



The Southern Africa Biopesticides Project

Website: <http://www.sabiop.co.za>

Project Secretariat: sabiop@icgeb.org

Regulatory harmonisation: An early draft of the harmonised biopesticide regulatory framework for the Southern Africa region has been developed and was presented to the Southern African Pesticide Regulators Forum (SAPReF) for their consideration at a General Meeting held on 28 March 2023. Following feedback from the Forum members (and revisions made as necessary), the draft will be submitted to the SADC Secretariat, and subsequently to individual countries in the region, for appraisal. A roadmap on translating and incorporating the guidelines into national legislation will then be developed, and training on various aspects of the guidelines given to the participating project countries.

Residue mitigation studies: Residue mitigation studies are being conducted in Tanzania and Kenya to support the incorporation of biopesticides in pest control programmes - particularly to replace the use of late-season pesticides identified as contributory to violations of Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) standards in export markets. Phase 1 of the **Tanzanian study**, to measure the rate of residue decline of methoxyfenozide for control of false codling moth on avocado, concluded in January 2023 and the samples are being analysed. The second phase, to investigate the use of Cryptogran to replace the final application of methoxyfenozide, is planned for the coming avocado season: April-June 2023. The **Kenyan study**, focusing on the control of anthracnose fungi on mango, is nearing overall completion. Phase 2 of this study, to assess the efficacy of neem oil to mitigate the late-season application of carbendazim, concluded at the end of March 2023 and sample analysis is soon to begin. The project team looks forward to sharing these studies' results in coming issues.

Launch of e-learning course on MRLs and their role in consumer safety and trade

Stella Simiyu-Wafukho (Director of Regulatory Affairs & Stakeholder Relations at CropLife Africa Middle East [CLAME])



Production and trade of safe, high quality and diverse food in an economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable way requires coordination of actors, approaches, and tools. Risk-based approaches used in setting, adoption, and regulation of maximum residue limits (MRLs) at the national, regional and international levels are critical; and these have been espoused in CODEX Alimentarius, referenced in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Even when set globally, based on scientific principles, if not applied uniformly or transparently, MRLs have significant adverse impacts on international trade. In addition, addressing knowledge gaps in the understanding of MRL setting and application by critical actors in the food value chain is crucial in resolving current limitations in international trade and consumer safety in general. As such, enhancing knowledge in this area among all actors is necessary to

contribute to the strengthening of MRLs setting, global harmonisation and implementation processes.

Consequently, [CropLife International](https://www.croplife.org) is excited to announce the launch of a 7-module e-learning course on pesticide MRLs and their role in consumer safety and trade, developed by their Consumer Safety Project Team. This tool intends to expand the understanding of MRL-related issues and is appropriate for anyone involved in the agricultural food production value chain, but primarily for regulators in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America who may have limited capacity and resources; and secondary for agricultural trainers, industry, grower associations, regional offices responsible for the agricultural sector, and food safety consultants. More information can be found on the course brochure (see insert), or once signing in on the course webpage: <https://mrl.croplife.org>.

Topics/Modules

- Module 1 – Introduction to understanding MRLs
- Module 2 - MRL setting: How are MRLs established
- Module 3 – Consumer risk assessment
- Module 4 – Codex MRLs: How are CXLs set and used
- Module 5 – Regional MRL systems: best practices and deferral systems
- Module 6 – MRL compliance in agricultural food production
- Module 7 – MRLs and international trade

MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS (MRL)
Consumer Safety and Trade

A 7-module e-learning course on MRLs and their role in consumer safety and trade.

- Follow the course **AT YOUR OWN PACE**
- Watch explanatory **VIDEOS**
- Test your knowledge by taking **QUIZZES**
- Learn more about **CODEX** and the MRLs set for food and feed by the **Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues**
- Receive a nominative **CERTIFICATE** for each module that you pass

<https://mrl.croplife.org>

Dudutech – Environmentally Intelligent Farming <https://www.dudutech.com/>

Dudutech is considered one of Africa's leaders in Integrated Pest Management (IPM), with a wealth of experience in designing and delivering biological pest control solutions developed "By Growers for Growers". The company conducts research to develop and supply zero-residue biological control products for environmentally and socially intelligent farming. To further support the pest control needs of growers, the company has an on-site diagnostics laboratory to accurately identify pests and a training department to promote understanding of IPM.

Established in 2001, the company develops solutions to reduce pesticide use and improve soil health and long-term sustainability in agriculture. It develops IPM solutions for its own farming operations across the world. The company believes that successful pest control is more than products; it is a philosophy of growing that is supported by a number of crop management techniques, physical interventions and biological control. Central to this is a 'prevention mentality' as opposed to treatment of pests and diseases with agrochemicals.



Today, Dudutech, a [Bioline Agrosciences Group](#) company, has the largest biological production facility in sub-Saharan Africa; employing over 350 full-time staff - among them are experienced leading agronomists, PhD, masters, degree and diploma level scientists. Dudutech now supplies over 50 pest control products, including 17 biological control products, a plant and soil health range and specially designed traps, with more always in the pipeline. Dudutech has three production sites in Naivasha, Kenya: 14 ha of outdoor insect production, two dedicated indoor insectaries, and state of the art fungus and nematode production facilities. The outdoor insect production sites are based around the equator, which provides a perfect climate for a year-round supply of predators.

"The issue of harmonisation of regulatory guidelines is close to the heart of anyone responsible for registration of biopesticide products. Lack of harmonisation creates frustration at many levels, and we view with gratitude the attention given by ICGEB to this important project. We look forward to the day when registration of these important components of sustainable agriculture is facilitated across political borders for the benefit of farmers, consumers and the environment."

- Debbie Perry (*Regulatory Affairs Officer at Andermatt PHP [APHP]*)



You might also be interested to know:

Issue 16 of the *Crop Circular* is now available. This issue looks at topics such as managing cutworm and Sclerotinia, the positive contribution of biotech crops to the environment and the impact of the European Green Deal on South African agriculture, to name a few. Read it [online](#) or [download](#) a copy.

Up-coming Events in the Biopesticide Sector

- 06-07 June 2023: [Biopesticides Europe 2023](#), Brussels, Belgium.
- 06-09 June 2023: [XVI Meeting of the IOBC-WPRS Working Group "Biological & Integrated Control of Plant Pathogens"](#), Wageningen, The Netherlands.
- 10-11 June 2023: [International Conference on Agronomy, Crop Science & Protection \(ICACSP\)](#), Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 21-22 June 2023: [International Conference on Agronomy & Crop Protection \(ICACP\)](#), Vienna, Austria.
- 28 June 2023: [International Conference on Entomology & Crop Protection \(ICECP\)](#), Istanbul, Turkey.
- 20-25 August 2023: [ICPP 2023: 12th International Congress on Plant Pathology](#), Lyon, France.
- 13-15 September 2023: [Workshop "Trends in Microbial Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture"](#), Belgrade, Serbia.

ICGEB Fellowship and Grant Opportunities

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) invites South African women (or women with permanent residence) to apply for the South African Women in Biotechnology Programme (SAWBP) Postdoctoral Fellowship. Visit the [webpage](#) for more information on eligibility, guidelines for application and contact details. Candidates who have a particular interest in the ICGEB [Biopesticides Group](#) are welcome to contact the Group Leader, Dr Dennis Ndolo: dennis.ndolo@icgeb.org.

** Closing date for applications: 19 May 2023

Editorial Team:

Dr. Dennis Ndolo – Group Leader & Project Manager
Ms. Karen Hope – Programme Specialist
(ICGEB Biopesticides Group, Cape Town, South Africa)

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