



Pesticides Control Board
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands,
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SPEECH

Hon. Hilson Baptiste
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS, HOUSING AND THE ENVIRONMENT
On the occasion of
PESTICIDES AWARENESS WEEK
25 SEPTEMBER TO 01 OCTOBER

Theme: "Save Lives! – Read and Understand Pesticide Labels"

I am pleased again to be associated with the observance of Pesticides Awareness Week an occasion aimed at promoting the judicious management of pesticides in the country.

By their nature, pesticides pose major risks to humans, animals, and the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living organisms. At the same time, pesticides are often useful because of their ability to control disease-causing organisms, insects, weeds, or other pests.

Pesticides Awareness Week 2011 is being observed under the theme **“Save Lives! – Read and Understand Pesticide Labels”**, a theme contracted by the Coordinating Group of Pesticides Control Boards of the Caribbean (CGPC) and is being used throughout the member countries.

The pesticide label is the main guide to using pesticides safely and effectively. It contains pertinent information that should be read, and understood, before any pesticide product is being used. It guarantees that consumers have access to complete information on the content and composition of a pesticide product, in order to protect their health and the environment.

The Pesticide label gives information on:

- The active ingredient contained in the product
- The hazards associated with use of the product
- How dangerous the pesticide is
- How to use it safely
- The rates at which the product should be used
- What to do in case of an accident.

On the occasion of Pesticide Awareness Week 2011, I wish to applaud the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board, for so effectively carrying out its mandate to:

- Ensure that pesticides offered for sale in the country are adequately labelled
- Strengthen the pesticide registration process which is aimed at ensuring that only the safest pesticides are made available for use in the country.
- Maintain strict control of the sale, transportation, storage, use and disposal of pesticides and toxic chemicals, thereby facilitating a safer environment.

- Inspect and monitor pesticide operations to ensure compliance with the law.
- Educate and sensitize relevant persons with respect to their legal responsibilities

I wish to pledge my Government's continued support to the Board in its efforts at maintaining an efficient pesticide regulatory and management infrastructure and ensuring that one of the most significant sources of potential environmental contamination is effectively controlled. I implore you to keep working assiduously for the cause.

Let us all recognize and realize that pesticides have transformed the world, feeding its population, controlling disease and protecting property. In many instances, they will remain the only viable solution when pest populations reach crisis proportions. It is the abuse and not the mere use of pesticides that is of greatest concern. Their usage can be a relatively safe activity if carried out as recommended by the label. It is therefore our collective responsibility to ensure that the potential for harm is minimized as much as possible when using pesticides, by adhering to the label instructions.

The label is the law; read it!

I wish you all a thought filled Pesticides Awareness Week 2011.

I Thank You