

# The Regulatory Environment within East Africa and its Influence on Access to Pesticides for the Control of Desert Locusts

Presentation during the AATF Webinar  
*“A 21st Century Integrated Approach to  
Management of Desert Locusts”*

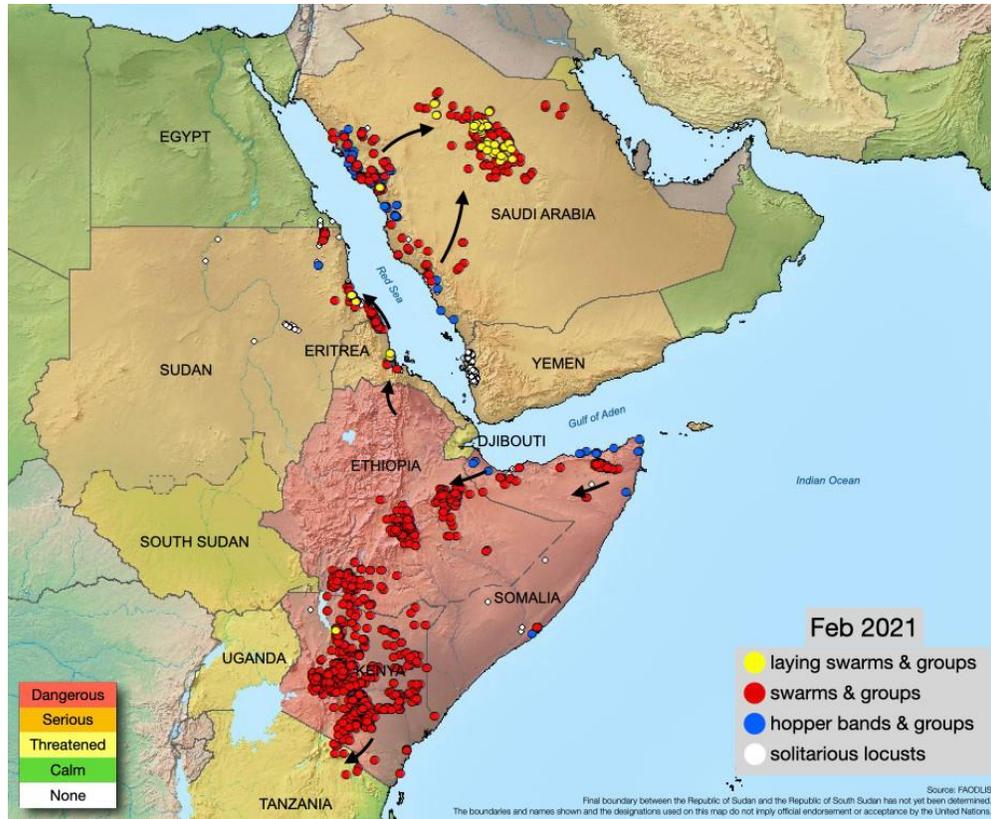
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# The Economic Importance of Desert Locusts



Source: FAO <http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/en/info/info/index.html>

**Countries in the Eastern Africa Region:**  
Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan  
and Tanzania

## Economic Impact (2020/2021)

4.3 M

Acres already treated by  
end of January 2021

1B  
USD

Value of 3.3 MT of Crops that  
could have been lost

22.3 M

People who could potentially be  
food insecure including 1.6 M  
pastoral households.

215M  
USD

Funding towards regional Desert  
Locust Response

Source of statistics: FAO



# The need for Enabling Environment in the Pesticide Industry

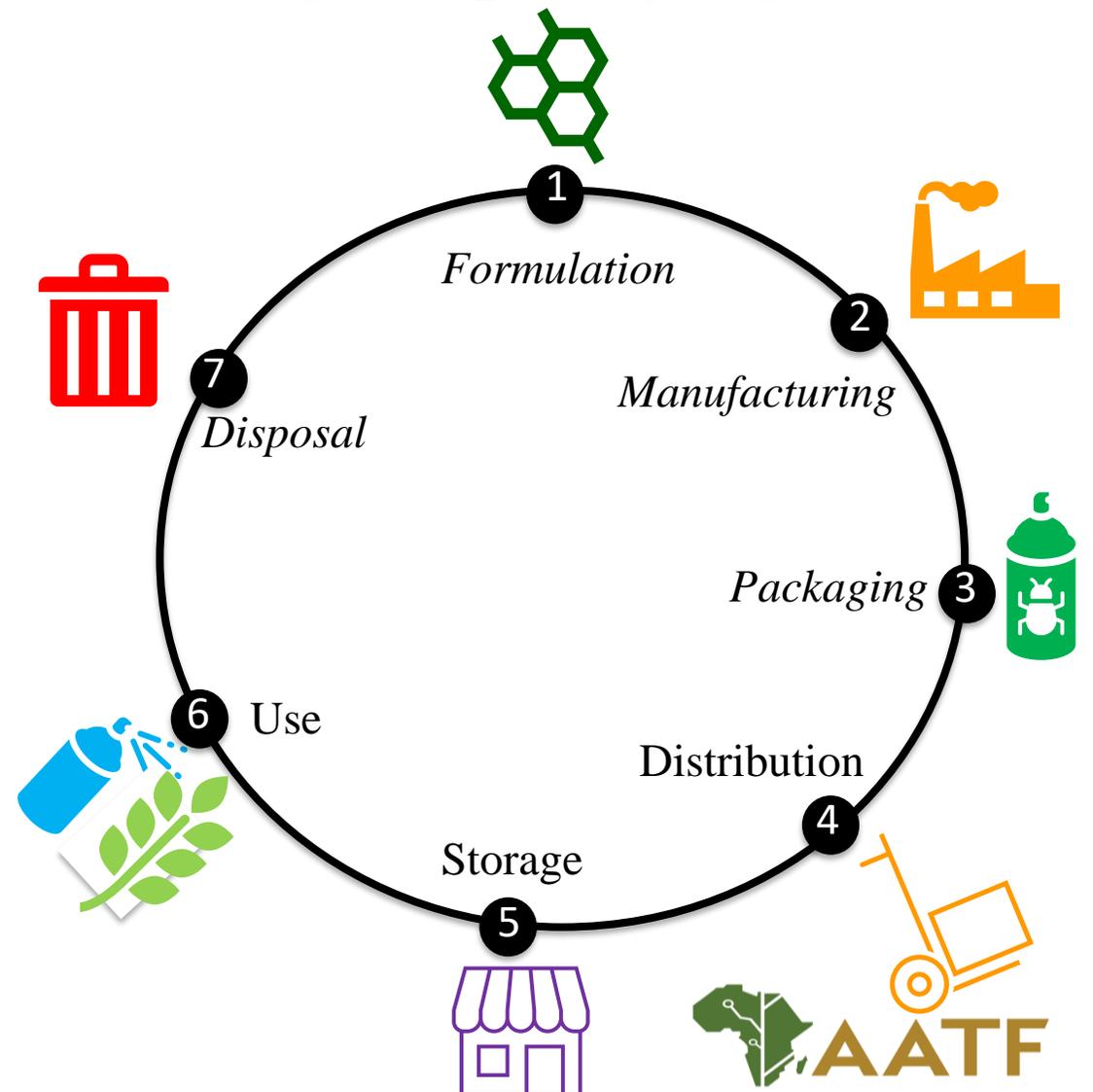
## What is it?

Enabling business environment defined as sets of **policies, institutions, support services and other conditions** that collectively create business setting where enterprises and business activities can start, develop and thrive.

## Why is it important

Ensure **timely** access to **quality** pesticides and pest control products that have passed through the **right approval processes**.

## Stages requiring regulation



# Critical areas in the Policy Environment relevant for Desert Locusts Control



Testing of new pesticides, pest control products and measures based on laid down protocols

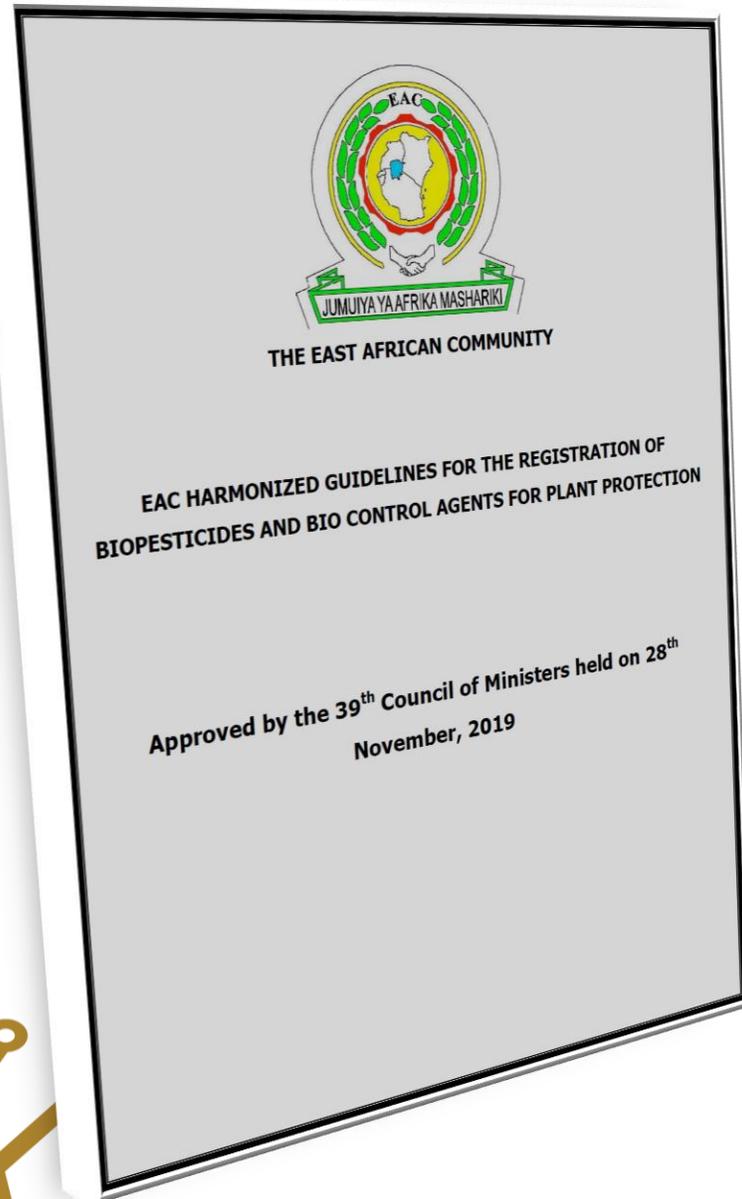
Emergency Registration of Pesticides and Pest Control Products incl. Bio-Pesticides

Pesticides used in transboundary desert locust control operations.

Stewardship issues during and after operations

The transboundary nature of issues calls for Harmonization of regulations!

# Ongoing efforts towards Regulatory Reforms in the Region



- AATF has been working with USDA-FAS, EAC Secretariat, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other stakeholders to support the finalization of EAC harmonized system for testing and registration of pesticides.
- These efforts have yielded:
  - EAC pesticides management guidelines on efficacy trials, residue trials and registration requirements.
  - EAC Guidelines for testing and registration of Biopesticides (3 sets).
  - Seven (7) Companies already applied for registration under the harmonized system
  - Draft EAC Guidelines for Approving Pesticides for Emergency Uses.
- Support for the domestication & implementation of the regionally harmonized regulations ongoing:
  - Revision of the National legislation/Law to accommodate the regionally harmonized guidelines/regulations.
- Expected Benefits when domesticated by all EAC member states:
  - Reduced time and costs associated with testing and registration of pest control products across EAC Partner States.

# Regulatory Gaps in the region

- No regionally harmonized regulations for emergency registration of pesticides.
  - Slows down registration of promising products under emergency invasions.
- Slow progress towards full domestication of regionally harmonized regulations/guidelines
  - Different legislative procedures required by each EAC member state
- Gaps in the documentation of efficacy and impact of aerial sprays against locust outbreaks
- Challenge in access of new technologies and equipment (e.g. Drones, Internet connectivity)



# Conclusions

- The Locust Invasion is of substantial economic importance, warranting the action of policy makers
- A conducive policy environment is key towards enhancing the efficiency of Locust Control operations:
  - Regional Harmonization can achieve better results
  - Need for harmonization efforts to be implemented in other RECs
- For the ongoing and future operations, need to focus on:
  - a. Fast-track regulations for emergency registration of Pesticides including Desert Locust Control products
  - b. Handle stewardship issues around desert locust control operations
  - c. Conduct pilot assessment of on efficacy and impact of aerial spray operations against locusts



# Acknowledgments

