

Ministry to Run Pilot Program on Pesticide Screening



The Ministry of Agriculture will soon be embarking on a pilot program to screen pesticide residue on vegetables and fruits sold at municipal markets around the country.

As part of the program, the Ministry will use the Pesticide Test Kit at its Fiji Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory based at the Koronivia Research Station where trial runs are being conducted on it for pesticide screening.

Acting Director Crop Research, Dr. Apaitia Macanawai said the laboratory test will conduct qualitative analysis.

“A pilot program for pesticide screening will begin this month and we are planning to start pesticide screening

on vegetables and fruits from the Sigatoka, Suva and the Nausori municipal markets and later we will move to other municipal markets in other towns on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

“This pesticide screening will give us an indication of whether pesticide residue is present or not,” added Dr. Macanawai.

Working in close collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr. Macanawai said the Ministry of Agriculture’s Research Division, in partnership with IAEA would begin a pesticide residue project in 2020 for safer food quality standards.

“We are also working closely with

the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for an IAEA project that will begin in 2020, which is the Establishment of a Food Safety Laboratory for Analysis of Pesticide Residue in fruits, vegetables and root crops for quantitative analysis. Consultations between the IAEA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture is progressing on the planned IAEA project,” he said.

Sales and use of pesticides will continue to be monitored by the Agriculture Ministry. The Ministry of Agriculture will also work with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services on standards and regulations to confiscate vegetables found to be unsafe.

Pesticide Registration Management

What is a Pesticide?

A pesticide is any substance, or mixture of substances of chemical or biological ingredients intended for repelling, destroying or controlling any pest, or to regulate plant growth.

What is Pesticide Registration?

Pesticide registration is the process through which the Pesticide Registration Unit examines the application and the product submitted for registration which includes its evaluation to ensure it is effective, will not have unreasonable adverse effects on humans, the environment and non-target species and appropriate directions for its use, storage and disposal practices on the pesticide’s label. Pesticides must be registered by the Registrar of Pesticide before importing them, sold or use in Fiji.

Types of Registration:

- Full Registration Permit
- Provisional Permit
- Experimental/Research Use Permit

Procedure to register new pesticides:

- Requirements:
 - Completed application form
 - MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet)

- Two copies of draft labels
- Product sample
- Examination of the application;
- Product efficacy test
- Evaluation
- Grant of registration.

What a label should contain?

- Trade name
- Net weight or volume
- Directions for use
- Chemical name & percentage(s) of Active ingredients
- Manufacturing and Expiry Date
- Warning and cautionary statement
- Directions to proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in three main languages: English, i-Taukei and Hindustani
- Name & place of business of



Fig 1: Prohibition notice

the manufacturer, distributor and importer

- Statement of registration which includes the registration number.

Registered under the Fiji Pesticides Act No. 41 of 1971
Registration Number: 1664/252G/179

Requirements of a Proper Pesticide



Fig 2: Proper shelves for storage

Storage Area

The storage area should have the following:

- Prohibition notice at the door of the storeroom(warning) (Fig.1)
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Fire Extinguisher
- Proper shelves for storage/display (Fig. 2).



Fig 3: Rat bait without labels



Fig 5: Damaged pesticides



Fig 4: Unregistered pesticides

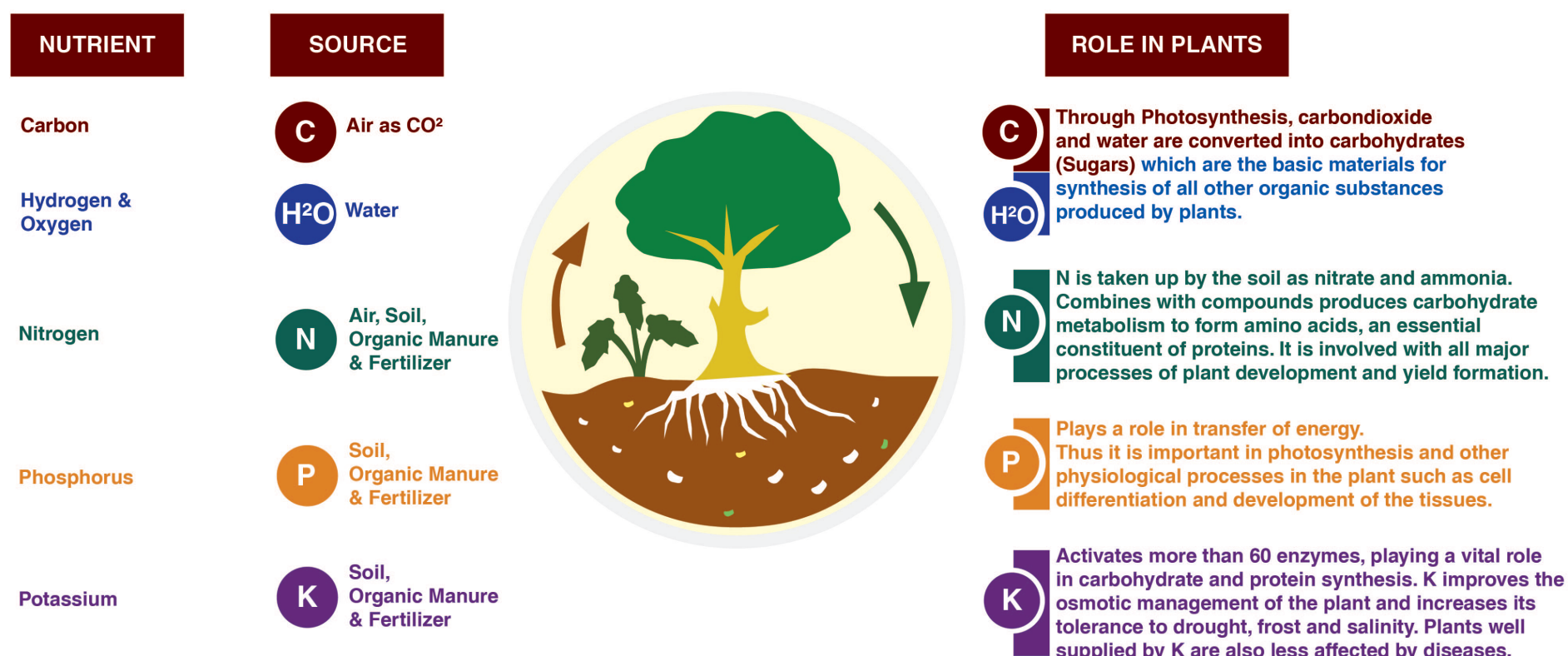
Pesticide Survey& Monitoring

- To improve the safety standard of pesticide sales in Fiji.
- To attain information on the pesticide and assessment of the pesticide storage facilities.

Illegal activities often found include:

- Improper packaging, labelling and storage of pesticides (Fig. 3);
- Sales of unregistered and expired pesticides (Fig. 4) and,
- Sales of damaged pesticides (Fig 5).

SOME NUTRIENTS NEEDED FOR PLANT GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT



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