

Kenya withdraws 77 harmful pesticides amid global safety alignment

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Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe confirmed that the decision follows a scientific review conducted by the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB). The assessment evaluated 430 pesticide formulations currently in use across the country.

"Based on scientific findings and stakeholder input, we've identified active ingredients in certain products that present unacceptable risks," Kagwe stated.

Beyond the immediate withdrawal, the government has placed restrictions on 202 products for use on specific crops, while an additional 151 pesticides are under active review. The use and import of these 151 products will remain suspended until the review is concluded, expected by December this year.

To further ensure safety, Kagwe directed importers to only bring in pest control products that are registered in their country of origin and meet international safety benchmarks. Registration of products banned under global environmental agreements will no longer be permitted.

Importation of any active ingredient under review and not approved in the EU, USA, Australia, or Canada will be prohibited pending final evaluation," Kagwe emphasized.

The move marks a significant tightening of pesticide regulation in Kenya, reflecting growing global concerns over chemical safety, environmental protection, and consumer health.