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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB) is a semi-autonomous Agency which was established in accordance with the relevant legal provisions enshrined in the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Act (No. 13 of 2000).

The Board, which operates under the Ministry of Agriculture, is charged principally with making arrangements and providing facilities for controlling the manufacture, importation, transport, storage, selling, using and advertising of pesticides and toxic chemicals in Guyana.

PTCCB is operated by its permanent Secretariat which carries out the mandatory responsibilities and the operational and administrative policies handed down by the Board of Directors.

During the year under review, the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board was involved with a wide range of pertinent activities which were all integrally linked to the principal responsibilities.

The key areas of activity of the PTCCB during the year 2010 are as follows:-

- General Administration
- Inspection and Enforcement
- Registration and Licensing
- Quality Control
- Training
- Internal Capacity Building
- Overseas Participation
- Analytical Testing
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Public Awareness

This annual reports outline the details of work executed for each activity area. The report also demonstrates comprehensively that the PTCCB continued to carry out its mandate, as it had done over the years since its establishment, in a proactive manner in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, stakeholders, agencies, non-governmental organizations and relevant internationally based organizations.

The Board worked closely during the year in review with importers, manufacturers, vendors, farmers and other end users of chemicals in Guyana.

The PTCCB remains committed to carrying out its mandatory responsibilities during the year 2011 with specific focus being placed on completing the establishment of (i) the reduction of illegal trade of pesticides (ii) providing the necessary infrastructure required for the establishment of appropriate educational, advisory, health-care and extension

services for enabling and exercising adequate control over quality, sale and usage of pesticides, while ensuring that the interest of end-users and importers' rights are well protected.

INTRODUCTION

This Report documents the activities of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB) for the year 2010. It highlights the accomplishments and discusses constraints associated with the Board's objectives with respect to activities initiated during the year 2010. The Report also includes the Board's objectives and achievements for 2010.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Directorate of the Board was appointed for the period 1st January to 31st December 2010. The membership of the Board for this year was as follows:

- Dr. Leslie Munroe – Chairman
- Mr. Khame Sharma – Director and Deputy Chairman
- Ms. Karen Alleyne – Director and Representative of the Environmental Protection Agency
- Dr. Dindyal Permaul – Director and Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture
- Dr. Shamdeo Persaud – Director and Representative of the Ministry of Health
- Dr. Dagleish Joseph – Director
- Dr. Elizabeth Ramlal – Director
- Mr. Kuldeep Ragnauth – Ex Officio Member

Mr. Basudeo Dwarka - Registrar of Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals continued to function in the capacity of Secretary to the Board in accordance with the relevant provisions enshrined in the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Act (No. 13 of 2000).

Meetings of the Board

Statutory Meetings of the Board of Directors were scheduled to be held on the second Wednesday of every month. However, only ten such Statutory Meetings were held for the year in review. The punctuality of the Members in attendance at the Meetings was exceptional throughout the year.

Arrangements were in place for the conduct of technical meetings during the period under review as might have been necessary. There were two technical meetings held for the year in review.

Signatories of the Board

The signatories of the Board for the year under review were:

- (1) Chairman of the Board – Dr. Leslie Munroe;
- (2) Deputy Chairman – Mr. Khame Sharma;
- (3) Director - Dr. Dindyal Permaul; and
- (4) Secretary of the Board – Mr. Basudeo Dwarka.

The order of signatories of the Board remained the same i.e. Chairman and/or Secretary with any other Director.

Responsibilities of the Board

The Board is charged with the responsibilities for making arrangements and providing facilities for controlling the manufacture, importation, transport, storage, selling, using and advertising of pesticides and toxic chemicals in Guyana.

Objectives of the Board

The primary objective of the Board for the period under review was the implementation and enforcement of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Regulations (NO. 8 of 2004) with emphasis on achieving the sound management of chemicals in a lifecycle approach. Support from Government and other relevant stakeholders were key in executing activities and initiatives to achieve these specific goals.

It was also the Board's objective to develop effective and workable criteria and protocols to be used to achieve the target goals with the minimum displacement of production or trade and to collaborate with the pertinent stakeholders in helping them to achieve their respective and collective economic targets.

The specific objectives of the Board for the year under review were as follows:

- (i) Fulfilling the International Requirement of the Board for the Rotterdam Convention;
- (ii) Fulfilling the International Requirement of the Board for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs);
- (iii) Fulfilling the International Requirement of the Board - Strategic Approach for International Chemical Management (SAICM) through the Implementation of the QSP Project - Developing an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and SAICM Implementation In Guyana;
- (iv) Commence the Development of National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention in Guyana.

SECRETARIAT OF THE BOARD

Organizational Chart

The organization of the Board contains four divisions: Licensing and Registration, Enforcement and Training, Administration and Analytical. Each Division will be headed by senior personnel. The total staff under the Board is proposed at twenty-six (26) persons headed by the Registrar but current operations are conducted by eight (8) personnel.

General Administration

The implementation of the policies of the Board is carried out by an adequately staffed Secretariat located at the compound of the National Agricultural Research Institute, Mon Repos, East Coast Demerara. This Secretariat, which is headed by the Registrar holds responsibility for General Administration and Operations including (i) training and (ii) enforcement of the Rules and regulations associated with the manufacture, importation, transport, storage, selling, using and advertising of pesticides and toxic chemicals in Guyana.

Staff Development

Throughout the period under review the Board, in recognition of the need for capacity building towards facilitating the provision of services to farmers and other stakeholders allowed staff to participate in a number of training exercises conducted by other Agencies.

Training and Awareness

Training and Education Awareness Raising activities targeting importers, manufacturers, vendors, and pesticide users were conducted throughout the period under review. Such activities included:-

- Training of 2047 farmers & farm workers in the safe use, handling and disposal of pesticides;
- Training of students of the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) in the safe usage of pesticides;
- Assisting the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) with general weed management in the D&I System;
- Training of Extension Agents, Custom Officers, and Other national stakeholders in pesticide risks, hazards and management;
- Registration of Pest Control Operators;
- Development of a Household Pest Control Training Manual;
- Launching use of tracer kit technology; and
- Participation in Agricultural and other relevant national Exhibitions.

ACHIEVEMENTS – 2010

The Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board's Achievements for the period under review were as follow:

Pesticides Submitted For Registration

The Board received eight two (82) applications requesting registration. A total of one hundred and two pesticides registration applications were registered. The unregistered products did not meet the requirements for registration outline in the regulations.

Pesticides Registered

The Board approved the registration of 102 products. Monocrotophos, which is listed under the Rotterdam Convention, was registered as a restricted use product. This product is known for its

Laboratory Equipment and Materials

The GC/MS was the main analytical equipment in the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Laboratory (PTCL). During the period under review the GC/MS was used to generate analytical data on pesticides composition thereby verifying the quality of agrochemicals imported and used in Guyana. The High Performance Liquid Chromatograph which was purchase through the Agriculture Sector Development Unit was delivered to the PTCL. However, the equipment was not used in analytical work during the period under review, mainly because it was not installed. However, other key pieces of equipments that were acquired to enhance the capabilities of the PTCL were delivered such as the explosion proof refrigerator and the analytical balance. Key consumables were purchased to allow for the execution of analytical assays and data generation by the PTCL.

Laboratory Documentation

During the year under review the laboratory staff continued to work on developing, correcting and reviewing documented data to ensure that the laboratory meet the GYS 223:2005 standard for accreditation.

The Quality Manual, Safety Manual, Standard Operating Procedures, Work Instructions and Forms were revised to take into consideration corrections and amendments made by the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS). The GNBS commenced executing a GAP analysis on at the PTCL. However, this process was not completed and is expected to be completed in 2011.

Instrument Work Instruction

Drafting and reviewing and correcting of Laboratory Instrument Work Instructions have been completed. This task, which started in 2009, has been completed and is awaiting submission to the Guyana National Bureau Standard for review and possible corrections.

Regional Training Workshops

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board were represented by Senior Staff of the Board's Secretariat at a series of deliberate Training Workshops. The training included: Fifteenth Meeting of the Coordinating Group of Pesticides Control Board, Caribbean and Latin American Workshop on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and Related Chemicals, and Hazardous Waste Management Instruments; Conference of the Parties (COP-4) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

SAICM QSP Meeting

The Board coordinated two Meetings of the National Steering Committee for the Quick Start Programme (QSP) for the development of an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and SAICM implementation in Guyana. These Workshops highlighted the National Chemicals Management Profile, Priority Setting and the National Capacity Assessment for Guyana. The National Chemicals Profile was endorsed by the Inter-ministerial Coordinating Committee during the year in review. The National Chemicals Profile presents a comprehensive look at chemicals management at the national level. In addition, the Capacity Assessment and Priority Setting Workshops provided key areas for development so as to allow chemicals management in a lifecycle approach. The project which is expected to be completed in April, 2011, allows also for the development of Action Plans and a SAICM Implementation Plan for Guyana.

The SAICM QSP Project also allowed for the formalization of the Inter-ministerial Coordinating Committee. This committee comprises of major stakeholders involved and concerned with chemicals management in Guyana. The contribution and commitment of the Committee in allowing the project to achieve set goals was invaluable.

National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention

The Board secured funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the development of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The project was approved is being executed in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme with a total project cost of the Project is US \$ 410,000.00.

The Project commenced on the 12th August, 2010 with the establishment of the Steering Committee, and an official launch and endorsement by the Honorable Minister of

Agriculture. There have been two meetings held under the project for the year in review with the endorsement of the workplan and review of International Consultants for the Project. The project is expected to be executed over a two year period. The inventorying and development of the implementation plan will be carried out in 2011.

Training

1. The Directors, Registrar and Inspectors of the Board provided training, at a number of locations throughout the country, to farmers on the safe use, handling and storage of pesticides. The training was conducted in collaboration with the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB), the Farmers Field School Programme, GuySuco's Cane Farming Committee, Extension Services and a number of agencies within the Ministry of Agriculture. Training Sessions were held in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10.

Representatives from these agencies made informed presentations relating to their organization and also presentations in pest and disease management, post harvest management of fruits and vegetables and crop fertilizing were conducted in locations where the feedback requested that training.

Participants received training in the following areas:

- Management of Pesticides in Guyana;
- Pesticides Act and Regulations;
- Benefits and Risks of Pesticides Use;
- Pesticides Classification;
- Pesticides Labelling;
- Safe Handling and Correct Use of Pesticides;
- Classification of Pest;
- Pest Control Measures and Practices;
- Dose Rates and Recommendations;
- MRLs; and
- Storage and Disposal of Pesticides.

The following materials were distributed to participants:

1. Booklets on the Safe Use and Management of Pesticides;
 2. Farmers Measurement Conversion Handbook; and
 3. Pesticides Measuring Scoop to assist farmers in using the correct dose rates using the metric system when applying pesticides.
2. The Board continued education and public awareness activities targeting members of the Water Users Associations of Regions 2, 3, 4, and 5, on the safe and effective application of Herbicides along the parapets of weed infested drainage canals. The objective of this exercise was to maximize the drainage efficiency of waterways by reducing the impediments caused by weeds in the drainage systems.

3. The Board continued its work with the Guyana School of Agriculture, in facilitating informed lectures on the safe use and management of pesticides for students pursuing a Diploma in Agriculture.
4. The Board in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture conducted training sessions for Extension Officers from outlying communities at the Guyana School of Agriculture training facility.
5. Extensive training was also provided to the Guyana Customs and Trade Administration during the year in review. The training was specifically aimed at educating Customs Officers in chemicals management in an effort to eradicate transboundary movement of pesticides. Customs officer are the first line of defense at the national level and are a key resource in chemicals management, and in enforcing the Rotterdam Convention.
6. The Board concluded the provision of training to farmers and other Agencies in December 2010. A total of 2047 persons were trained on the safe use, handling, storage and disposal of pesticides. The beneficiaries expressed appreciation for the presence of the Board and other staffers of the Ministry of Agriculture at these training sessions. Farmers expressed the need for continued training programmes and awareness sessions, since these contribute greatly to their development and agriculture in a whole.
7. The Board executed a survey aimed at evaluating the quality of training and services provided at training programmes. This survey was carried out using the questionnaire methodology and evaluated farmers' knowledge base after the execution of trainings. The survey revealed that farmers were knowledgeable in minimum 80% of the areas with in which they were trained.

COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

During the year under review the Board investigated a complaint made by residents of Vive La Force who alleged that their families, livestock and crops were exposed to pesticide drift when the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) was conducting aerial application of pesticides to sugar cane fields at Vive - La - Force blocks 4 - 9 and 13 - 29 on the 2nd December 2010. The residents were mainly concerned about the contamination of their drinking water, which they mainly obtain from rainfall.

The investigation revealed that the Guyana Sugar Corporation was responsible for the ill effects cause by improper pesticides applications. Residents were not inclined for any compensation apart from regulation of the aircraft spraying zone and the refilling of their drinking water which they had to discard. Other recommendations made were implemented by the organization so as to eliminate a recurrence of the same.

The Board also investigated a complaint made by residents of Adelphi Housing Scheme. Residents alleged that their families, livestock and crops were exposed to pesticide drift when the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) was conducting aerial application of

pesticides to sugar cane at Adelphi 27-37 block on the 16th December 2009. They also claimed that cash crops and fruit trees were damaged as a result of the pesticide drift.

It is scientifically possible for small droplets of the herbicide mixture to be transported by wind whilst GuySuCo Aircraft was spraying and deposited in an ad hoc manner on the Adelphi housing area.

It was evident that aerial spraying was conducted at Adelphi 27-37 block on the 16th December 2009 and the pesticides used were the pre emergent combination of Merlin + Diuron. It can be deduced based on the drift symptoms observed in the Adelphi Housing Scheme that the distance between the last authorized spray field and the housing area was insufficient to avoid future spray drift considering the wind speed factor. Affected plants were observed to be recuperating and residents were not inclined for any compensation apart from regulation of the aircraft spraying zone.

A number of recommendations were made that were instituted by the Guyana Sugar Corporation prevent this situation from reoccurring.

PESTICIDES IMPORTATION

Pesticides

The total import value of pesticides and toxic chemicals for the year was Two Billion, Eight hundred and ninety eight million, six hundred and seventy two thousand, nine hundred and twenty six Guyana dollars (\$2,898,672,926.17).

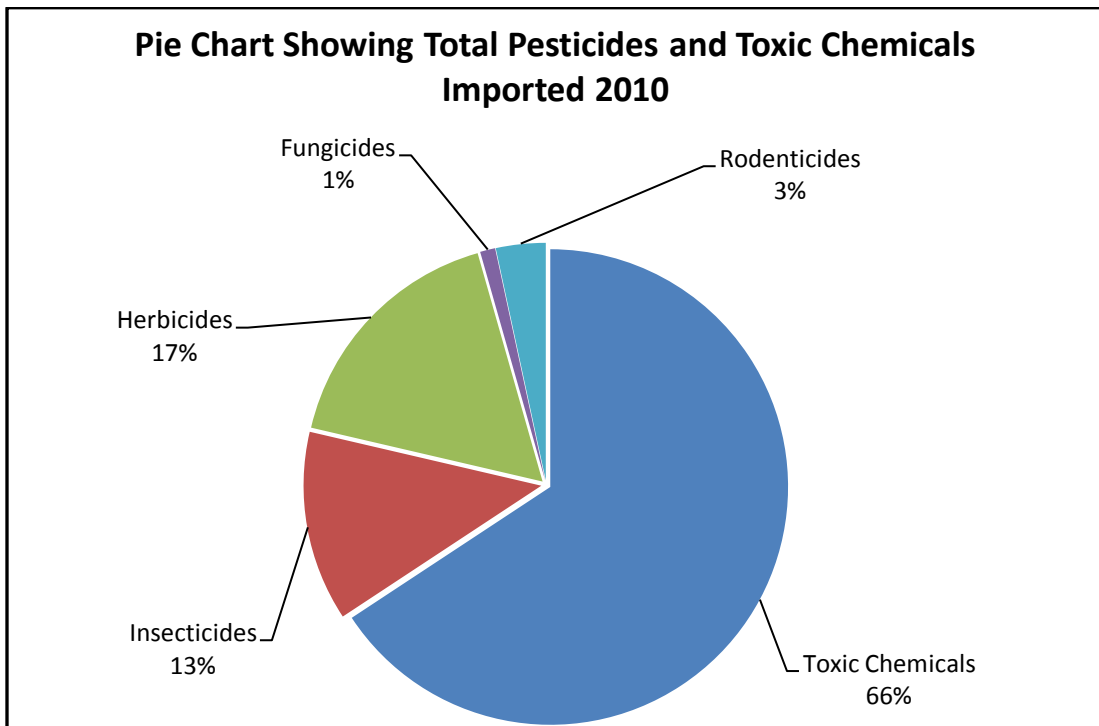


Figure 1 Shows Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Imports for 2010

Table 1 Value of Importation for 2010

Imports	Cost G\$
Toxic Chemicals	\$1,905,204,814.47
Insecticides	\$374,375,927.23
Herbicides	\$491,166,862.04
Fungicides	\$29,877,983.28
Rodenticides	\$98,047,339.15
Total	\$2,898,672,926.17

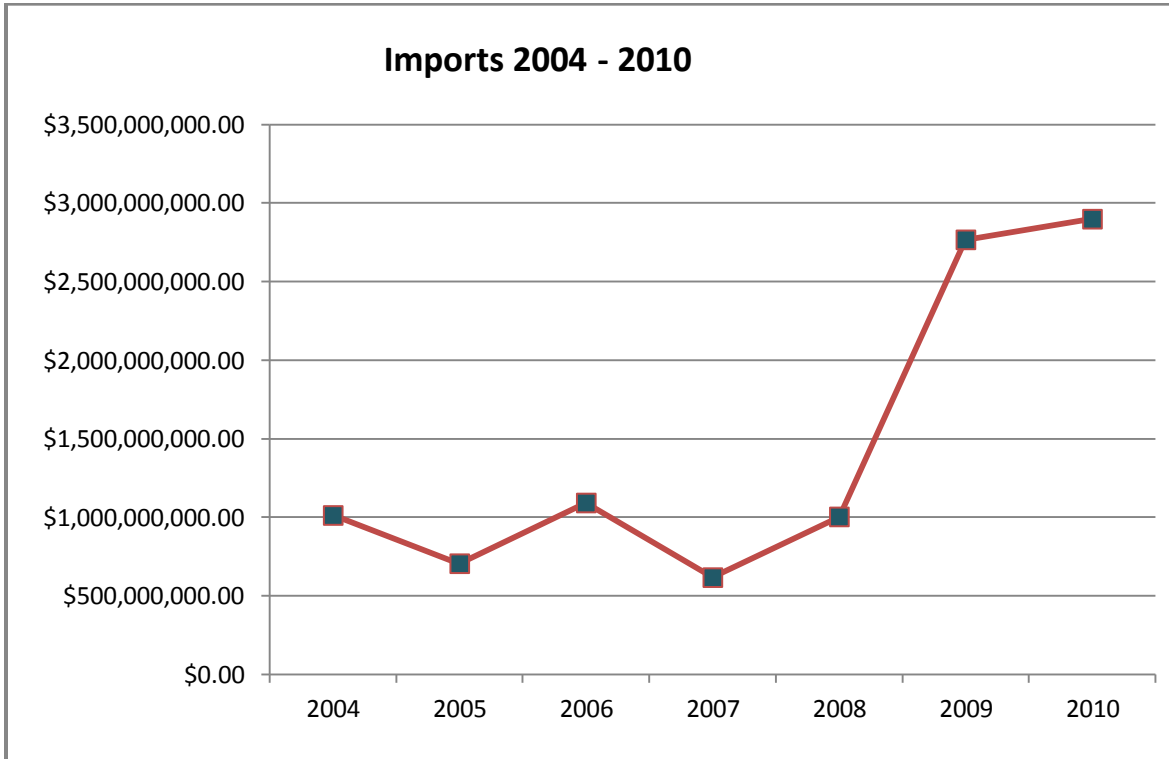


Figure 2 Chemicals Import Comparison for 2006 - 2010

Insecticides

For the year under review there were thirty two (32) categories of insecticides imported with Chhlorpyrifos being of the highest volume, followed by Cypermethrin and Carbaryl respectively.

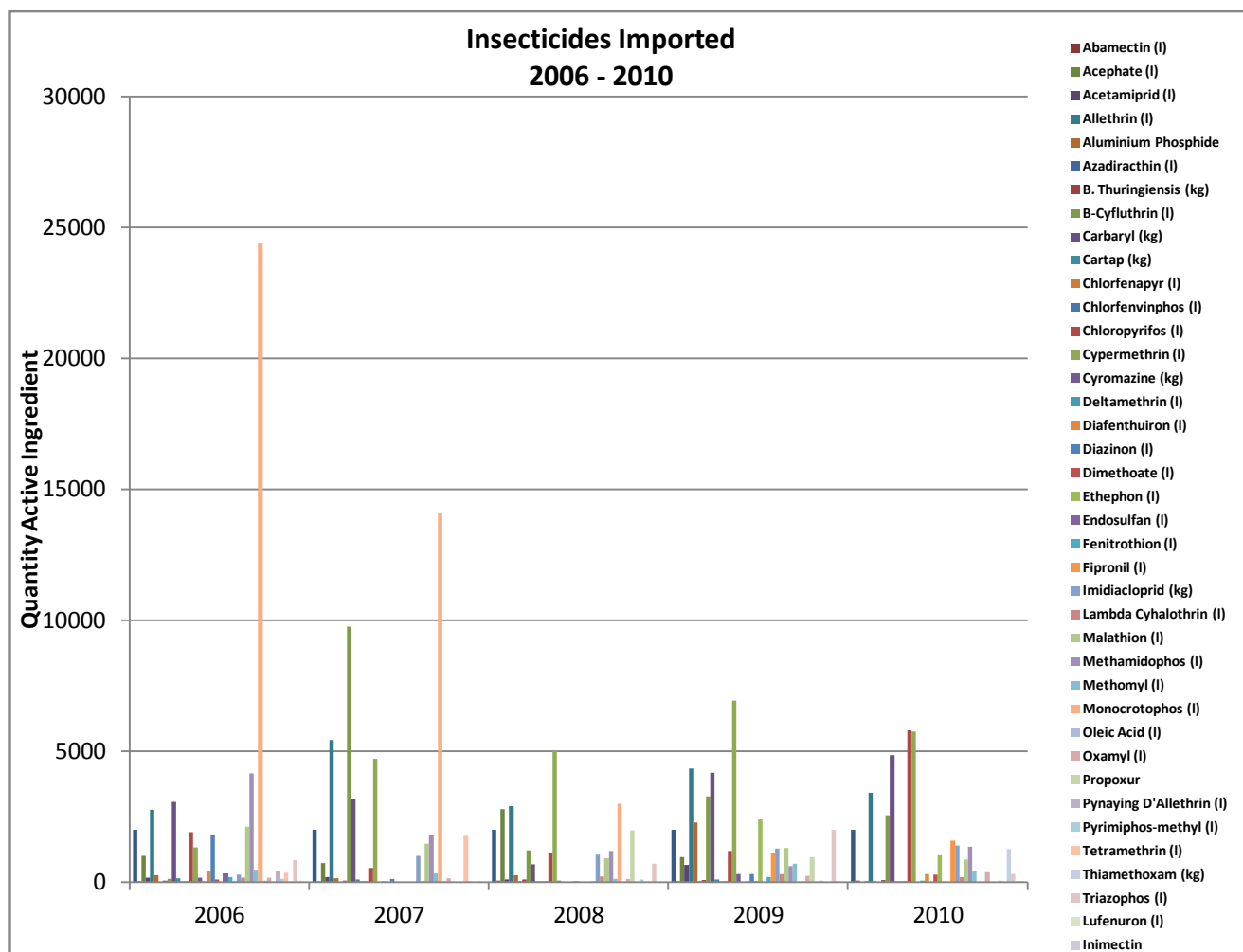


Figure 3 Insecticides Importation - Comparison for 2006 - 2010

Herbicides

Herbicides which accounted for seventeen (17%) percent of the total imports was imported in nineteen (19) categories with 2,4 D being the most imported herbicide. Ametryn and Diuron were recorded as the second and third most imported herbicides respectively.

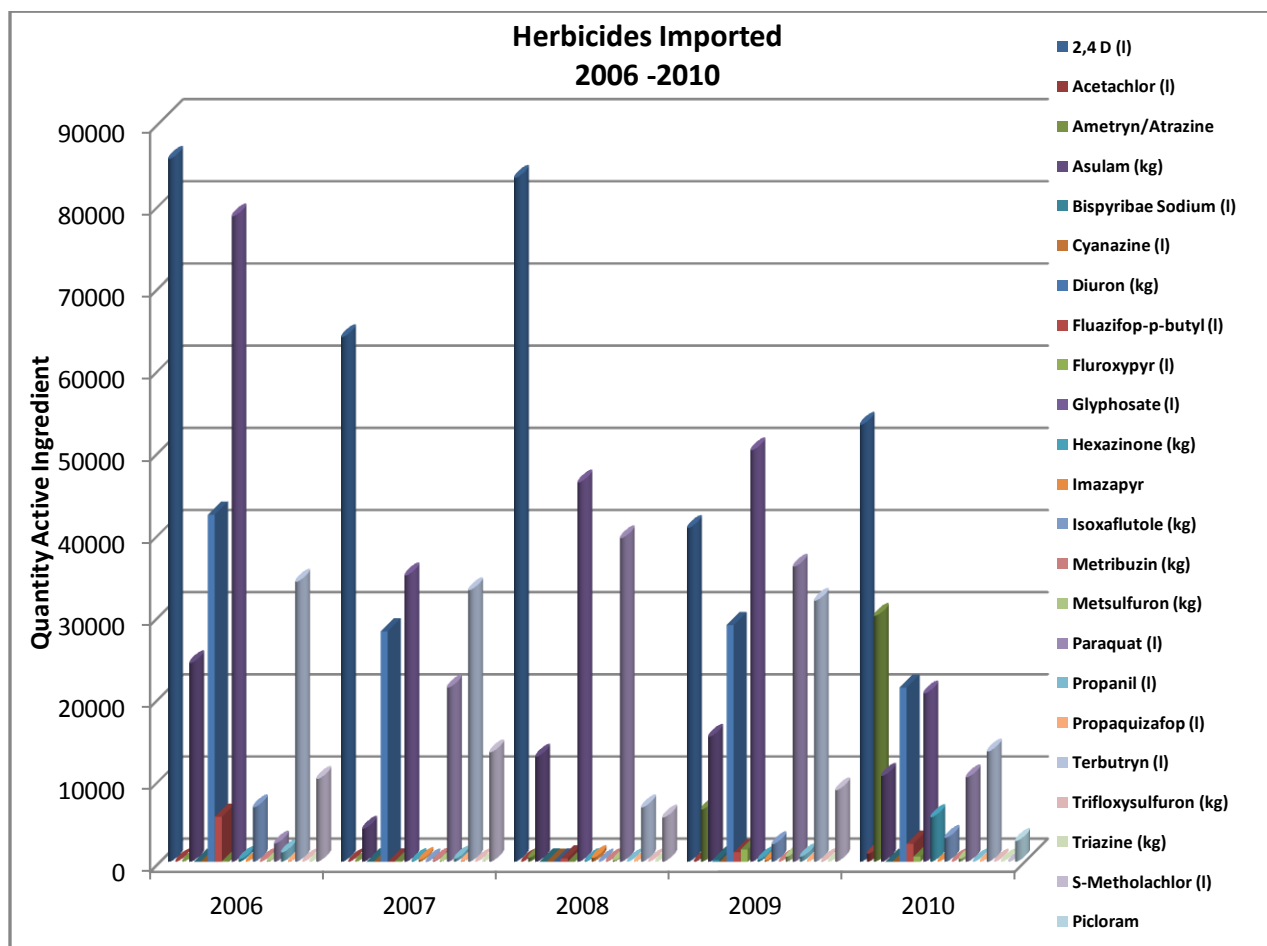


Figure 4 Herbicides Importation - Comparison for 2006 - 2010

Fungicides

There were fifteen (15) categories of fungicides imported for the year under review. This accounts for one percent of the total import. Fenamidone was recorded as the most imported fungicide followed by Carbendazim.

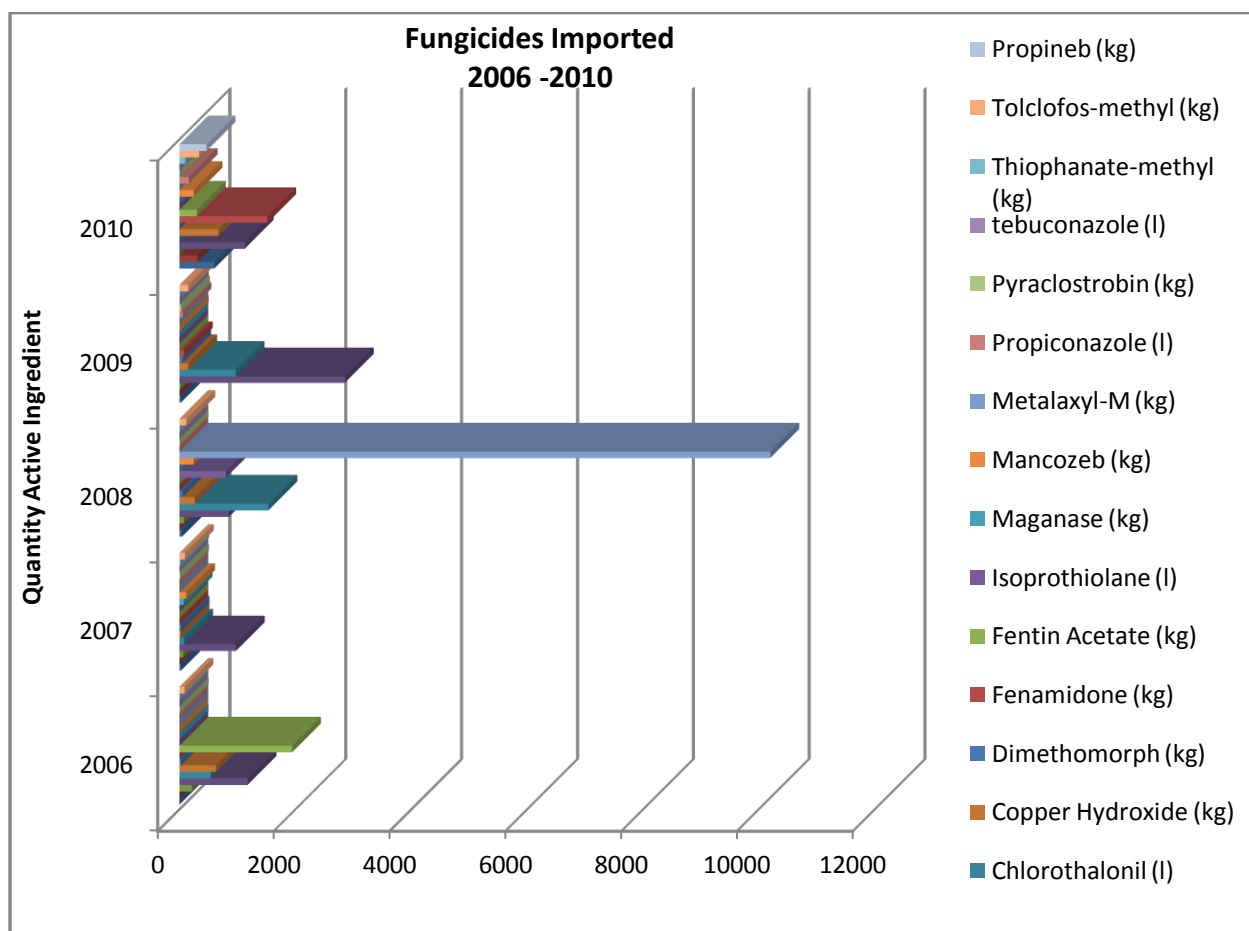


Figure 5 Fungicides Importation - Comparison 2006 -2010

Rodenticides

The total import of rodenticides for the year accounted for three percent (3%) of the total imports. The most imported was Brodifacoum followed closely by Flocoumafen and Fentrol respectively. The largest user of rodenticides in Guyana is GuySuCo.

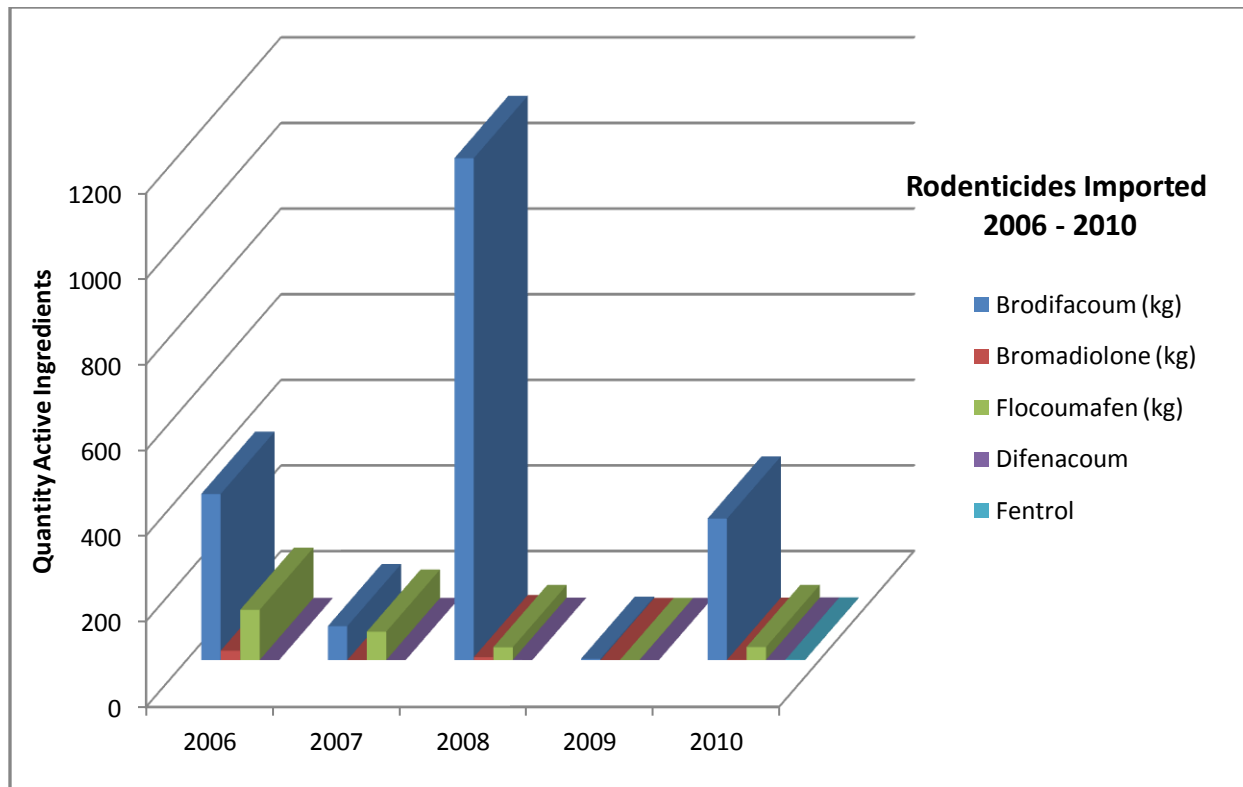


Figure 6 Rodenticides Importation - Comparison for 2004 - 2009

Toxic Chemicals

Toxic Chemicals imports for the year accounted for sixty six (66%) of the total imports. These chemicals consist mainly of products such as disinfectants, detergents, chlorine, caustic soda and numerous industrial products. The Administrative fees for these products which was instituted in 2009, is now three percent of the Cost, Insurance and Freight.

AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAM

The Board through the Agricultural Sector Development Unit received the following: (i) the High Performance Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC), (ii) a generator and (iii) the Administrative Building to house the Secretariat of the Board. The Administrative Building of the Board was completed and occupied by the Secretariat of the Board in June, 2010. The Building was constructed by Alvin Chowramootoo Construction Services. The Generator was supplied and installed by Farm Supplies Inc. This generator services both the Administrative Building and the Pesticides Laboratory. It greatly facilitates the functionality of the laboratory since it allows a constant supply of electricity. The HPLC was supplied by Western Scientific Incorporated, but however was not installed. This equipment is expected to be installed by March, 2011.

VENDING OF PESTICIDES AND TOXIC CHEMICALS

The Board certified one hundred and thirty one vending premises for the year. This represents an increase in the number of premises from the previous year by four (4). Vending premises were inspected by the Enforcement and Inspection Unit of the Board on a monthly basis.

During the year under review there were thirty two (32) seizures of illegal and unlicensed chemicals from vending premises across the country. Most of seizures were based on unregistered or illegal chemicals being offered for sale. This is in keeping with the regulations of registering all products being offered for sale by pesticides vendors.

ACCOUNTS 2010

The Auditor General's Office completed their examination of the Board's Financial Statement for 2009, as required under Section 41 of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Act and the Financial Management Act, and validated that the Financial Statements reflected fairly in all material respects, that the financial position of the Board as at 31 December 2009, and its deficit for the year then ended, was in conformity with generally accepted accounting practices.

EXPENDITURE & ACCOUNTS 2010

The Board's proposed budget for 2010 was fifty seven million, two hundred and ninety one thousand dollars (\$57,291,000.00). The accounts reflect an expenditure of eighty nine million, nine hundred and ninety seven thousand dollars (\$ 85,997,000.00). The accounts represent an over expenditure of twenty eight million and fifty six thousand dollars (\$28,056,000.00) which was met from funds held by the Board and administrative fees collected during the period under review.

BUDGET 2011

The proposed budget of the Board for the year 2011 reflects a total expenditure of fifty two million, eight hundred and fifty one thousand dollars (\$ 52,851,000.00). The increase pertains to the functional operations of the pesticide laboratory in 2011, expansion of the Board monitoring and inspection activities.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The Board executed a number of public awareness activities using the various media. A number of public awareness tools were developed such as infomercials, newsletters, booklets, handouts and posters. The Board participated in a number of agriculture month activities including Guyexpo and additionally launched the use of the fluorescent tracer kit technology. This technology is expected to be used extensively in 2011 to training and raise awareness on the risk of pesticides use to human health.

WEBSITE

The Board's Website, <http://www.ptccb.org.gy> was update continually during the year with information being disseminated so as to strengthen public awareness and information sharing.

PROHIBITED PESTICIDES

There have been no additions to the list of prohibited pesticides for the year in review. However, a number of chemicals are proposed for listing under the Rotterdam Convention.

ENFORCEMENT AND INSPECTION

Enforcement and Inspection activities of the Board continued throughout the period under review. A number of illegal pesticides and household use products were confiscated during the year in review. The Customs and Trade Administration also provided information that assisted the enforcement unit of the Board in executing its responsibilities.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Guyana Sugar Corporation continued to request standard letters from the Board stating that pesticides supplied to the Corporation is registered or approved for use in Guyana. This measure was introduced in 2007, and has continued in keeping with the requirements of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Regulation 2004 (No. 8 of 2004).

Toxic chemicals importers commenced submission of Material Safety Data Sheets for evaluation allowing the Board to identify importers, manufactures and products to be imported.

FUNDING

The Government of Guyana continued funding the activities of the Board through a subvention to the sum of Eleven Million dollars, as reflected in the annual accounts. The Board's moved towards further sustainability continued during the year through the collection of revenues from pesticides and toxic chemicals imported.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES 2011

Some of the main activities proposed for this year are (i) the eradication of illegal pesticides and toxic chemicals import, (ii) the qualitative and quantitative analyses of pesticides and pesticides residues, (iii) the completion of the Quick Start Project (QSP), (iv), (iii) development of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention, (v) training of at least 1500 farmers in the effective use and management of pesticides, (vi) Pest Control Operators and Applicators Certification, and (vii) establish MRL and Codex for Guyana.

KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The key issue facing the Board continues to be the implementation of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Regulations with the major challenge being monitoring of the Regulations throughout Guyana. However the following issues are the main challenges facing Board in its quest for the management of pesticides and toxic chemicals in Guyana:

- **Illegal Chemicals** –The illegal entry of chemicals pose sever risk to human health and the environment. This illegal entry is also affecting the financial status of the Board and will eventually affect the standard of Guyana's agriculture production and quality of agriculture produce.
- **Disposal of Containers** – The disposal of pesticide containers continue to be a problem especially with the limit on financial resources facing developing countries such as Guyana. The Food and Agriculture organization is working with the Caribbean Region to assist countries with disposal.

- **Supply of consumables** – The process for the supply of consumables to the laboratory has proven to be very tedious and expensive because of the need for sourcing to be done through the suppliers of the GC/MS and HPLC as well as time taken to obtain these consumables from the Guyana Revenue Authority Customs and Trade Administration.

FUTURE PLANS: 2011 ONWARDS

One of the primary future plan of The Board remains the development of regimes and initiatives that will allow for the Sound Management of Chemicals nationally. In addition the Board seeks to establish the necessary infrastructure required for the establishment of appropriate educational, advisory, health-care, and extension services aimed at enabling and exercising adequate control over imports, manufacture, quality, sale, disposal and usage of pesticides. The Boards operations of key units such as the enforcement, training and the pesticides laboratory is expected to enhance the Board's monitoring and enforcement capabilities, which would take Guyana's agriculture to another level whereby (i) food safety can be ensured through the monitoring of exports for residues, and (ii) agriculture production greatly improved with respect to pesticide usage.

CONCLUSION

An analysis of the activities of the Board for the period under review would demonstrate that, apart from the routine administrative and operational strategies, genuine and bold initiatives were employed towards achieving its mandatory objectives. While some of the targeted strategies are ongoing, it would be found that the Board's Secretariat was efficient in carrying out its routine responsibilities, notwithstanding the stated constraints under which it functioned.

The Board will continue to work with the Ministry of Agriculture, sister Agencies and external stakeholders towards enhancing Guyana's ability to management chemicals in a life-cycle approach. The Board aims to complete its work programme activities during 2011.
