



# NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITY

## PUBLIC CIRCULAR

### Misuse of crop pesticides/fumigants/household chemicals

*(Animal Health, Public Health and Environmental Health at Stake)*

It has been noted during National Drug Authority (NDA) pharmacovigilance field visits that some livestock farmers out of desperation have resorted to use of crop pesticides, fumigants and household chemicals to kill resistant ticks. There are also identified cases of counterfeiters falsifying (relabeling, repackaging and concocting) agrochemicals/crop pesticides/ fumigants/ household chemicals and disguise them as acaricides used in tick control on farms. The farmers are deceived that these are genuine products smuggled from neighboring countries.

Some of the falsified products are of very high and toxic concentration up to 1000 EC (Dichlorvos) and Macrocytic lactones of 5 EC compared to the registered acaricides; (Amitraz 12.5 EC, Chlorfenvinphos/Dichlovs 100 EC, Alphacypermethrin 30 EC, Flumethrin 2 EC, Cypermethrin 10 EC, Macrocytic lactones 0.5 -1 EC) recommended for safe and effective use on animals. It should be noted that crop pesticides/fumigants/ household chemicals are not safe use on animal skin and can later affect the safety of food. They are not manufactured according to the specific Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) requirements for use on animals. Therefore, the use of such products would be harmful to animal health, human health and the environmental.

Specifically, adverse effects resulting from using the agrochemicals/ crop pesticides in the control of ticks have been reported;

**Animal Health** – In animals, adverse effects include: blindness, skin damage, udder damage, reduced milk production, repeat breeding, general weakness, coma and death of animals.

Chemical residues in foods of animal origin - This affect food safety exposing the human population to chemical residues that may affect the immune, hormonal, reproductive and nervous systems. The free radicals in the chemical residues found in

foods of animal origin also pose a risk of inducing cancers in the human population.

**Economic losses** – from reduced milk production due to stress, death of animals, reduced reproduction, and contaminated foods of animal origin being rejected or fetching less revenue in the international or local markets.

**Risks to humans** – direct exposure to farm workers may lead to skin irritations, cancers, impairment of reproductive system, nerve damage, respiratory and circulatory collapse, body weakness, coma and death.

**Environmental health** – Toxic Chemical residues contaminate pastures, water sources/aquatic life and wild life.

**Way forward**  
Various research findings and testimonies from a number of farmers indicate that the registered acaricide molecules in Uganda are still effective when used as per the recommended manufacturers' instructions, following good acaricide application and rotation principles. These are however, farms that have developed multiple acaricide resistance. These are advised to seek professional guidance on available solutions.

In promoting and protecting public health through the effective regulation of human and animal medicines and healthcare products, National Drug Authority cautions farmers and the general public to desist from using unconventional tick control methods of using crop pesticides, fumigants and chemical concoctions. You are called upon to always seek Veterinary professional advice on acaricide selection, mixing, spraying and dipping livestock in control of ticks and tick born diseases. There is a need to rethink the disease control strategy from treatment by use of chemicals to

prevention through vaccinations in order to reduce pressure on drugs or chemicals so that resistance is delayed. NDA is therefore, reaffirming to public and farmers that the registered acaricides are safe, efficacious and of good quality.

#### C) RELABELING / REPACKAGING CROP PESTICIDES DISGUISED AS ACARICIDES BY COUNTERFEITERS



#### HEALTH IMPLICATIONS / ADVERSE EFFECTS FOLLOWING EXPOSURE OF CATTLE TO CROP PESTICIDES

##### 1)Cattle Deaths on a farm following exposure to Tick Burn Spray



##### 2)Loss of sight in cattle following exposure to crop pesticides



Loss of Sight/  
Blindness

#### A) CROP PESTICIDES / FUMIGANTS COMMONLY MISUSE BY DIRECT APPLICATION ON ANIMALS



DUDU-ACELAMECTIN, OCELAMECTIN, DD Force, DD VHAO, DICHLOBEX, TICKBURN, BOOM SUPER (1000 EC), LAVA & ROKET

“Animal health and Production is NDA’s priority”