

THE DYNAMICS OF NATIONAL PESTICIDE REGULATION IN BRAZIL: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF LEGISLATIVE ADVANCEMENTS AND REGRESSIONS

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SUMMARY

Pesticides, while decisive for modern agriculture, pose significant risks to our health and environment. Brazil, a major agricultural power, has seen a dramatic increase in pesticide use. This study examines Brazil's evolving pesticide laws. We analyzed legal documents, scientific articles, and news reports to understand how Brazil regulates these chemicals. Our research reveals a complex landscape shaped by political and economic decisions that often prioritize short-term agricultural gains over long-term public health and environmental concerns. Despite past progress, recent trends suggest a worrying regression in pesticide regulation due to political interference. This analysis offers a critical perspective on Brazil's pesticide policy, highlighting the need for a more balanced approach that prioritizes the well-being of both people and the planet.

Keywords: Legislation; Brazil; Pesticides; Public Health; Environmental Health.

1. INTRODUCTION

Pesticides, while indispensable for contemporary agriculture, pose substantial risks to human health and the environment. Brazil, a prominent agricultural exporter, has witnessed a dramatic escalation in pesticide usage. This investigation examines the

evolution of Brazil's pesticide regulations, exploring the interplay of political, economic, and environmental factors. Our research reveals a complex regulatory landscape shaped by political and economic decisions that frequently prioritize short-term agricultural gains over long-term public health and environmental concerns. Despite prior advancements, recent trends indicate a troubling regression in pesticide regulation due to political interference.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study examines Brazilian pesticide legislation, with a focus on Law No. 7.802/1989 and the new pesticide law, Law No. 14.785/2023. It aims to analyze the changes introduced and their impacts on public health and the environment. To provide a comprehensive overview of Brazilian pesticide legislation, a literature review was conducted using legislative platforms and scientific articles.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Pesticide Regulations in Brazil: Balancing Agriculture and Public Health

Synthetic chemicals such as insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides have revolutionized agriculture. They enhance crop yields, protect crops, and control pests. However, their excessive use has led to adverse consequences, including insect resistance, environmental contamination, and threats to beneficial insects like bees.

Global health organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) establish safety standards to mitigate these risks. As a major food exporter, Brazil requires robust pesticide regulations to reconcile agricultural productivity with public health.

This study scrutinizes Brazil's evolving pesticide laws. We analyzed legal documents, scientific articles, and news reports to comprehend how Brazil regulates these chemicals.

A History of Regulations:

Brazil's pesticide regulations commenced with Law No. 7.802/1989. This law established a multi-agency approach involving three key players:

- Ministry of Agriculture (MAPA): Evaluates agricultural effectiveness.
- National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA): Assesses human health risks.

- Brazilian Institute of the Environment (IBAMA): Examines environmental impacts.

This system aimed for rigorous, science-based regulation. ANVISA maintains a list of approved pesticides with details on their safety and maximum residue limits for food.

Challenges and Setbacks:

Project No. 6.299/2002 sought to streamline the registration process. However, critics argued that it weakened environmental protections and encouraged overuse. This highlights the ongoing tension between agricultural interests and environmental concerns.

The New Pesticides Law (Law No. 14.785/2023) aimed to modernize regulations. It included:

- Faster registration times
- Stricter usage restrictions
- Bans on harmful pesticides

Per contra, the Brazilian government exercised its veto power over fourteen provisions within the New Pesticides Law.

Despite the initial veto of these fourteen provisions, a partial override was achieved in the National Congress later on. The vetoed provisions primarily addressed concerns related to public health, environmental protection, and the preservation of the tripartite regulatory framework.

The override of these vetoes has resulted in the continued centralization of pesticide registration and oversight within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food Supply (MAPA). This centralization is expected to expedite the registration process while maintaining the technical expertise of the National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) and the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA).

4. CONCLUSION: A CROSSROADS

Brazil's pesticide regulations are at a crossroads. While the New Law offers improvements, government actions raise concerns about a shift towards deregulation. Balancing agricultural needs with public health and environmental protection is essential. This study underscores the complex interplay of factors shaping Brazil's pesticide landscape, highlighting the need for continued vigilance and evidence-based decision-making.

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