



# INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS THE CRISIS OF TOXIC PESTICIDES IN AFRICA

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On January 30, 2025, PELUM Association, in collaboration with Broederlijk Delen (BD) and the Food Safety Coalition of Uganda (FoSCU), hosted a high-profile international online webinar under the theme "Poisoning the Future: European Banned Toxic Pesticides Exports to Africa." The event brought together over 600 participants from diverse sectors, including civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, philanthropy, cultural and religious institutions, government agencies, and media outlets from around the world.

## Key Focus Areas and Expert Contributions

The webinar featured insightful presentations by experts from FoSCU, BD, Public Eye, Idanes, and PELUM Association. Discussions revolved around critical issues such as:

- Legal and Policy Frameworks:** An examination of national and international regulatory frameworks governing pesticide use.
- Export of Banned Pesticides:** Analysis of the proliferation of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) banned in the European Union but exported to Africa, highlighting double standards in global trade policies.
- Human Rights Violations:** Exploration of how the continued export and use of HHPs undermine human rights and public health.
- Scientific Evidence on HHP Impacts:** Presentation of research on the harmful effects of HHPs on human health, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability.
- Exposure Risks:** A focus on the risks faced by farmers, consumers, and vulnerable populations due to limited awareness and knowledge gaps about pesticide usage and its consequences.

A promotional banner for the webinar. It features the text "WEBINAR ON TOXIC PESTICIDES" in large orange and blue letters. Below it is the theme "Poisoning the Future: European Banned Toxic Pesticide Exports to Africa". The banner includes circular portraits of the speakers: Bwambale Bernard (FOSCU, Uganda), Isidore Della (Director, Idanes-Burkina Faso), and Suzy Serneels (Policy Officer, BD). It also shows portraits of the moderators: Medius Bihunirwa (PELUM RS) and Hannington Owegi (PELUM RS). The banner provides the date (Thursday, 30th Jan 2025), time (2:00PM-5:00PM (EAT), 12:00PM-15:00PM (CET)), and meeting details (Meeting ID: 896 1183 4783, Passcode: 810570). It indicates the languages will be English and French. Logos for PELUM associations, Broederlijk Delen, and the Food Safety Coalition are at the bottom.

The discussions underscored the urgent need for coordinated action to address these challenges while promoting safer agricultural practices.

### Launch of Global Petitions

The webinar marked the launch of two critical petitions aimed at curbing the toxic pesticide crisis:

- 1. Petition to the European Union (EU):** Urging the EU to ban the exportation of pesticides that are prohibited within its borders to Africa and other regions.
- 2. Petition to the African Union (AU):** Calling on the AU to ban the importation of HHPs into Africa and strengthen regulatory frameworks for agrochemical imports across the continent.

Participants were encouraged to sign these petitions and share them widely within their networks to amplify advocacy efforts. Here is the petitions 'link [https://www.openpetition.eu/petition/online/stop-the-export-of-toxic-pesticides-to-african-countries?language=en\\_GB.utf8](https://www.openpetition.eu/petition/online/stop-the-export-of-toxic-pesticides-to-african-countries?language=en_GB.utf8)

### A Call for Action

Advocates at the webinar issued a strong call to African governments to take decisive steps toward banning HHP imports and enforcing stricter regulations on agrochemicals. This action is essential to safeguard public health, protect ecosystems, and ensure sustainable agricultural practices.

### Stakeholder Commitment

The event concluded with a collective commitment from stakeholders to sustain advocacy efforts until tangible responses are achieved from both the EU and AU. Participants pledged to support awareness campaigns aimed at educating communities about the dangers of HHPs while promoting alternatives that prioritize health and environmental sustainability.

This webinar served as a critical platform for fostering global dialogue on toxic pesticides while galvanizing action toward a healthier, more sustainable future for Africa.



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