

or reused for other purposes. Obsolete or unwanted pesticides and containers must be disposed of according to manufacturers' instructions on the pesticide label, or as governed by the Waste Disposal Ordinance.

10. Farmers should keep records on the purchase, and disposal of pesticides used in their farms. There should be an updated stock inventory and a complete diary of applications: crop, date of planting, pests, weather conditions, pesticide(s) used, date of application and amounts.
11. Farmers must strictly adhere to the withholding period or pre-harvest interval specified on the pesticide label to avoid harvested crops tainted with pesticide residue. Farmers should wait for at least two weeks before harvesting their crops after the last pesticide application if no withholding period is specified on the pesticide label.



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KALRO/NAVCDP/ Brochure No. 136/2024



GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES - SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES



Introduction

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) provides guidelines on sustainable production of safe pyrethrum products. It focuses on reducing the risk of chemical contamination (e.g. by pesticides and heavy metals) at the farm level. Farmers may voluntarily follow this code of practice, identify potential problems in their farms, take appropriate control/mitigation measures, and monitor effectiveness of such measures.

N/B: Proper pesticide use can protect farmer's health and the environment, and ensure food safety.

Safe Use of Pesticides

1. Farmers must only purchase registered pesticides which are properly labelled and packaged.
2. Farmers must read the pesticide labels carefully, in particular noting specific warnings and



Farmers wearing protective clothing while spraying (Source: Kentegra, 2024)



Protective equipment for spraying pesticides

3. Pesticides should be applied in the minimum quantity required for pest control.
4. Farmers should wear appropriate personal protective equipment as specified on the pesticide label (e.g. overalls, rubber gloves, boots, face masks, goggles etc.) when mixing and applying pesticides. The application equipment should be maintained properly and checked regularly for leaks, malfunctions and calibration accuracy.
5. Pesticides should not be applied when winds are strong to avoid particle drift. Runoff should be avoided by not applying pesticides during rainy weather, and not irrigating immediately after pesticide application. Farmers should set up buffer zones around water sources in their

farms to prevent contamination of water from pesticide drift and runoff.

6. After applying pesticides, farmers should remove and wash their clothes; then thoroughly wash their hands, face, and body. Farmers should never eat, drink or smoke while applying pesticides or before cleaning up.
7. Pesticides should be stored in their original containers and kept tightly closed in a cool, well ventilated and protected location, away from food/drinks, seed storage, product packing areas and water sources to prevent contamination from spill, leaching, runoff or wind drift.



*Farmer spraying crops
(Source: Kentegra, 2024)*

8. Insecticides should be stored away from herbicides to prevent use mix-up, contamination and possible plant damage.
9. Pesticide containers should not be recycled