The Importance of Application Equipment to reduce Pesticide Hazards for Humans and the Environment

- FAO Policy and Experience -

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The Problem:

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  - Very few countries have regulations in place to control, how pesticides are actually used in the field
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- but

- Very few countries have regulations in place to control, how pesticides are actually used in the field (ANTAM???)
The Field Reality:

- Spray equipment of low quality on the market
- Operators of spray equipment unskilled or with little knowledge about principles of pesticide application
The Field Reality:

Spray equipment of low quality on the market

- Unsafe design
- Leaking
- Not durable
- No controlled quality
The Field Reality:

- Spray equipment of low quality on the market
- Maintenance of spray equipment insufficient or inexistent
- Operators of spray equipment unskilled or with little knowledge about principles of pesticide application
The Field Reality:

Maintenance of spray equipment insufficient or inexistent

- Replacing nozzles
- Cleaning and Storage
- Cleaning filters
- Replacing gaskets
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Consequences:

- Health hazards for operators and rural population
  - Incorrect, inefficient and patchy applications featuring:
    - Bad practices
    - High number of applications
    - Waste of pesticides, environmental contamination
    - High risk of residues
  - Pesticides creating hazard for humans and environment
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Areas for intervention: FAO’s work

On-going: Programme for Safe and Efficient Application of Agrochemicals and Bioproducts includes three areas of intervention addressing the three key problems with a set of technical guidelines which form part of the revised International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.
Areas for intervention: FAO’s work

Since 2012: Specific Product/Service:
Consultations on global governance with regard to agricultural machinery standards and good practices in procurement and use (of machinery)
Spray Equipment Quality:

- Guidelines on procedures for the Registration Certification and Testing of New Pesticide Application Equipment
  - together with –
  - Guidelines on Minimum Requirements for Agricultural Pesticide Application Equipment, Volumes 1-3
  - Guidelines on Standards for Agricultural Pesticide Application Equipment and Related Test Procedures, Volumes 1-2
Spray Equipment Maintenance:

- Guidelines on organization of schemes for Testing and Certification of Agricultural Pesticide Sprayers in Use
- Guidelines on Minimum Requirements for Agricultural Pesticide Application Equipment, Volumes 1-3
- Guidelines on Standards for Agricultural Pesticide Application Equipment and Related Test Procedures, Volumes 1-2
Proficiency of Spray Operators:

- Guidelines on organization and operation of Training Schemes and Certification Procedures for Operators of Pesticide Application Equipment

- together with –

- Guidelines on Good Practice for Ground Application of Pesticides

- Guidelines on Good Practice for Aerial Application of Pesticides

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Conclusions

- Most European countries have legislation regarding the process of pesticide application, including equipment standards.
- As a result, European countries are tightening the MRLs for pesticides considering good agricultural practice.
- ANTAM Countries should take similar steps for the benefit of the Regional and National consumers, as well as to secure Regional and export markets and trade.
Thank you for your Attention!