National report on the situation of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and alternatives in Togo

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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1. Brief presentation of Togo

Togo is a West African country located between 6 and 11°N and 0 and 1°40 E with a surface area of 56,600 km² for an estimated population of 7.2 million inhabitants in 2019. Located in the intertropical zone, Togo has a four-season Guinean tropical climate in the southern part and a two-season Sudanese tropical climate in the northern part.

On the macroeconomic level, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices increased from approximately 122 billion CFA francs (around 221 million USD) in 2007 to 142 billion CFA francs (around 257 million USD) in 2016 (PRBA, 2017). In 2013, the structure of GDP at price showed that the primary sector (mainly dominated by agriculture) accounted for 51.8 percent, compared to 22.2 percent for the secondary sector (dominated by mining, building and public works industries and agri-food industries) and 26 percent for the tertiary sector (mainly consisting of wholesale and retail trade, which is poorly regulated).

2. The role of agriculture in Togo's economy

Agriculture plays a major role in the country's economy, which has made it its mainstay of development. It is the leading wealth-creating sector, employing nearly 75% of the active population and contributing around 41.5% of the country's total GDP on average over the period (1995-2005), compared with 20% for the secondary sector and 40% for the tertiary sector. However, with a cultivable area estimated at 3.4 million hectares, or 60% of the total national area, only 1.4 million hectares are cultivated, or 25% of the total area and 42% of the cultivable area. The main productions are: cereals (corn, rice, millet, sorghum, etc.), cash crops (coffee, cocoa, and cotton), tubers and root crops (yams, cassava, sweet potatoes, etc.), legumes (soybeans, peanuts, cowpeas, etc.) and market garden crops.

However, these crops are subject to attacks by pests, weeds and soil impoverishment. This has caused an abusive increase in the consumption of chemical agricultural inputs, including pesticides (insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, and herbicides).

Because of this, the market for chemical pesticides mostly occupied by private companies has experienced a real jump. Imports in 2011 amounted to 2,978 tons from France, the Ivory Coast, Belgium, Holland, China, and India.

3. Authorities in charge of the management/approval of pesticides in Togo

To better manage this situation, Togo, like some countries in the sub region, has signed and ratified several international legal instruments on pesticide management, including the Rotterdam, Basel, Stockholm and Bamako Conventions on the prohibition of the import of hazardous waste into Africa. It has also initiated national regulations and policies on the use and management of chemicals in general and synthetic pesticides in particular.

The implementation of these regulations is ensured by certain technical structures of the State, in particular the ministries in charge of Agriculture, Environment, Health, Trade and Industry, the Association and organization of producers, the National Committee for the Management of Pesticides, the National Committee for Chemical Safety, and the Local Committees for the Protection and Management of the Environment with the support of NGOs.

However, in Togo, pesticide approvals are granted either by order of the Minister of Agriculture upon proposal by the Committee of Plant Protection Products (CPP), or by the Sahelian

Committee of Pesticides (CSP), a regional institution that includes 13 countries, including Togo.

4. Registered and unregistered pesticides in Togo

The present study on the national situation of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) carried out by the Organization for the Environment and Sustainable Development (OPED) with the support of IPEN reveals that in Togo, since 2017, a total of 172 pesticides containing more than 100 active ingredients forming insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and rodenticides, are registered by the Committee for Plant Protection Products (CPP). This global list of pesticides is made up of the 93 pesticides included in the CSP regional list, as well as 79 other pesticides registered by the CPP (at national level). This is a total list of all the 172 pesticides authorized for use in Togo.
According to the National Report for the 'Green Innovation Center' (ProCIV) program in Togo produced by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in 2018, this global list of pesticides registered at the national level contains 16 Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) listed in the table below. So, 27.52% of pesticides approved in Togo are highly hazardous pesticides.

Highly hazardous pesticides /Active ingredients	Type of use
ABAMECTIN	Insecticide
ALUMINUM PHOSPHIDE	Insecticide, Rodenticide
BETA-CYFLUTHRIN	Insecticide
CARBENDAZIM	Fungicide
CADUSAFOS	Herbicide
CHLOROTHALONIL	Fungicide, Oomycide
CYFLYTHRIN	Insecticide
DIURON	Total herbicide
HALOXYFOP-P-METHYL	Herbicide
ISOXAFLUTOLE	Total herbicide
MANCOZEB	Fungicide Oomycide
MANEB	Fungicide
OXADIARGYL	Total herbicide
OXADIAZON	Broad-spectrum herbicide
PERMETHRIN	Insecticide
THIACLOPRID	Insecticide

As for the banned pesticides, 22 substances are listed, 10 of which have been forbidden by a decree of the Ministry of Agriculture. These 10 are mainly POPs pesticides: methyl bromide, aldrin, endrin, dieldrin, DDT derivatives, mirex, toxaphene, HCH, Chlordan, and heptachlor. Endosulfan and lindane were banned by decision of the CPP but have not yet been formally prohibited of the Ministry of Agriculture. Likewise, 10 others were banned from use by the CSP regional legal framework, namely Acetochlor, Atrazine, Carbofuran, Carbosulfan, Fipronil, Hexazinone, Méthamidophos, Monocrotophos, Paraquat, and Triazophos.

Another very important fact that emerged is that glyphosate (a highly hazardous pesticide banned in several countries) has been banned from import into Togo since 2019, although it is still in circulation in some African and European countries.

On the other hand, the study reveals that 8 highly toxic pesticides were registered by the National Committee of Plant Protection Products of Togo and are commonly used in Togo, even though they are formally banned in Europe and other countries of the world. These are: Atrazine, Diuron, Propisochlor, Acetochlor, Promethrin, Fenpropathrin, Permethrin and Profenofos, which are very toxic and have been banned in Europe since 2003. As for the case of pesticides used in households to preserve public health, these are those used in the fight against mosquitoes and the prevention of malaria. Unfortunately, information on the quantities used is not available.

The study also revealed the existence of a high rate of illicit entry of unregistered pesticides into the country from Ghana and sometimes Nigeria. Unfortunately, these quantities are not controlled and recorded.

5. Policies to promote organic agriculture in Togo

With a view to establish environmentally sound management of pests and pesticides, the Togolese government has initiated policies to promote ecological and sustainable agriculture through various projects and programs. Among these policies, the study reveals the following:

- the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2022 adopted in August 2018, which advocates agriculture as the basis for economic growth and advocates sustainable agriculture that respects human health and the environment;

- the National Policy of Pesticide Management focused on integrated pest management which has provided axes to significantly reduce the use of pesticides in the agricultural sector;

- the National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

As projects and programs of implementation, we can mention the National Program of Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutritional Security (PNIASAN/2017-2026); the Program of Agricultural Productivity in West Africa - Togo Project (PPAAO), the Project of Support to the Agricultural Sector (PASA) and the Project of Support to Agricultural Development in Togo (PADAT). These programs and projects essentially provide for the integration of vulnerability to climate change for the development of sustainable agriculture with high environmental value, integrating ecological management of pests and pesticides.

However, despite the efforts made by the government and technical and financial partners, certain challenges persist and need to be overcome, such as the lack of financial and logistical resources, the bad faith of certain actors (illegal trade of unregistered pesticides), the porous borders, and the slowness of behavioral and paradigm changes on the part of many producers in terms of adopting organic farming practices and reducing the use of synthetic pesticides.

6. Some recommendations for the elimination of HHPs in Togo, the reduction of chemical pesticides and the promotion of integrated agriculture in Togo

In view of the negative impacts of pesticides on the environment (water, air, fauna, flora, and biodiversity) and on the health of the population (resulting in burns, poisoning and in serious cases even deaths); and for a better use of chemical pesticides in general, the NGO OPED recommends:

To the State:

- that the State takes initiatives to promote the use of pesticides of biological origin (Support national companies that manufacture biopesticides for example);

- support research into ecologically acceptable methods of fighting crop pests;

- conduct a thorough field survey to assess the real situation of the use of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) in Togo;

- remove from the list of registered pesticides those containing active ingredients (AI) categorized as HHPs, especially when less toxic alternatives are available;

- establish a system for the recovery or management of empty containers and obsolete stocks of pesticides;

- carry out health and environmental impact assessment studies of areas or regions where pesticides are frequently used and inform decision-makers and local populations of the measures to be adopted;

- establish national regulations on the marketing, purchase and use of chemical pesticides throughout their life cycle and follow the guidance provided in the FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Legislation;

For technical services and CSOs:

- sensitize farmers on the benefits of mechanical weeding in particular to reduce unnecessary herbicide applications;

- train people in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), the use of adequate equipment when using phytosanitary products, the preservation of the environment (bees and other pollinators), and in the reading and understanding of the information on pesticide labels;

- to conduct surveillance of pesticide users and vulnerable populations at the national level, as well as incidents of pesticide poisoning;

- educate and inform health professionals on the recognition and treatment of pesticide-related poisonings;

- conduct inventories of pesticides used at the household level and in the health sector (as protection against mosquitoes, the source of Malaria disease).