

TRACIT report reveals sales of illegal pesticides on major e-commerce platforms, calls for urgent corrective measures

- *Major e-commerce platforms worldwide sell illicit pesticides, in circumvention of national regulatory controls.*
- *Ongoing trade in illicit pesticides necessitates stricter, government-mandated due diligence controls on e-commerce platforms.*
- *Platforms must ensure greater compliance with existing law and improve enforcement of their own policies to prevent the sale of illicit pesticides.*

Paris, 05 April 2024 – Today, the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) published a new report, *“Tackling the sale of illicit pesticides on e-commerce platforms: Risks, challenges and solutions”*. Known for fighting illicit trade in markets worldwide, TRACIT presented the report findings to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Working Party on Countering Illicit Trade, a group dedicated to assist member governments to mitigate market vulnerabilities to illicit trade.

“The infiltration of agricultural supply chains by illicit pesticides is compounded by online sales and distribution through major e-commerce platforms worldwide,” said TRACIT Director-General Jeffrey Hardy. **“These platforms have become conduits for delivering illegal pesticides directly to farmers, without adherence to regulatory and safety controls and presenting a triple threat to public health, food security, and the environment.”**

The primary objective of the report is to examine the structural vulnerabilities in the operations of e-commerce platforms that can be exploited by criminals to sell illicit pesticides online. It goes on to present examples of listings of illicit pesticides found on 12 major ecommerce platforms worldwide.

“For years now, criminals have exploited e-commerce platforms to sell illegal pesticides online. It's everywhere and it's alarming,” said TRACIT Director of Programs Suriya Padmanaabhan. **“Our report exposes these vulnerabilities and encourages platforms to step up their oversight, compliance and enforcement of national regulations to prevent sales of illegal pesticides.”**

If e-commerce platforms continue to fall short in policing illicit pesticide sales, the TRACIT report calls for governments to more actively extend traditional pesticide regulations to the online environment. It then delineates a set of policy recommendations tailored for implementation by national governments, intergovernmental organizations, like the OECD and UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and the platforms themselves.

“While it appears that government regulations will be needed, we suggest that e-commerce platforms embrace the spirit of the law and implement a simple set of proactive measures that can significantly reduce the problem,” said Ms. Padmanaabhan.

Top recommendations

- *Ensure that sellers have a license.* National regulations should require e-commerce platforms to check pesticide sellers' credentials and verify that they have a license to trade pesticides.

- *Store such licenses for verification by regulatory authorities.* National regulations should mandate e-commerce platforms to verify and store seller information including dealer licenses for greater transparency and for recourse in the case of illicit pesticides.
- *Verify that pesticides sold on platforms are registered in the country of use.* National regulations should mandate e-commerce platforms to verify that sellers list for sale only those pesticides that are registered in the country of use. In the case of cross-border transactions, regulations should require e-commerce platforms to verify registrations or authorization certificates in the country of import and export ahead of permitting such transactions.

About TRACIT

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade ([TRACIT](https://www.tracit.org)) is an independent, private sector initiative to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing businesses across sectors most impacted by illicit trade.

The report and associated materials can be found at <https://www.tracit.org/tackling-the-sale-of-illicit-pesticides-on-e-commerce-platforms.html>

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