

**Speech by Dr. Harun Warui, Lead Coordinator for Agroecology and Food Rights at the
Heinrich Böll Foundation, Nairobi Office during the Bayer Annual Stockholders Meeting**

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Nairobi

Highly hazardous pesticides in Africa – a crisis of responsibility.

Chair, members of the management and supervisory, board, fellow shareholders, and attendees.

Good afternoon,

As of December 31, 2024, **Kenya took a landmark decision** – officially withdrawing eight pesticide active ingredients classified as highly hazardous pesticides (HHPS). This decision was driven by a parliamentary process that started in 2019, informed by scientific reviews conducted by Kenya’s ministries of Agriculture and Health, alongside civil society engagement.

At the core of this decision is a principle mandate to protect public health and that of the environmental. These protection measure were grounded in both evidence and experience—particularly these of **small-scale farmers**, who make up the majority of Africa’s agricultural producers and disproportionately impacted by harmful agrochemicals.

Kenya’s move is not an isolated case—it is a forerunner of regional and global change. Across Africa, a rise of regulatory momentum is forming. Civil society, scientists, and government bodies are aligning to demand agricultural systems that nourish people, preserve ecosystems, and do no harm.

In this light, I pose a critical question:

What is Bayer’s vision for agriculture in the global south, now that a shift away from HHPS is at the horizon?

Among the active ingredients now banned in Kenya is **Thiacloprid**, sold by Bayer under the trade name *calypso 480 sc*. This active ingredient was withdrawn based on its well-documented risks: *reproductive toxicity, probable carcinogenicity, and severe ecological harm - particularly to bees, which are major pollinators in our food systems.*

This leads to a deeper and more urgent question:

What does Bayer’s concept of “responsible innovation” truly represent, when it has profited from compounds like Thiacloprid - with global sales reaching approximately €3 billion by 2014—and continues to market Imidacloprid and Glyphosate in Kenya, both of which are facing increasing restrictions and bans around the world due to their human health and environmental impacts?

Is this not the time for Bayer to lead in a different direction - toward products and systems that reflect the evolving global consensus on sustainability, equity and public safety?

And so, I ask further:

- **Is Bayer actively investing in agroecological innovation, farmer-led solutions, and non-toxic alternatives that prioritize human and environmental health?**
- **Can Bayer genuinely speak of “Food for all – Hunger for none,” while the very producers of that food are exposed to chemicals that compromise their health, soil, and future?**

And finally:

- **What does “science for a better life” mean if it only applies selectively—depending on geography, regulatory environment or the level of public scrutiny?**

I respectfully call on you to instead support the counter-motions put forward by the coordination against Bayer dangers.

Thank you for your attention.