



Sustainability: It's not straightforward

Agbiz Media Day - November 2024

Straightforward:
Why?

Not-So
Straightforward:
What, Who, When,
How?



How people engage is not straightforward

- We are missing each other.
- Industry/science/technology/academia – does not exist in a vacuum.
- Social emotion is the primary driver of moral reasoning – rational reasoning?
- Escalating, polarised opinions – as if there are only two sides.
 - Chemical or natural
 - Sustainable or profit
 - Good or bad



It can turn this:

CropLife SA empowers responsible pesticide container disposal

BY IVOR PRICE @ 29TH AUGUST 2023

RELEVANT

Environmental safety

POLLINATOR SAFETY – just 'bee' responsible

Un [Elriza Theron, marketing and communications manager, CropLife SA](#)

SAFETY OF FARM WORKERS handling pesticides not negotiable



Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, operations and stewardship manager, CropLife South Africa

In a country that is often compared to the most advanced farming nations in the world, farm workers are an important component of the agricultural success story. A healthy work force is a valuable asset; producers need to ensure that workers do not face undue risks while working.

Pesticides – insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, plant growth regulants and adjuvants – are compounds that are potentially hazardous to human beings. Farm workers most often handle and apply these essential plant protection products, with varying levels of risk to themselves and the environment. The safe handling of pesticides should be gospel on farms. Sometimes, however, there are incidents of undue exposure because of irresponsible practices – often with

are required to keep the worker safe. Knapsack spray operators should also wear a polyethylene apron back to front to protect the back against spray mixture dripping from the knapsack. Once the work has been completed, the worker needs to clean the personal protective clothing, wash the hands and face and take a shower to decontaminate the body. When working with tractor boom sprays, this set of clothing is adequate, but a mist blower requires total facial cover because inhaling the fine mist and eye contact become real risks.

Advanced protection for spray mix preparations

Preparing spray mixtures is a risky business due to the

Into this:



DAILY MAVERICK

MAVERICK CITIZEN

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Poison on a plate: Outdated agrichemical legislation means your avocado-topped pizza could be hazardous to your health



firms regulate tests is nothing

She

21 August 2023

South Africa's list of highly hazardous pesticides researched and published by the network Unpoison

This publicly available list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides, hitherto shrouded in secrecy and closely guarded by the pesticide industry, and using the categorisation and criteria developed by the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management, shows that there are 192 highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) registered and in use in SA. Of this, only 16 have partial bans or restrictions.

Furthermore, over a third (57/192) are banned in the European Union (because of unacceptable human health and environmental risks), and 36 of them belong to the most hazardous class, (WHO Group 1a and 1b), which are substances known to have carcinogenic potential for humans, based on human health evidence, and in acute poisonings can cause death.

The UnPoison network is calling on the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development (DALRRD) to urgently embark upon a process to phase out

Small steps make a big difference

- The words we use matter – at ALL levels of society.
- With every right comes a responsibility.
- Sustainability and stewardship is our collective story to tell.
- It must be both – TALK & DO





Please reach out.
Thank you

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