



Embassy of the Republic of Mauritius and Permanent Mission of Mauritius to the United Nations and other International Organizations

Ambassade de la République de Maurice et Mission Permanente auprès des Nations Unies et des autres Organisations Internationales

No. 6/2017 (MMG/HR/28/3)

The Embassy and Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the latter's Note dated 12 October 2016 pertaining to the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, has the honour to attach herewith the replies to the questionnaire from the Government of the Republic of Mauritius.

The Embassy and Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 6 January 2017

**The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211
Geneva**

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Question No.1-The Dangerous Chemicals Control Act 2004, under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, through the Dangerous Chemicals Control Board regulates the import, export, manufacture, sale, store, trade in and distribution of pesticides.

Under the Dangerous Chemicals Control Act 2004, the Ministry responsible for the subject of Agriculture (Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security) shall exercise such powers and conform such duties as are conferred to it by this Act for inspection, information, guidance and control of proper and safe use of pesticides residues on vegetables, fruits and any other agricultural material such as soil, livestock, feed or fodder.

Ministry of Health and Quality of Life is the focal point for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain chemicals and pesticides in International Trade.

Question No.2-Our successful measures are that since 1972 pesticides have been regulated by the Pesticides Control Act and replaced by the Dangerous Chemicals Control Act 2004 for better control with **a list of prohibited pesticides.**

Question No.3- Children are not allowed to work and workers are protected by the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005, replacing the Act of 1988 under the aegis of the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training. Also the Twelfth Schedule of the DCC Act 2004 provides special protection to pesticides workers where minor (under 18) and pregnant women are not allowed to work.

Question No.4- Nil

Question No.5-Information to pesticides users and consumers falls under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security. This Ministry sensitises farmers on the safe use of pesticides.

Question No.6-Good practices are the legislation, the DCC Act 2004 where all pesticides are either severely restricted or prohibited. Also, under the DCC Act 2004, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS) is followed. Under the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security the Food Technology Laboratory monitors pesticides residues and FAREI

provides training programme for pesticides users. Further efforts are the upcoming of draft regulation for the proper and safe use of pesticides by farmers, control of pesticides residues on vegetable and fruits by the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security. Also organic farming is encouraged.

Question No.7- There is no production of pesticides in Mauritius. The Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security is coming up with draft Regulations for the proper and safe use of pesticides by farmers, control of pesticides residues on vegetable and fruits. Organic farming is encouraged.

The Dangerous Chemicals Control Board restricts liquid formulations of pesticides for which granular formulations are readily available.

There is a proposed Dangerous Chemicals Control (Amendment of Schedules) Regulations to better protect health and environment.

Question No.8- Organic farming is encouraged by the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security. There is a yearly Phasing out of a number of pesticides since 2014 as per the Ecological Agriculture Action Plan for Mauritius and Rodrigues.

Question No.9- Nil

Question No.10- There is a proposed Dangerous Chemicals Control (Amendment of Schedules) Regulations to better protect health and environment.

Also the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security is coming up with draft regulations for the proper and safe use of pesticides by farmers, control of pesticides residues on vegetable and fruits.