprises of many stakeholders, many of whom share common objectives with AAK/CLK. National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK) is one such partner. To enhance the dissemination of responsible pesticide use messages to potato farmers, **AAK trained 24 Farmer Service Agents (FSAs)** operating under the auspices of NPCK in **8 counties**. The FSAs are in constant touch with potato farmers and offer them advice on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) which include pest management. The FSAs are also crucial in the supply chain since they source their farm inputs from reputable companies and avail them to farmers.

The FSCs were taken through a one-day training which emphasized on the need to use pesticides responsibly for sustainable food production.

During the same period, **58 staff from member companies were taken through the Responsible Use (RU) training**. The training reminded AAK members that they have an obligation to farmers for provision of quality inputs as well as interpretation of the pesticide label for the effective and safe use of the pesticides. The staff are expected to be ambassadors of responsible use to farmers and agrodealers as they go about their field activities.

## Spray Service Providers (SSPs) - The future of pesticide application



Trained SSPs awarded their certificates and work IDs to commence serving their local communities

A Spray Service Provider (SSP) is a farmer who has received specialized training from AAK on the proper application and handling of pesticides. They play a crucial role in the farming community since they reduce farmers' exposure to pesticides, enhance application efficiency and manage wastes as recommended.

In partnership with Kenya Crops and Dairy Market Systems (KCSMS) Project, **AAK trained 34 new SSPs** in Kisumu and Homa Bay counties. This brings the **total number of trained SSPs in the region to 471** to date.



SSPs at work serving their communities

The SSPs are already impacting their local communities by serving 2,802 farmers since January 2022 and this has earned them over Kshs 1.3 million in the process. In the wake of the African Army worm outbreak in Western Kenya counties, the SSPs have been instrumental in providing a community approach to the management of the pest. With time and entrenchment of suitable legislation, the future of pesticide application shall be by SSPs.

## Collection and disposal of Empty Pesticide Containers (EPCs)

As per the product stewardship cycle, waste management is a critical component. A survey conducted by AAK/CLK in 2020 established that majority of farmers are not disposing their pesticide containers in the right way. To correct this anomaly, AAK has put in place mechanisms to support our farmer trainings by providing waste disposal services to end users of pesticides. In the 1st quarter of 2022, AAK collected and disposed of 10.2 tonnes of empty pesticide containers. We also established 5 new collection centres in Migori county in partnership with Cereal Growers Association and Spray Service Providers in the region.

AAK urges all end users of pesticides to ensure that their empty pesticide containers are triple-rinsed before flattening and puncturing. This practice not only makes the containers safer to handle before destruction, but also prevents the



EPC ready for safe disposal at the Environment Combustion Consultant Ltd

re-use of the containers by counterfeiters out to fleece farmers. **For assistance on disposal of either obsolete products or empty pesticide containers, please contact AAK on [info@agrochem.co.ke](mailto:info@agrochem.co.ke) or mobile numbers 0734447777 or 0710447777.**

In the coming months, AAK, in partnership with Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), is working towards setting up a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) for the industry. We urge all concerned stakeholders to register with the initiative under the Kenya Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Organization. This shall enable compliance as per National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) guidelines come the next licensing cycle.



EPC Collection Centre

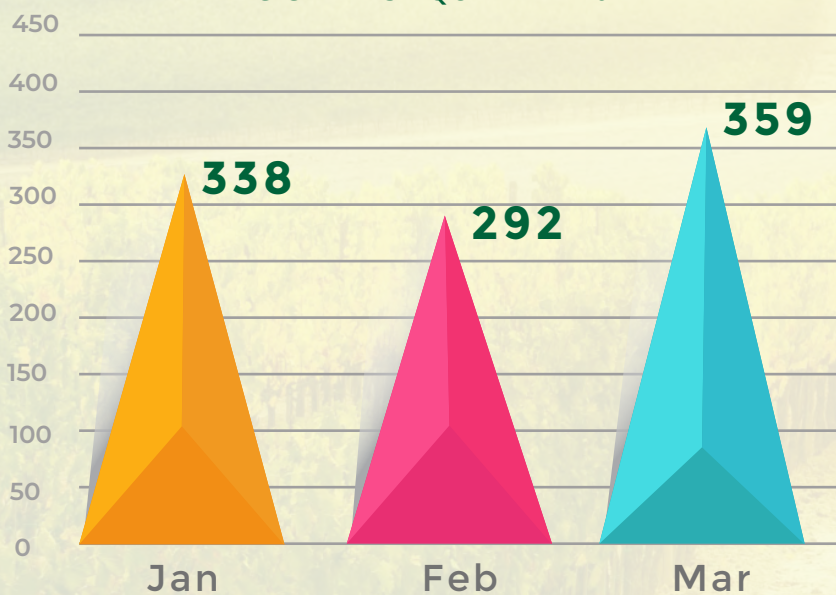
## Poison Information Service (PIS)

AAK runs a Poison Information Service (PIS) which offers emergency consultations for persons affected by pesticide exposure. The centre can be reached through its toll-free lines -0800720021 and 0800730030.

The centre underwent an overhaul in October to December 2021 to address some of the challenges that it was facing, the main one being the overwhelming number of cases not related to pesticide poisoning. For the period of January to March 2022, the following summary gives a highlight of its activities.

### JANUARY TO MARCH 2022 REPORT

PIC CALL 1ST QUARTER 2022



TOTAL CALLS

**989**

GENERAL INQUIRIES

**903**

POISON RELATED

**86**

i. A total of 989 calls were received during the period. Of these, only 86 calls (9%) were related to pesticide poisoning. The majority were inquiries related to the use of pesticides and queries on products to be used for specific pest situations. The call filter system put in place during the overhaul was put to the test and it stood firm by allowing only poison-related cases to reach to the medical personnel.

ii. Counties with the most poisoning cases reported to the poison information service were Nakuru (11), Meru (8), Kiambu (7) and Kisumu (4), accounting for 35% of the calls. In total, 86 cases of poisoning were reported with most being from accidental ingestion.

iii. Non-poison related call inquiries emanated mostly from Nairobi, Narok, Nakuru, Meru, Kiambu and Kajiado Counties. This is an indicator that the users are at least reading the pesticide label and have the sense to inquire on usage albeit through the wrong channel

## OUR REGULATORY, POLICY AND STANDARDS

AAK through its Regulatory, Policy and Standards focus area advocates for a science-based, enabling regulatory environment that protects human and environmental safety, and promotes innovation to drive agricultural growth. The association also supports self-governance within the sector by ensuring adherence to the association's Code of Practice and FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management.

### The Journey to making Pest Control Products (PCP) Bill and regulations

PCP Bill and regulations regulate the importation, exportation, manufacture, distribution, and use of products used for the control of pests and of the organic function of plants and animals and for connected purposes.

The strive to review the 40-year-old PCP Act 346 will soon come to an end as the new PCP Bill, 2021 nears the approval stage. If passed by Parliament, it will replace the Pest Control Product Act that has been in existence since 1982.

The Bill and regulations once approved and passed by Parliament will address emerging issues and recommendations raised in the petition No. 70 of 2019.

The Bill is expected to address the following:



On the other hand, the new PCP regulations will remain the strongest in the continent subject to few reforms which will ensure:

- i. Domestication of regional and international treaties
- ii. Submission of samples for testing
- iii. Interpretation of certificate of registration for registration purposes
- iv. Guidelines on authorization of products for emerging issues
- v. Direction for exports and imports
- vi. Qualification of agro-dealers
- vii. Fees and charges for services offered

viii. Disposal of empty pesticide containers

ix. Role of county governments in training farmers on the responsible use of pesticides

The new regulations will not only continue to prevent the misuse of pesticides, but, rather, go much further - adopting the United Nation's Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), which presents hazardous properties in safety labels, safety data sheets and through hazard classifications.

On 1st to 3rd of March 2022, the AAK and PCPB Board held a workshop to review the draft PCP Bill & regulations. During the meeting the following took place:



Sensitization of the Board of Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) on the status of PCP Bill and regulations and the next important steps towards realization of the Bill and regulations before the national validation which will take place in April, 2022.

Other critical issues which were brought to the attention of the PCPB board of directors:

- The pesticide politics, European Green Deal and the status of Petition No. 70 of 2019 in Parliament and its implication on the food security, safety and livelihood in Kenya
- Discussions surrounding supporting local manufacturing sector, towards realization of the Big Four Agenda (Agrochem Industry perspective)

## | The Policy Link Writeshop Workshop |

Agrochemicals association in collaboration with Policy LINK, a USAID-funded Feed the Future project, which is implementing “Strengthening Competitiveness in Regional Agricultural Trade”, in nine East African Community (EAC) and COMESA countries conducted a Writeshop Workshop to document the main challenges affecting the competitiveness and access of agro-inputs in the EAC and COMESA countries.



The Policy Link Writeshop Workshop at Trade Mark Hotel

The Writeshop Workshop which was held on 29 and 30 March 2022 at Trade Mark Hotel, Nairobi focused on what can be done differently to provide practical solutions to the challenges.

Below is a table of focused areas and suggested practical solutions to unlock the challenges.

### EMERGING STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS FOR AGROCHEMICALS (PESTICIDES)

Emerging Solutions	Category	Information gaps	Partners/ Implementers
<p>Implementation of Joint Dossier Evaluation Mechanism</p> <p>Develop a legal and institutional framework that provides for two pesticide approval approaches, specifically the evaluation of the dossier.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A national approach: - applications are launched with the Partner States for approval within that Partner States only.</li> <li>2. Regional approach: - one application considered by the Technical Working Group for purposes of regional registration.</li> </ol> <p><i>Steps to implement the solution:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Benchmarking against successful regional registration models i.e. SAHEL model and EAC regional medicine registration to benchmark</li> </ol>	<p><b>Regulatory reform</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The model has been tested in the SAHEL region in West Africa. Information needed on how the model applied, what is the impact on the availability and movement of pesticides in the region?</li> <li>1. Benchmarking required by regulators to understand requirements and potential obstacles for EAC implementation such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o what is registration process in SAHEL region – distribution &amp; accessibility of product?</li> <li>o What is being done already at EAC?</li> <li>o What do current EAC guidelines provide – is there joint dossier evaluation? What is the gap?</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>EAC secretariat (lead)</b></li> <li>2. EAC TWG on pesticides</li> <li>3. EAC partner states</li> <li>4. The private sector is represented by national &amp; regional crop life chapters</li> <li>5. Development partners</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) Revise Terms of Reference (TORs) for existing EAC Technical Working Group (TWG) to expand the mandate to include the role of evaluation of dossiers.</li> <li>c) Partner states validate the revised TORs</li> <li>d) Capacity assessment of TWG to undertake joint dossier evaluation would require secondment of experts from all partner states to participate regional evaluation process.</li> <li>e) Develop and adopt regional dossier evaluation procedures</li> <li>f) Partner states to align national legislation to recognize regional dossier approval</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. National dossier process – Need to understand how regulators handle the process in different partner states.</li> <li>3. Institutional framework for implementation of joint evaluation mechanism – what is needed to operationalize?</li> <li>4. Private sector must push this solution. How to address regulatory resistance/ change management?</li> <li>5. Regional approach should introduce transparency in system and reduce discretionary powers.</li> <li>6. Value of regional approach should be clear – national approach assumes harmonized interpretation and implementation of guidelines in registration process.</li> </ol>	

<p>Tax reform on inputs &amp; packaging material at regional level to stimulate local production capacity. -</p> <p><i>Steps to implement solution:</i></p> <p>a) Impact assessment of tax regime on local pesticide production capacity (formulation) in partner states. – do they need tax incentives/ waivers for imported raw materials? What has caused collapse of local manufacturing efforts in EAC Partner States.</p> <p>b) Develop comprehensive and evidence backed advocacy agenda for tax reform on pesticide production inputs i.e. inputs technical raw materials, solvents, emulsifier, packaging materials etc.</p> <p>c) Public – private dialogue platform to address business environment issues.</p>	<p><b>Policy and regulatory reform</b></p>	<p>1. Advocacy for tax reform alone will not incentivize investment in local production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment to support local manufacturing should also be provided.</li> <li>- Biopesticides – promote local production</li> <li>- Study on local manufacturing challenges should be conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministries of Finance</li> <li>• Ministries of trade &amp; industry</li> <li>• Ministry of agriculture</li> <li>• Ministry of environment</li> <li>• National tax/revenue authorities</li> <li>• Private Sector associations – Crop</li> <li>• Manufacturing associations</li> <li>• EAC Secretariat</li> <li>• East Africa Business Council</li> <li>• KAM</li> </ul>
--	--	---	---

<p><b>Implement public/private pesticide stewardship model – regulator capacity (reframe)</b></p> <p><i>Steps to implement solution:</i></p> <p>a) Benchmarking with Kenya for other EAC countries to appreciate the system.</p> <p>b) Stakeholder mapping &amp; consultations</p> <p>c) Private sector develops country positions on developing a levy system</p> <p>d) Revision of regulatory systems to implement levy system – will vary based on country context.</p> <p>e) Develop and roll out stewardship programme. (Targeted awareness of value chain actors, spray service provider models, training programme and professional development.</p>	<p><b>Industry capacity building</b></p>	<p>1. Under this solution can we outline exactly how resources collected from levy would be used by the regulatory agencies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All regulatory agencies in EAC Partner states are underfunded. Regulators collect fees for some services, fees are not uniform in the region.</li> <li>- Sensitivities on introduction of new tax/ cost.</li> <li>- Private sector must be strong to engage government on this model and implement the stewardship.</li> <li>- Sharing of resources must be clear &amp; well defined.</li> <li>- Regulator &amp; private sector benchmark jointly.</li> <li>- Information on South African model</li> <li>- Capacity gaps of regulators should be well defined in defining the problem.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. Industry - Manufacturers/Distributors/Agrodealers:</b></p> <p>3. Pesticide control agencies</p> <p>4. Ministries for finance/treasury</p>
---	--	--	--

<p><b>Establish Industry standards/ Certification mechanism for Agrodealers – rating of agrodealers</b></p> <p>a) Strengthen associations for agro dealers - status varies in countries b) Institute a mechanism for standards or certification or rating c) Enhance capacity to offer services to members e.g. financing options, training on pesticides d) Strengthen the linkages between Crop life and Agrodealers Association</p>	<p><b>Industry capacity building</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is level of organization of agro dealers in countries, do they already have national associations?</li> <li>2. Readiness of agro dealers for certification to comply with code of conduct?</li> <li>3. Do we need a regulatory backing certification to ensure enforcement?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Agrodealers</b></li> <li>2. Crop life</li> </ol>
--	--	---	---

## ANTI-COUNTERFEIT ACTIVITIES

This focus area deals with regular trainings and awareness creation through accreditation of the technical staff of the member companies, accrediting of the agro-dealer and continuous training of farmers and stockists, collaboration and law enforcement.



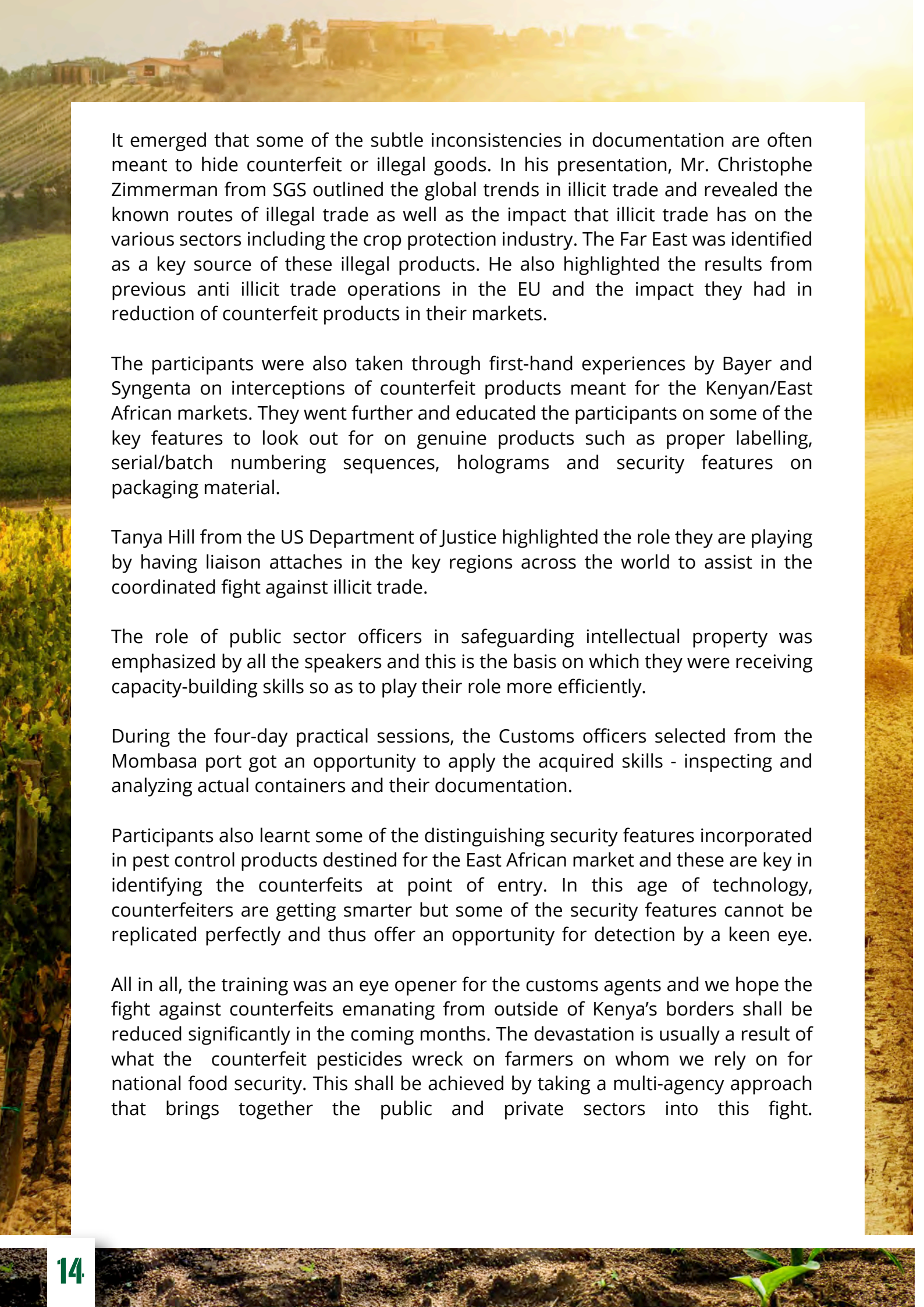
Counterfeiting can be defined as the manufacture of a product which is similar or indistinguishable from a legally trademarked and registered item. This infringement of the rights of the legal owner of the product is a phenomenon that is experienced the world over, with Kenya and pest control products being no exception.

According to a survey commissioned by AAK in 2020, Kenya lost at least Kshs 11.3 billion between 2017 and 2019 to illicit trade. This is a significant sum and most counterfeits are suspected to enter the Kenyan market disguised as regular goods through the ports of entry. The Kenya Revenue Authority have themselves cited that they lose up to Kshs 20 billion annually from counterfeit goods.

AAK in partnership with the Kenya Revenue Authority, CropLife International/CropLife Africa Middle East, SGS, World Customs Organization, US department of Justice, Syngenta East Africa, Bayer East Africa and Corteva Agriscience sought to create awareness on counterfeit detection among the customs officers who are bestowed with the responsibility of preventing entry of these illegal products into the country. The customs agents drawn from across the country congregated in Mombasa from 30th March to 7th April 2022 for a 6-day training on how to detect counterfeits. The training was done in 2 parts namely, a two-day theoretical session followed by a four-day practical exercise at the port of Mombasa.

During the theory session, the over 51 participants learnt how to perform risk analysis by profiling the transportation documents such as bills of lading and airway bills.





It emerged that some of the subtle inconsistencies in documentation are often meant to hide counterfeit or illegal goods. In his presentation, Mr. Christophe Zimmerman from SGS outlined the global trends in illicit trade and revealed the known routes of illegal trade as well as the impact that illicit trade has on the various sectors including the crop protection industry. The Far East was identified as a key source of these illegal products. He also highlighted the results from previous anti illicit trade operations in the EU and the impact they had in reduction of counterfeit products in their markets.

The participants were also taken through first-hand experiences by Bayer and Syngenta on interceptions of counterfeit products meant for the Kenyan/East African markets. They went further and educated the participants on some of the key features to look out for on genuine products such as proper labelling, serial/batch numbering sequences, holograms and security features on packaging material.

Tanya Hill from the US Department of Justice highlighted the role they are playing by having liaison attaches in the key regions across the world to assist in the coordinated fight against illicit trade.

The role of public sector officers in safeguarding intellectual property was emphasized by all the speakers and this is the basis on which they were receiving capacity-building skills so as to play their role more efficiently.

During the four-day practical sessions, the Customs officers selected from the Mombasa port got an opportunity to apply the acquired skills - inspecting and analyzing actual containers and their documentation.

Participants also learnt some of the distinguishing security features incorporated in pest control products destined for the East African market and these are key in identifying the counterfeits at point of entry. In this age of technology, counterfeiters are getting smarter but some of the security features cannot be replicated perfectly and thus offer an opportunity for detection by a keen eye.

All in all, the training was an eye opener for the customs agents and we hope the fight against counterfeits emanating from outside of Kenya's borders shall be reduced significantly in the coming months. The devastation is usually a result of what the counterfeit pesticides wreck on farmers on whom we rely on for national food security. This shall be achieved by taking a multi-agency approach that brings together the public and private sectors into this fight.



Agrochemicals Association of Kenya



# AGROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY PESTICIDE SAFETY WEEK 2022

Date

Venue

6th - 10th June 2022

Kaguru ATC, Meru County

Theme 

**Safer food better health**

## Main Sponsors



Ministry of Agriculture Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation



## Other Sponsors



The slogan for **World Food Safety Day 2022** - *safer food, better health* - is a reminder that we all play a role in keeping food safe. To celebrate the Annual World Safety Day 2022, AAK in partnership with the State Department of Agriculture, Pest Control Products Board (PCPB), KEPHIS, HCD and other stakeholders, is planning to host an Industry safety week on the week of June 6th 2022 in Meru County dubbed "*Food Safety is Our Collective Responsibility*".

During the safety week the association together with its members will showcase to the public what the agrochemical industry has done over the years to ensure that pesticides are used responsibly. The planned series of events are among other things meant to stimulate behavior change among pesticide users by adoption of best pesticide use practices and informed on what the industry is doing to mitigate pesticide use risks.

The Safety week will also offer an opportunity for the industry to communicate the good practice compliance levels in parts of the country as relates to the usage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), pesticide residues, food safety and the environmental safeguarding through waste management.



Agrochemicals Association  
of Kenya



**AGROCHEMICALS  
ASSOCIATION OF KENYA**

P.O. Box 13809

00800-Nairobi

Wireless No. 0202464811/812

Mobile Nos. 0710447777; 0734447777

Email: [info@agrochem.co.ke](mailto:info@agrochem.co.ke)

[www.agrochem.co.ke/Protect to Provide](http://www.agrochem.co.ke/Protect%20to%20Provide)



@agrochem.croplifekeny



@CropLifeKenya



@agrochemcroplifekeny



@agrochem.croplifekeny

