

## Chapter 37

### Pesticide Regulation Follow Up

#### 1.0 MAIN POINTS

This chapter is a follow-up of the recommendations from our 2007 Report – Volume 1, Chapter 3. The Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) has implemented our recommendations regarding its processes to regulate pesticides. As of September 2012, the Ministry has formally analyzed the risks associated with licensees and exempt persons not following pesticide control laws, and has documented its strategy to address these risks.

#### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

The Ministry is responsible for regulating the sale, use, storage, transportation, and disposal of registered pesticides in both agricultural and non-agricultural settings.

In 2007, we assessed the Ministry's processes to regulate pesticides. Our 2007 Report – Volume 1, Chapter 3 concluded that the Ministry had adequate pesticide regulation processes except it had not done an overall risk analysis to guide its activities. As a result, its monitoring and enforcement activities may not have focused on areas with higher risks. We made two recommendations relating to the need for a formal risk analysis and documented strategies to address identified risks.

In our 2008 Report – Volume 3, Chapter 3, and our 2010 Report – Volume 1, Chapter 3, we reported that although the Ministry had made progress towards addressing these recommendations, it had not yet fully implemented them.

#### 3.0 STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

We determined the status of the following recommendations based on actions taken by the Ministry up to September 28, 2012. We found that the Ministry has implemented each of our recommendations.

#### 3.1 Non-Compliance Risks Identified and Analyzed and Strategies Documented

We recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture formally analyze the risks that licensees and exempt persons are not following pesticide control laws. (2007 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 16, 2008)

**Status** – Implemented.



We recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture document its strategy to address identified risks associated with monitoring and enforcing compliance with pesticide control laws. (2007 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement June 16, 2008)

**Status** – Implemented.

To help the Ministry focus its pesticide regulatory activities on areas with higher risk, we expected the Ministry:

- › To identify the risks associated with monitoring and enforcing compliance with pesticide control laws including risks related to the particular products, locations, and circumstances involving pesticides that pose a threat to human health and the environment
- › To analyze the risks associated with each of the major categories of pesticide activities that it regulates (i.e., sales, licensing, use, storage, transportation, and disposal)
- › To prioritize those risks
- › To document its strategy to address those risks

Since our last follow-up, the Ministry developed a standard risk assessment format to identify the major categories of pesticide activities it regulates, the risks identified for each category, the actions that mitigate those risks, the residual risk(s) remaining, and its strategy to address the residual risk(s). As of, September 28, 2012, the Ministry had completed its analysis on all six categories.