

# MINISTRY PAPER

#140/15

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PESTICIDES CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 2011 TO MARCH 2012

This Ministry Paper is intended to inform Parliament and the public on the operational and financial performance of the Pesticides Control Authority during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Pesticides Control Authority (PCA) is a statutory body mandated by the Pesticides Act (1975) to register/regulate pesticides, license persons to manufacture or import registered pesticides as well as authorize persons to sell restricted pesticides. All farmstores have to be registered by the PCA and this registration expires after three years and has to be renewed.

1.2 The Pesticides Control Authority comprises ten (10) staff members – six (6) Technical and four (4) Administrative/Support.

1.3 The Pesticides Control Authority is managed by a Board of Management which is established in keeping with Section 3(1) of the Pesticides Act.

### 2. Key Performance Indicators

#### 2.1 *Registration of Pesticides*

2.1.1 Applications for registration of pesticides totalled 141 which represented a decrease of 17% when compared with applications received over the previous year. Most of the applications were received in July and January.

2.1.2 A total of Eighty Three (83) pesticide products were registered with an average of Eight (8) per month for the period under review. This represented a 77% increase over the previous period (47).

## ***2.2 Importation of Pesticides***

2.2.1 There are two stages involved in processing the importation of pesticides. The first stage permits the applicant to order and import the pesticides required, while the second stage occurs on the arrival of goods at the port of entry, when the applicant submits the relevant invoice to the PCA, resulting in the second approval. One Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Six (1,176) applications for import licences were received at the first stage of processing at an average of 98 applications per month, which reflected a decline of 7% over the previous year. Of this figure, Nine Hundred and Eleven (911) applications attained the second stage of processing indicating the respective imports' actual arrival at the ports.

A pilot of the online application process, Pesticides Control Authority Trade System (PCATS), began on March 12, 2012. For the period up to March 31, 2012, twenty-three (23) applications were pre-approved in the 1<sup>st</sup> stage while three (3) applicants received final approval under the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage. Both figures were inclusive in the overall applications received and processed as previously stated.

## ***2.3 Quantity of Pesticides Imported***

2.3.1 The Authority reported that 2,775 tonnes of pesticides with CIF value of US\$14,045,683.00 were imported for the period under review when compared with 2,886 tonnes in the previous year, representing a decline of 4%.

2.3.2 Pesticides for agricultural use (42%) represented the largest quantity of pesticides imported. Raw material for manufacture of pesticides remained at 32% and import for household use was 20%, which represented a decline from 26% when compared to the previous period.

## **2.4 Regulation of Pesticide Sales**

### **2.4.1 Registration of Premises to Sell Restricted Pesticides (Farmstores)**

2.4.1.1 Registration of premises (farmstores) that intend to sell restricted pesticides involves inspection of the premises to determine whether the storage requirements have been met in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Pesticides Act 1975. The Authority registered a total of 24 farmstores during the period under review and re-registered approximately 15.

### **2.5 Inspection of Premises Licensed to Store and Sell Restricted Pesticides**

2.5.1 Farmstores, Pest Control Operators' storerooms and retail stores that are licensed to store and sell restricted pesticides, or have applied to do so, are inspected by PCA inspectors. The inspection also includes stores that could be selling these pesticides illegally.

2.5.2 The Authority conducted a total of 578 visits, the majority (71%) of which were to farmstores (409), followed by supermarkets (60) and hardware stores (58) at 10% each. Total visits were in excess of 278 of the budgeted target.

## **2.6 Pest Control Operation Programme**

### **2.6.1 Licensing and Certification**

During the period under review, 10 new Pest Control Operators were licensed and 23 whose three (3) year licenses had expired, had these licenses been renewed. A total of 141 persons sat written examinations for Pest Control Applicator certification of which 47 (or 33%) were successful. Two Pest Control Applicators who required additional certification to practise fumigation successfully completed the stipulated fumigation training course.

### **2.6.2 Workshops**

Pest Control Applicators are required to attend two PCA conducted or endorsed workshops over the three year life of certification; operators who do not attend the workshops are not allowed to renew their certification. Two endorsed private company workshops and seven PCA pre-examination workshops were conducted over the period under review.

## ***2.7 Pesticide Monitoring***

### ***2.7.1 Testing for Pesticide Residue***

The Coronation Market was selected as the sampling site for testing fruits and vegetables for pesticide residue, as it is the largest municipal market attracting produce from a wide cross-section of the country. A total of 90 samples of fruits and vegetables being sold in the Market were tested during the period under review. Of this total, no pesticide residue was found except in two samples of thyme. No chemical standard was available to determine the levels and therefore no conclusions could be drawn as to whether the levels were acceptable based on CODEX standards for Maximum Residue Limits for that pesticide-commodity combination. Testing/sampling of imported fresh produce (apples, strawberry, red grapes, white grapes and broccoli) was also conducted at the port of Kingston. Only the strawberry was found to have had fungicide. Again, no chemical standard was available to determine the level and compare with the CODEX MRL. Analysis of the samples was conducted at the UWI Pesticide Research Laboratory.

### ***2.7.2 Pesticide Quality Control Analysis***

A total of 15 samples of pesticides were collected for the purpose of monitoring quality during the review period. Of the 15, 12 conformed to the concentration of active ingredients stated on the label and so were acceptable. Those that were not within the standard required were retested by sampling another batch and the company informed if samples were still found to be non-conforming. A third substantial non-conformance could result in the product being taken off the market.

## ***3. Audited Financial Statements***

**3.1** Total Operating Income to the Authority for 2012, amounted to Thirty One Million, Six Hundred and Eighty Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Sixty Six Dollars (\$31,682,266), Operating expenses for 2012, amounted to Thirty

One Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty One Dollars (\$31,926,851).

3.2 The Auditors, Auditor General Department, concluded that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Pesticides Control Authority as at March 2012.

3.3 The Authority had a net deficit amounting to Two Hundred and Forty Four Thousand and Five Hundred and Eighty Five Dollars (\$244,585.00) on March 31, 2012.

  
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September 30, 2015  
File No. 346/26

