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**OPENING REMARKS BY MR. HIITI B. SILLO, ACTING DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF TANZANIA FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY (TFDA)
DURING THE TRAINING IN ANALYSIS OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES
IN FOOD STUFFS AT TFDA CONFERENCE HALL, DAR ES
SALAAM, 13TH SEPTEMBER 2010**

**TFDA Director of Laboratory Services,
The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts,
Workshop Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning to you all and welcome to Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority. It is a great pleasure to be given this opportunity to officiate the opening of this very important training workshop on analysis of pesticide residues in food stuffs.

Dear participants, allow me first to say a few words about TFDA to our IAEA experts. TFDA is a regulatory body under the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, established under section 4(1) of the Tanzania Food Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 2003. The Authority is a semi autonomous institution governed by the Executive Agency Act No.30 of 1997 and its Amendment through Act No.13, 2009.

The Mission of TFDA is to protect and promote public health by ensuring quality, safety and effectiveness of food, drugs, cosmetics and medical devices. Its Vision is to become the best regulatory authority in regulating food, drugs, cosmetics and medical devices in Africa by 2015 while the operating Philosophy is to strive to offer quality regulatory services in the pursuit of protecting public health and environment by using, competent and dedicated staff.

TFDA has been implementing a three year project on nuclear techniques for monitoring of food quality in Tanzania. The project was implemented from 2007 to 2010 with a support worth over USD 220,000 from IAEA. The aim of this project is to strengthening the capacity of our country in ensuring the quality and safety of food products to consumers. The main areas covered by the project include analysis and monitoring of pesticide and veterinary drug residues, mycotoxins and metallic contaminants in foodstuffs. In

order to successfully implement the project, the capacity of the Quality Control Laboratory of TFDA has been improved in terms of human resources, equipment and laboratory quality management system. The role of TFDA under this project was to renovate the laboratory building, procure an Atomic Absorption Spectrometer and recruit more laboratory staff. I am pleased to inform you that all these obligations have been accomplished.

At this juncture, allow me to highlight benefits obtained by TFDA from the IAEA under this project:

First, laboratory equipment including one HPLC, consumables, reference standards and chemicals has been procured.

Secondly, six TFDA laboratory staff have been attached for three months in England, Germany and Austria in testing laboratories which test pesticide and veterinary drug residues, mycotoxins and metallic contaminants in foodstuffs.

Thirdly, two staff attended one week scientific visits to learn on the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025: 2005 and food inspection at points of entry in which one staff visited an accredited laboratory in Germany and another one visited several food inspection bodies in England.

Fourthly, IAEA hired a consultant to help TFDA in the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025: 2005 Quality System. This has increased the speed of implementation whereby application for accreditation together with the quality manual have been sent to SADCAS in August 2010.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank IAEA for this huge support which has indeed increased TFDA's capacity in protecting the public against hazards associated with consumption of food.

This training workshop in analysis of pesticide residues in food stuffs is almost one of the final activities of the URT 5024 project which comes to an end in December 2010.

I have been told that the training course has drawn participants from different institutions besides TFDA namely, Government Chemist Laboratory Agency, Tropical Pesticides Research Institute, Central

Veterinary Laboratory, Nyegezi Fisheries Laboratory and Tanzania Bureau of Standards in view of skill and competency building in the areas of analysis already highlighted.

The analysis of pesticide residues in food stuffs is very important for both local and export products. Besides health benefits, the country will also benefit economically because the export products once tested in the country will gain access to international markets, thus supporting the Government efforts of “Kilimo Kwanza”

I have also been told that the training will be in both theory and practice covering: sampling, preparation of standards and samples for the analysis of pesticide residues in food stuffs. The training will also cover Quality Assurance and Management according to ISO/IEC 17025: 2005, calibration of equipment and system suitability testing, preparation for sample extraction and purification of residues, set-up of HPLC & GC determination devices for the determination of extracted and purified samples, systematic validation of analytical methods and basics of measurement uncertainty estimation.

This is a very wide coverage indeed and it is my hope that you will pay attention to what will be taught and benefit a lot in the two weeks that you will be here at TFDA.

Last but not the least, may I acknowledge the financial support by the International Atomic Energy Agency for the two experts that will provide the training. It is my hope that the experts will have time on weekends to see and enjoy the hospitality and culture of Dar es Salaam and enjoy the haven of peace.

With these few remarks, it is my humble pleasure and privilege to declare that the training workshop is officially opened.

Good luck and thank you very much for your attention.