

NGO Guide to Hazardous Pesticides and SAICM

Update 2015

Since this guide was first published in 2009, increasing attention has focused on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs).

Governments Propose Action on HHPs in the SAICM Process

1. In 2012, at the Third International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM3) in Nairobi, a conference room paper was submitted and supported by at least 65 countries and organizations. It called for “*a progressive ban on HHPs and their substitution with safer alternatives*” and the publication of a list of HHPs. The resolution was not adopted because some countries needed more time to consider it, but it was agreed that there should be intercessional work on HHPs.
2. Three of the intercessional regional SAICM meetings following ICCM3, involving more than 140 countries, reiterated concern about HHPs and called for more information on ecosystem-based approaches to pest management as alternatives to HHPs.
3. In December 2014, at SAICM’s Open-Ended Working Group, the entire African region called for a Global Alliance to Phase-out HHPs. This call was widely supported, and resulted in agreement for UNEP, FAO, and WHO to develop a proposal for such an approach for ICCM4.
4. HHPs are on the agenda at ICCM4 for a decision on how to advance work on the issue. The meeting will consider a proposal from UNEP, FAO and WHO.

FAO and WHO Update the Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management

FAO and WHO updated the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management in 2013. The Code notes that, “pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous.” The Code can be found in UN languages at:

<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/code/en/>

The Code is supported by a number of technical guidelines, including one under development on HHPs.

Global Inventory of HHPs & Consolidated List of Banned Pesticides

In June 2015, Pesticide Action Network (PAN) updated its list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides, available at:

http://www.pan-germany.org/download/PAN_HHP_List_150602_F.pdf

In addition, PAN has published a Consolidated List of Banned Pesticides. This is spreadsheet of pesticides that countries have found to be sufficiently hazardous to warrant being banned. The Consolidated List is updated every 6 months and can be found at: <http://pan-international.org/resources/>

Guidance to Phase-out HHPs: Agroecology Book

In September 2015, PAN released an informational guidance book titled: “*Replacing Chemicals with Biology: Phasing out highly hazardous pesticides with agroecology.*”

The purpose of this publication is to provide information drawn from all regions to assist countries in replacing HHPs with ecosystem-based approaches to pest and crop management – replacing chemicals with biology. It draws together previously published and new material in a form that is accessible for policy- and decision-makers at the national and international level, as well as providing practical guidance at the farm and farm-support level.

It also points out that use and phasing-out of HHPs must be seen in the context not only of human health and environmental impacts and costs, but also in the context of food security, poverty reduction, and climate change.