

MINISTRY PAPER 15/18

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PESTICIDES CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 2013 TO MARCH 2014

This Ministry Paper is intended to inform Parliament and the public on the operational and financial performance of the Pesticides Control Authority during the 2013/2014 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 nine (9) staff members – six (6) Technical and three (3) 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 122 of which 48 were new registrations, 56 for re-registration, 12 for Licence to Manufacture and six applications for “Limited Use”; representing an average of 10 applications submitted per month.
- 2.1.2 Of the total 122 applications received, Seventy nine (79) pesticide products overall were registered during the reporting period; representing an increase of twenty over the previous period (59). All

targets for registration of pesticides were surpassed except that of local licensing of manufacturers.

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 ship the pesticides requested; while the second stage occurs when the applicant supplies the relevant invoice to the PCA, resulting in the final approval. Of note, almost twice as many online applications for licence was received when compared to manual applications.

One Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Four (1,484) applications for import licences were received at the first stage of processing which reflected an increase of 14% over the previous year. Of this figure, One Thousand One Hundred and Twenty Two (1,122) applications attained the second stage of processing.

2.3 Quantity of Pesticides Imported

2.3.1 The Authority reported that 3,549 tonnes of pesticides were imported for the period under review representing an increase of 14% over the previous period with CIF value of US\$20.1 million.

2.3.2 Pesticides for agricultural use (32%) represented the largest quantity of pesticides imported. Raw material for manufacture of pesticides decreased to 30.6% while import for household use was 31.5%.

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 35 premises during the period under review and re-registered approximately 33, to sell restricted pesticides.

2.5 Inspection/Surveillance 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 are suspected of selling these pesticides illegally.

2.5.2 The Authority conducted a total of 500 visits, the majority (77%) of which were to farmstores (386), followed by Pest Control Operator business storage facilities. Total visits were in excess of 300 of the budgeted target.

2.6 Pest Control Operation Programme

2.6.1 Licensing and Certification

During the period under review, 13 new Pest Control Operators were licensed and 27 whose three (3) year licenses had expired, had these licenses been renewed. A total of 121 candidates sat written examinations for Pest Control Applicator certification of which 41 were certified. One Pest Control Applicator completed the certification Fumigation course earning an additional PCA certification to do fumigation.

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 workshops on the control of cockroaches and bats were conducted over the period under review in Kingston and Montego Bay.

2.7 Pesticide Monitoring

2.7.1 Testing for Pesticide Residue

The Coronation Market continues to be one of the selected 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 114 samples of fruits and vegetables being sold in the Market were tested during the period under review. Of this total, no pesticide residue was detected in 89% of samples. Samples with residue were cabbage, pak choi, pepper (hot and sweet), callaloo and 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. There was no Testing/sampling of imported fresh produce at the port in Kingston to test for pesticide residue as the focus was on local produce. Of note, two samples of oranges were tested for suspected pesticide contamination that could affect human health, but none was found. Analysis of the samples was conducted at the UWI Pesticide Research Laboratory.

2.8 Achievements

During the period under review:

- The National Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues (CCPR) completed the review of the draft legislation on Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in Food and Animal Feed (Jamaican standard for pesticides), which was done by the chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC).
- One CCPR meeting was held to report on the pesticide residue testing programmes of PCA and two other agencies, as well as the international CCPR meeting in China.
- In collaboration with Rada, the PCA Inspectors were involved in 15 farmer training days in the financial year and 11 other trainings/community meetings for other groups.
- An agreement was finalized with the Bureau of Standards Jamaica for a 40 foot shipping container to be located at their premises to store seized pesticides. The stock from the PCA storeroom on the MOH building was moved there.
- The PCA Registrar represented Jamaica and participated in international meetings as a result of full sponsorship from the international

organizers. These meetings were the Rotterdam Convention Conference of the Parties (COP) and the Chemicals Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention.

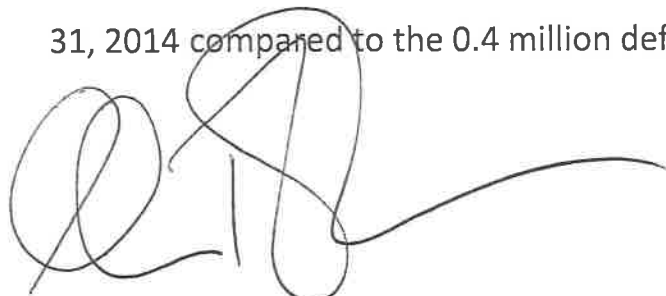
- Revenues were increased by 24% and resulted in a surplus of \$6.6 million.
- Ongoing collaboration with local, regional and international organizations including the Bureau of Standards Jamaica, Caribbean Poison Information Network and the Food Agriculture Organization are of note.
- The PCA responded to concerns of stakeholders of the Bee keeping industry and Golf Course representatives.

3. Audited Financial Statements

3.1 Total Operating Income to the Authority for 2013/2014, amounted to Forty Seven One Million, Two Hundred and Nine Thousand, Four Hundred and Forty Five Dollars (\$47,209,445), Operating expenses for 2013/2014, amounted to Forty Million, Five Hundred and Fifty Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$40,559,705).

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 2014.

3.3 The Authority had a net surplus amounting to Six Million, Six Hundred Forty Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$6,649,740.00) on March 31, 2014 compared to the 0.4 million deficit for 2012/2013.



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