



ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY AND CROP ASSOCIATIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA
VERENIGING VAN DIEREGESONDHEIDS- EN PLANTBESKERMINGSVERENIGINGS VAN SUID-AFRIKA
Lanzerac, Constantia Square, Midrand, ☒ 1995, HALFWAY HOUSE 1685, SOUTH AFRICA
☎ 27 11 805-2000, ☎ : 27 11 805-2222, Web ☐ : www.avcasa.co.za

MEDIA STATEMENT

HANDS OFF BANNED PESTICIDES!!

TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2008
EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE

STARTS

Chlordane, monocrotophos, dieldrin, arsenic – these are pesticides that are no longer in use after being withdrawn from the market or banned by the Department of Agriculture. No individual or institution may use withdrawn or restricted pesticides any longer although some quantities of such products may still be found in farm stores, government warehouses and even in domestic households.

Pesticides may either be banned, registration cancelled or registration suspended by the Department of Agriculture in the interest of public or environmental health. One of the most recent “casualties” of pesticide banning was monocrotophos, a highly toxic organophosphate insecticide that resulted in large scale mortality of wildlife when applied in cash crops. The withdrawal of this product was widely supported and catalysed by the Association of Veterinary and Crop Associations of South Africa (AVCASA), the Department of Agriculture, organized agriculture, conservation organisations and the Agriculture Research Council. The Department of Agriculture finally banned the product on 25 February 2005. Despite the banning of monocrotophos AVCASA receives information from the farming community about individuals with stocks of monocrotophos and who are illegally using it on crops and against birds such as red-billed quelea. Monocrotophos is also illegally used to poison wildlife such as helmeted guineafowl.

Chlordane is also a product of the past as it is one of the persistent organic pollutants that are internationally banned. AVCASA also knows that the product is illegally used by some pest control operators. It is unfortunate that these malpractices continue and urge members of the public to ensure that chlordane is not applied to their premises by pest control operators. Furthermore is it important to ensure that no lindane is applied by pest control operators to domestic premises.

AVCASA urges the farming community and home owners to be on the lookout for individuals who illegally apply banned or withdrawn pesticides. Any doubts about the list of banned and withdrawn products can be clarified by calling the Griffon Poison Information Centre at 082 446 8946.

AVCASA invites all farmers who may still be in possession of monocrotophos to call for advice and support in disposing of the product responsibly. The mere possession of monocrotophos is not illegal but using, selling, buying or advertising thereof is a breach of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947). AVCASA relies on the agricultural community to participate in its endeavour to rid the country of withdrawn and banned pesticides.

DDT is not strictly banned but may not be used for any purposes *other* than malaria vector control by the Department of Health. South Africa is allowed under the Persistent Organic Pollutant Convention to use DDT for malaria vector control in a strictly managed system.

Any use of restricted or banned pesticides should be reported to AVCASA or the Griffon Poison Information Centre – such reports will be dealt with confidentially and sent to the Registrar of Act No. 36 of 1947 for investigation and prosecution.

The agricultural community and home owners are also warned to be aware of unregistered pesticides that are entering the country and sold cheaply in the market. All pesticides have to be registered under Act No. 36 of 1947 and must have a registration numbers starting with L and followed by four numerical digits. Should a pesticide not have such a number on the label it is definitely an illegal product. AVCASA invites reports on such illegal products and will hand over all information to the Registrar of Act No. 36 of 1947 for investigation.

Mr Tom Mabesa, Executive Director AVCASA at 082-657-5329 or

Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, Griffon Poison Information Centre at 082-446-8946.

ENDS