

ANTI-COUNTERFEITING ACTIVITIES PROTECT INNOVATION, HUMAN HEALTH, FARMER LIVELIHOODS & BIODIVERSITY

Counterfeit and illegal pesticides are a growing problem the agriculture sector, posing a serious risk to farmers, the environment, and economies. These illegal products also have the potential to stall and undermine innovations from the plant science industry.

CropLife International members undertake rigorous testing and regulation of any new products to ensure they are safe for farmers and the environment. In a well-regulated market, crops treated with illegal pesticides stop at the farm gate.

THREATS FROM ILLEGAL PESTICIDES



ENVIRONMENT: Counterfeit and illegal pesticides, often with unknown ingredients, are **not tested** for environmental safety, while **legal pesticides** are **extensively tested** to prove they are **safe** for wildlife and the environment before they are approved by regulatory authorities.



HEALTH: Illegal pesticides pose a **risk to the health** of farm workers during the application of the product, and medical treatment when exposed to **unknown chemicals** can be problematic for medical professionals and poison information centers.



ECONOMY: Counterfeit pesticides disrupt investment, employment, innovation, and tax revenues. If a region or country is known for using counterfeit pesticides, it may become difficult for them to export their crops, putting both their reputation and economic security at risk.



REGULATORY: Anecdotal evidence shows that banning pesticides does not remove their availability, but rather creates an **illegal black market** for the **banned pesticide**, especially where governance to manage the ban is weak, providing **organized crime** an opportunity to sell **dangerous**, **untested illegal** banned pesticides to farmers.



FARMER LIVELIHOODS: The use of **illegal pesticides** could cause **economic ruin** for the farmer and potential **loss of harvest** due to the use of an ineffective or **damaging counterfeit product.**

COUNTERFEIT PESTICIDES BY THE NUMBERS

GLOBALLY

The OECD puts the global revenues associated with the trade in illegal pesticides at between \$6-10 billion, making the trade in illegal pesticides one of the leading organized crime activities in the world.1

EUROPE

The European Union Intellectual Property Office estimates that illegal pesticides now account for 14% of the European market, one of the most heavily regulated markets in the world.²

LATIN AMERICA

An estimated 25% of the \$15 billion pesticide market in Brazil is comprised of illegal pesticides, according to a study by the Institute for Economic and Social Development of Borders.³

AFRICA

In 2019, unregistered pesticides in Mali accounted for 26% of total pesticide volumes sold. This number aligns with earlier estimates of broad averages across West Africa.⁴

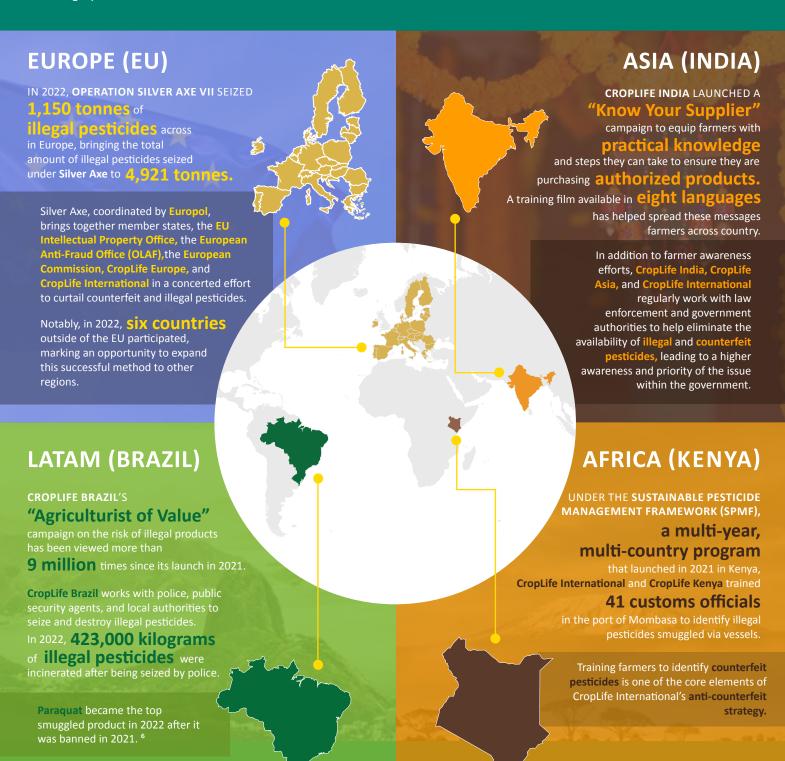
ASIA

A Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry report states that illegal pesticides constitute approximately 25% of the value of the total domestic market of agrochemicals in India.⁵

CropLife X

ACTIVITY ACROSS THE CROPLIFE GLOBAL NETWORK

Given the many negative consequences of counterfeit and illegal pesticides, CropLife International partners with stakeholders such as the OECD, UN, FAO, Interpol, Europol, the World Customs Organization, and national police and customs officers to enforce intellectual property rights and ensure only legal authentic crop protection products are traded, sold, and used. Successful activities to date include awareness raising campaigns, customs agent trainings, and collaborating with law enforcement, resulting in seizures of illegal pesticides and arrests of counterfeiters.



Sources

- 1. OECD, Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment: New digital technologies to tackle trade in illegal pesticides, 2020, p. 12.
- 2. EUIPO-EUROPOL, Intellectual Property Crime Threat Assessment, 2022, p. 20.
- 3. IDESF, The Illegal Market for Agricultural Pesticides in Brazil, 2021, p. 49.
- 4. Agricultural Economics, Unregistered pesticides: Prevalence, risks, and responses in Mali, 2023, p. 6.
- 5. FICCI, Study on Sub-Standard, Spurious/Counterfeit Pesticides in India 2015 Report, 2015, p. 17.
- 6. Reuters, Brazil set to seize massive volumes of illegal pesticides this year, says govt official, 25 August 2022.