



**ACTION POUR LA CONSERVATION  
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

**ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE**

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**for a toxics-free future**

## National report on HHPs in Mali

### Executive summary



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## **I. Country presentation: Main geographical features, population and economic activities in Mali**

Mali is a country located in the Sahelo-Saharan zone in the heart of West Africa. It is entirely dominated by a tropical climate of Sudanian type. Temperatures are very high and can reach 45 degrees Celsius in the shade in April and May. Minimum temperatures are generally recorded in January and average 16 degrees Celsius. The rainy season lasts from May to October, with most of the rain falling in August.

With 18 million inhabitants, Mali's population is over 70% rural. However, over the last ten years there has been a rapid urbanization. One of the characteristics of the population is its youth. Young people currently represent approximately 60% of the population.

The economy of Mali is based essentially on agriculture, fishing and livestock. These sectors are supported by the exploitation of mineral resources and transformation industry based on the processing of local products. Imports of basic necessities are very important.

## **II. Agricultural activities and main productions in Mali**

The agricultural sector is the most active sector in Mali. It employs more than 80% of the working population and accounts for about 40% of the GDP. The area available for agriculture and livestock farming is estimated at 43.7 million hectares, 14% of which is cultivated.

The main crops are rice, corn, millet, and sorghum. The main export crop is cotton. Mali produced more than 11 million tons of cereals and 300,000 tons of cotton for the 2019-2020 season. Cotton production has fallen drastically this season, 2020-2021. This drop in production was caused by a widespread refusal of producers to grow cotton, due to the government's reduction of the purchase price of this raw material from the producers.

Livestock farming and fishing support the agricultural production, and livestock farming occupies a large part of the population throughout the country. The livestock population is estimated at 11 million cattle and 36 million sheep and goats, which puts Mali in the lead in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) area. Fishing is also practised, but mainly occupies a large proportion of the population in the Ségou and Mopti regions. The average annual catch is 85,000 tons of fish.

## **III- Institutions in charge of pesticide management and registration in Mali and the national regulatory framework**

### **1- Institutions in charge of pesticide management in Mali**

The institutions in charge of pesticide management are numerous and diversified. Pesticide management in Mali is multisectoral. Thus we have: the Ministry of Agriculture and its departments, the Ministry of the Environment and its departments, the Ministry of Health

and its departments, research institutes, projects and programs, NGOs, and the National Committee for Pesticide Management (CNGP).

Of these, the CNGP stands out as the most important institution. It is not only an umbrella organization, but also the decision-making body for pesticide management in Mali. The CNGP is responsible for proposing the principles and general orientations of pesticide regulation in Mali, for drawing up a list of prohibited pesticides, and for issuing recommendations on import or approval requests.

## 2- The institution in charge of registration and criteria for a pesticide to be registered

The institution in charge of pesticide registration in Mali is the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (CSP). The CSP is made up of the member countries of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS): Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Togo, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Benin, and Chad. These countries have a common regulation.

The main objective of this regulation is to pool the expertise in evaluation and management of agro-pharmaceutical products of all CILSS member states for the registration of pesticides. The executive body of the common regulation is the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (CSP) which evaluates the dossiers submitted by agrochemical companies for registration and grants sales authorizations for all member states.

Any pesticide registered by the CSP must meet certain criteria and go through a well-defined procedure, as well as submit a pesticide registration file.

## IV- Status of pesticide use in Mali

### 1- The list of banned pesticides in Mali

The list of pesticides banned in Mali includes POPs and HHPs. They are banned mainly because of the substances they contain and their toxicity (organochlorines and those of class A1, which are extremely toxic, are mainly concerned). HHPs are pesticides that are included on the PAN International list of HHPs, or that contain active ingredients that have been shown to be dangerous.

Order 01-2699/MICT-SG contains the list of products prohibited for import and export, including pesticides (Aldrin, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Chlordane, Hexachlorobenzene, Mirex, Toxaphene, and Polychlorinated biphenyls).

### 2- The list of pesticides registered in Mali

In Mali, there are currently 93 different registered pesticides. Almost all of them are herbicides. This list is to be updated in May 2021. In the CSP, new registrations are issued every six months (in May and November) during the regular sessions.

Apart from this list established by the regional authority, Mali does not register pesticides nationally. It can however often request national exemptions for certain products for specific uses, especially in the area of health and crop pest control.

### 3- The list of HHPs among the pesticides registered in Mali

- According to [a study](#) by the Compagnie Malienne des Textiles (CMDT), on the assessment of the risks associated with the use of pesticides in cotton-growing areas, carried out in 2020, 174 pesticides approved by the Sahelian Pesticides Committee (CSP) were identified to be in use for growing cotton, including 106 insecticides and fungicides and 68 herbicides. They are formulated from 50 active ingredients.
- According to the same study, 10 of these active ingredients are banned in Europe and were found in 35 homologous products.
- Officially, all pesticides banned abroad are banned in Mali. However, some studies have revealed otherwise, regarding the use of unauthorized products by producers.
- Mali has a policy of non-accumulation and elimination of hazardous pesticides. Several regulations support this policy, including [Law 01-020 on waste management](#), because in Mali, hazardous pesticides are considered obsolete, and are therefore regarded as waste.

According to a [study report](#) on crop protection published by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) in 2018 (the most updated data available to date), 23 pesticides on the CSP list are considered to be HHPs. That corresponds to 40% of the total number of pesticides registered in the country. Of these 23 pesticides, 18 are included on the PAN International list of HHPs. These are:

Active ingredient	Chemical Class	Is HHP according to PAN?
Abamectin	Avermectin	Yes
Allethrin	Pyrethrin	No
Aluminium Phosphate	Mineral element	Yes
Ametryn	Triazine	No
Asulame	Carbamate	No
Bendiocarb	Carbamate	Yes
Bifenthrin	Pyrethrin	Yes
Butachor	Amide	Yes
Cartap	Analog of nereistoxin	No
Chlorantraniliprol	Pyrazol / Diamide	Yes
Chlorfluazuron	Insect growth regulator	Yes
Chlorothalonil	Chloronitis	Yes
Chlorpirifos	Organochlorus	Yes
Clothianidin	Neonicotinoid	Yes
Copper Hydroxide	Mineral element	Yes
Cypermethrin	Pyrethroid	Yes

Deltamethrin	Pyrethroid	Yes
Dimethoate	Organophosphorus	Yes
Diuron	Urea	Yes
Fenitrothion	Organophosphorus	Yes
Fluazifop-P methyl	Phenoxy	No
Glyphosate	Organophosphorus	Yes
Haloxifop-P methyl	Aryloxyphenoxy-propionics	Yes

Source: GIZ study on crop protection, 2018, Mali.

## **V- Recommendations for better management of chemical pesticides and promotion of alternatives**

- Remove all HHPs from the list of registered pesticides of the CSP;
- Effectively enforce decisions, regulations and laws governing the management of pesticides in Mali;
- Strengthen the National Committee for Pesticide Management in Mali (CNGP) so that it can fully play its role in pesticide management. This involves in particular devoting more qualified human and financial resources to optimize its performance.
- Build the capacity of the control services for better pesticide control throughout Mali;
- Implement genuine policies to encourage farmers and agricultural producers to use alternatives to synthetic pesticides. This should be done through the subsidization of costs by state leaders and the promotion of products from integrated farming systems.
- Stimulate importers and distributors of chemical pesticides to switch to organic alternatives that guarantee the health of consumers and the environment.