

**SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SCIENCES (SAFS)**

**DEPARTMENT**: CROP SCIENCES, YEAR 4

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**MODULE:** AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND POLICIES

**COMPONENT:** AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICIES

TOPIC: **SWOT ANALYSIS OF RWANDA NATIONAL FORESTRY POLICY 2018**

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**Agrochemicals**: any chemical fertilizer, agricultural lime material, pesticide, fungicide, insecticide, nematicide, herbicide, acaricide, bactericide, rodenticide, molluscicide, growth regulator or any other chemical or material used for agricultural purposes.

**Structure.**

The main objectives of this order was to determines regulations governing agrochemicals, requirements for obtaining business license and fees for registration of Agrochemicals. This order is composed by 68 articles divided in nine chapters from page six to seventy-eight.

**Content**

Before this order, there were problems of Lack of coordination and regulations governing agrochemicals among the producers, transporters and the agrochemical dealers but this order have solved those problems and now there are orders in producing and distributing agrochemicals and the environment is less affected by the agrochemicals.

**Context**

In environmental context, lakes, rivers and animals were protected because there are regulations set which protect them because it is prohibited to dispose the chemicals residues in lakes and rivers and the industries should be located far from the animals. In social context there is good health of the peoples because there are means to protect them from the side effects, conflicts among the agrochemical dealers were prevented because there are process and conditions required to be agrochemical dealers and also there are insurance accident on the holders and distributors.

In economic context there is price controls because the government set the price which is affordable to both farmers and distributors, increase of revenues because during exporting and importing the agrochemicals there are taxes paid which are used to build the infrastructures like schools, roads, hospitals, markets, etc. there are availability of jobs like loading and unloading, in agrochemical dealers and their workers in industries also there are employment opportunities.

In political context, there is international relation and collaboration because during importing and exporting agrochemicals, there is need to use the climate of the countries in air transport and use of roads during land transport and water transport, the friend of the countries should be protected through the customs for this to be happen clearly leading to good governance and security.

**Appendix**

This contains an important additional information’s added to the end of this order. This includes the list of prohibited agrochemicals like Trichloro 2,2 bis (4-chlorophenyl) ethane (DDT), Diazinon ,Dichlorvos/Dichlorphos , Dieldrin ,Diethion ,Dimethoate, list of registered agrochemicals in Rwanda such us Insecticides and acarisides Fungicide,Herbicides Rodenticidesand list of organic fertilizer’s used in Rwanda like Agricultural lime/Travertine, Gypsium ,Ammonium Sulphate, Calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN),Calcium sulphate ,Compound fertilizers: DAP18-46-0; NPK17-17-17; NPK 25-05-05.

**SWOT Analysis.**

**Strength**

There may be exception for the importation of unregistered agrochemicals for research and emergent event by the ministry in charge of agrochemicals. The registrar of agrochemical may review the list of registered and prohibited agrochemicals when necessary. For instance, the registered agrochemicals which are found to cause side effects may be prohibited and by research, the prohibited one could be added to the registered agrochemicals. The formulation, composition and use of registered agrochemicals shall never be altered and when it is done it follow the process of registration of agrochemicals. There may be production of unregistered agrochemicals for export purposes under the registrar’s authority, the local industry will benefit from selling those agrochemicals outside of the country.

There are requirements needed for the application, approval and data to be recorded for registration of agrochemicals. The certificate of registration of an agrochemical shall never be lent, hired, sold, transferred or otherwise be disposed, it is because it is owned by one-person institution.

Certificate of registration of premises is issued when the requirements like:

* structural arrangement of premises,
* location of premises, required technical knowledge,
* protection of workers and operators in premises are met.
* Etc.

The Suspension or cancellation of this certificate can occur when terms and conditions are no longer applied. Agrochemical dealer’s license are issued when the requirements are met and after some inspection are made. When an agrochemical product is found to cause some troubles there are the instructions to stop it from being sold.

For being fair, the agro-dealers have the right to appeal against suspension or cancellation of the license. Packages and labels of agrochemicals have first to be approved before being used and the warning statements and directives on the label and how the information is displayed on agrochemical label are considered before approval

Agrochemicals are loaded and unloaded wearing protective clothing, so as to protect the life of workers and the agrochemicals are in the containers where they could not leak, or diffuse from the containers to contaminate the environment.

During transportation, the vehicles are with labels stating the hazardous of the transported agrochemicals and the Corrosive agrochemicals are transported in plastic containers to prevent its reaction with metals while the explosive agrochemicals are transported under cool condition to prevent the explosion due to the heat. An advertiser of an agrochemical uses statement or visual presentation without omission, ambiguity or exaggerated which may mislead the buyers regarding to the safety and the announcement of agrochemicals should meet with the information given in the registration of agrochemicals. Restricted agrochemicals are not advertised except when are permitted by the authorities. To keep the safety of agrochemical dealers, buyers and environment, there are the measures taken in the storage and conditions that premise meet. E.g. Premise has not to keep food, feeds and drinking water in it or use it as a sleeping house for the humans or animals, etc.

When agrochemicals are only used for which are provided for and in accordance with the instructions. There are the precautions on the use of agrochemicals to protect the users, animals and as well as the environment.

The agrochemicals can be tested when all requirements. There is a good structure of reporting the result from testing. The technical report from the research is submitted to the advisory council and from advisory counsel to the registrar. Within 14 days, the registrar communicates the decisions of advisory counsel to the applicants. There is no disposition of agrochemicals on the land within 10 m of water course or within 50 m of a lake. After using the agrochemicals, the agrochemical containers are collected in a designed place before the safe disposal. REMA as the institution responsible for the environment protection, provides the authority showing how the disposition of agrochemicals are done.

**Weakness**

Import of unregistered agrochemicals:

Chap1; article :3, details when unregistered agrochemicals can be imported: researches, , transition to another country or by recommendation of minister who is in charge of agrochemicals. This law should have been also design a path to favor the import of unregistered agrochemicals in the country for farmers who do business for export purposes.

Farmers who do businesses for export should have been favored to import unregistered agrochemicals in Rwanda which are registered to the market they export to. This can levels up their level of completion, dawns the cost of production and satisfied market hence the increase of GDP.

Restriction or prohibition of the use of agro chemicals:

Chap1;article 5 describe whys and how restriction for the use of agrochemicals is done, this can result to a huge stock of restricted agrochemicals which are stored when they were allowed on the market . This can result into the big loss for agro dealers. Incase agrochemicals are restricted there should be the compensation for agro who still have the stock which was imported before restrictions and management of restricted agrochemicals should be in the hands of government.

Labels

Chap4;section 2: article 38, 39 and 40 of the law states the label and information on them, but all Catalogue so and labels on agrochemicals should be translated into KINYARWANDA because they are still insignificant for farmers who use them as they don’t understand what they mean. There should be an agency responsible for the translation of the catalog to Kinyarwanda for the imported agrochemicals and local industries should be assigned to include Kinyarwanda catalogue for their products in case they are used in the country.

Transportation's of agrochemicals

Chap4; section 3, article:40,41and 42 indicate all requirements in transportation of agrochemicals chemicals, transported agrochemicals can be damaged in the process therefore this article should have been set a close to mandate an evaluation on safeness of transported agrochemicals In before they are stored.

**Opportunities**

Improved infrastructures

Rwanda has so many improved infrastructures like roads, internet etc. which help in the transportation of agrochemicals, easy registration, evaluation and information dissemination about agro chemicals. This help the concerned partners in this law to execute their duties easily and on time.

Master plan

Master plans indicates the future of infrastructures of the country, it also put in place the laws governing construction of premises and their location. This help people who want to build lawful premises in order to register in manufacturing or distribution of agrochemicals. Not only that but also makes evaluation and guidance very easy.

Skilled labor

Rwanda has lost a potential human resource in genocide, but it has come a long way in the training a potential human resource. Now there is availability of skilled people required by the law in manufacturing and distribution of agrochemicals. This make agrochemicals industry in Rwanda to be competitive to international level and boost up the application of this law.

Easy investment

Government has made a culture of easy investment in Rwanda and now we are ranked to the third country in Africa to make business easier. This help people to make agrochemicals industry very professional and hence the culture of law abiding institutions is created.

Cooperatives

Farmers and agro-dealers are in cooperatives , this make it very easy for the government to control, evaluate how this law is applied . Information dissemination is easier and farmers who are not educated has a facilitation of the cooperatives for knowing the registered, prohibited agrochemicals In and also the safe use of agrochemicals is possible.

Subsidized programs

Government have many subsidies program like Nkunganire, etc. This makes the access to agrochemicals comfortable to farmers and make it easier to import of registered agrochemicals and in case of restricted agro chemicals it can be easy to control.

**Threats.**

Factors or situation or activity that may cause harm or affect negatively the policy or order. Those are external factors.

**Pesticide resurgence**: This is the resistance of the pest to the chemicals where the pesticides are applied on pest and then after develop resistance to that chemical so that the next application have no effect on pest control.

**Pandemic diseases like covid-19**: during pandemic disease like covid-19, distribution, importing and exporting the chemicals has been disturbed due to the lockdown and quarantine so that the availability of pesticides has been negatively affected.

**Counterfeiters**: Those are the people who distribute agrochemicals in illegal ways. they can use fake protective clothing; they can make pesticides which have different active ingredients showed on the package. **Post-harvest interval** does not respect by the farmers leading to negative effects because there is period recommended for every crop to be harvested after application of the pesticides so that the pesticides do not have negative effects on the human lives, sometimes the farmers harvest their crops without respecting that time leading to the negative effects.

In Article 17 they say that any premise in which agrochemical business is carried out is located away from residential areas, schools, hospitals, shopping areas and food manufacturers; but the population increase and infrastructures may hinder this standard so that leading to the negative effects. They also say that it must be located away from areas which are subject to flooding but heavy rain can lead to flooding.

Itcan be found that agrochemical became harmful to environment before the duration and renewal of the certificate of registration of premises (5 years) so that to remove from the market become difficult and at this case it can be distributed illegally.

**Corruption**

Suspension or cancellation of the certificate of registration of premises may happen if there is bad information transmitted from certificate holder rivals for the purpose of putting him into the losses and become monopoly to the market. This is caused by during agrochemical testing, applicants may influence or deals with the research staff team or personnel responsible for testing the candidate agrochemical.

**Package**

Approval of the package may be allowed in the country but prohibited in exported country. For example, in Rwanda it is prohibited to use plastic bags while in some outside countries which import agrochemicals in our country it is allowed so that to be welcomed in our country become problems and also the information listed outside the packages may be far from those found in active ingredient.

**Climate change**

During Transportation of corrosive are transported in plastics while Explosive agrochemicals are transported under cool conditions. climate may change and accident during transportation and hinder the proper transportation of agrochemical.

**Conclusion**

As a conclusion r to, Government has done a great job in putting in place this ministerial order governing agrochemicals. This ministerial order was found to be very good in controlling and regulating agrochemical industries and this is proven by drastic changes which result in an ordered agrochemicals industry we have today.

This ministerial order should be updated regularly due to the weaknesses, threats, opportunities to make it excellent. The government should put much effort to make this ministerial order known to the farmers and concerning partners because a little is known about it.