



## **International POPs Elimination Project**

*Fostering Active and Efficient Civil Society Participation in  
Preparation for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*

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**Let's cooperate to protect our children from  
Persistent Organic Pollutants**

**Environmental Pioneers Association**

**Egypt  
March 2006**

## About the International POPs Elimination Project

On May 1, 2004, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN <http://www.ipen.org>) began a global NGO project called the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP) in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided core funding for the project.

IPEP has three principal objectives:

- Encourage and enable NGOs in 40 developing and transitional countries to engage in activities that provide concrete and immediate contributions to country efforts in preparing for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;
- Enhance the skills and knowledge of NGOs to help build their capacity as effective stakeholders in the Convention implementation process;
- Help establish regional and national NGO coordination and capacity in all regions of the world in support of longer term efforts to achieve chemical safety.

IPEP will support preparation of reports on country situation, hotspots, policy briefs, and regional activities. Three principal types of activities will be supported by IPEP: participation in the National Implementation Plan, training and awareness workshops, and public information and awareness campaigns.

For more information, please see: <http://www.ipen.org>

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The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the institutions providing management and/or financial support.

This report is available in the following languages: English

# Let's cooperate to protect our children from Persistent Organic Pollutants

Activities held for the "Let's Cooperate to Protect Our Children from Persistent Organic Pollutants" Project:

Serial	Activity	Date	No. of Attendants	Place
1	First Seminar	1/3/2005	60	Creativity Centre
2	Second Seminar	28/4/2005	55	Faculty of Agriculture, Saba Pasha
3	Third Seminar	29/9/2005	45	Monsh'at Homour Village Youth Centre, Behaira Governate.
4	Fourth Seminar	22/3/2006	50	Agricultural Directorate in Alexandria

**Number of participants:** (120 males – 90 females)

### **Classes that participated in the project:**

1. Farmers
2. University professors
3. Executive officials from Alexandria Governorate and involved ministries
4. Members of the NGO community in Alexandria.

**No. of Specialised speakers who participated in the project: 17**

### **Participants:**

1. The Agricultural Directorate in Alexandria.
2. Agricultural Directorate in Behaira.
3. Faculty of Agriculture, Saba Pasha.
4. Environmental Affairs Agency
5. Environmental Affairs Office in the Governorate of Alexandria.
6. Environmental Affairs Office in Montazah District.
7. The Local Council.
8. Social Affairs Directorate.
9. Newspapers.
10. Culture Directorate in Alexandria.
11. NGO's.
12. Health Affairs Directorate.
13. Alexandria Radio and Television.
14. National Democratic Party.
15. General Organisation for Export and Import Control
16. National
17. Education Directorate.
18. National Institute for Public Health.

## Seminar Agenda:

**Environmental pioneers  
Association in Alexandria**

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**by the cooperation with  
the hospital day**

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**UNIDO  
ORGANIZATION**

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**The name of project:** together we can protect our children from the persistent organic which cause cancer.

The activities which were carried out: two seminars were carried out under the title of this project.

### **The first seminar**

**The seminar's date:** 1/3/2005.

**The seminar's place:** the creation center subordinated to the culture department in Alexandria.

**The aimed group:** representative from national institutes and social affairs and the non governmental organizations.

**The number of participants:** 60 persons.

**The speakers:**

**1- Prof. "Ahmed Hossam El Deen":** the High Academy of the Common Health.

**2- Prof."Wafaa Menecy ":** Faculty of Education in Alexandria.

**3-Eng."Noha Abd El Hamid "**the establishment of the Day Hospital for Development.

**The items:** Stockholm Convention – the persistent organic pollutants.

The role of the national institute making people aware of the issue.

5- To increase the number of seminars in the villages in order to spread the awareness of the dangers of persistent between the families and the farmers.

6- to carefully stand over the shops which sell the natives in order to be sure of this food ,and to talk random samples by the association and analyze it in faculty or agriculture according to the agreement which is accepted from the both the faculty of agriculture and the environmental pioneers association .

7- To make a video recording film.

8- To try to get simplified sheets for the farmers to continue awareness.

## **The second seminar**

**The seminar's date:** 28/4/2005

**The seminar's place:** faculty of agriculture in Saba Basha in Alexandria.

**The number of participants:** 55 persons

**The aimed group:** doctors in the collage and the students in final years in faculty of agriculture and planters.

**The speakers:**

1-eng. / Mohamed said Omar – pre-minister of agriculture.

2- Prof. / Ali Abraham Ebada – Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture.

3- Prof. / Fathi Radwan

4- Prof. / Ahmed Hossam Eldeen – the High Academy of the Common Health.

5- Prof. / Wafaa Menisy - Faculty of Education – Alexandria.

6- Prof. / Magdy Abd Elzaher –Professor in Chemistry and Pesticides.

**The items:** Stockholm agreement – the dangers of the POPs – the effect of pollutants on oils and fats – the biological struggle as alternative to pesticides

The seminar advises with:

1- To encourage the organic production which does not contain any pesticides

2- To put a parliament for protecting the consumptive.

3- To organize groups of "wishing you happy meal" in schools for making the others aware of the food which may contain any stable organic pollutants.

4- To put a private system to stand over the medicines and the agricultural pesticides in ministry of agriculture.

### **Third: questionnaire application**

\*The questionnaire application is used to measure the increasing degree of the awareness and the knowledge of the persistent organic pollutants. It has been spread two copies from the questionnaire for every participant.

\* The first copy: it answered and gathered before the beginning of the seminar.

\* The second copy: it is gathered from the participants after the end of the seminar and the result was like this:

question	Answer before the seminar		Answer after the seminar	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
1- Is it the first seminar to know about the organic pollutants which cause cancer?	92	23	115	-----
2-Did the stable – organic pollutants use in Egypt?	110	5	115	-----
3-Did you listen about Stockholm agreement for the stable organic pollutants that cause cancer?	31	84	115	-----
4-The sources of the stable pollutants?	Right answer 36 %		Right answer 89 %	

## **The media activity:**

- 1- It has been announced about the seminars in three published sheets in the brood casting in Alexandria one day before each seminar date 1/3/2005, 28/4/2005.
- 2- Doctor Wafaa Menecy had mad an interview on 30/2/2005, in the programs of "a new day " in television in channel five ,and talked about Stockholm agreement and the persistent organic pollutants, moreover. She talked about the seminar and its aims.
- 3- "Al Akhbar press" has published a piece of news about each seminar separately, such a copy piece of news added to the presented report.

## **Project results:**

- ✓ Increase in the awareness of the risks of using persistent organic pollutants and precautions of using them.
- ✓ Influencing public opinion and officials and drawing attention to these pollutants and their effects.
- ✓ Activating the laws that prohibit importing there persistent organic pollutants as stated in the Stockholm Convention. Egypt signed the Convention and is obligated to find safe alternatives for the persistent organic pollutants to be used in agriculture and other industrial fields.
- ✓ Propagating the Stockholm Convention and the risks of persistent organic pollutants and a research paper presented to the Conference.

## **Recommendations:**

- 1- Increasing the number of seminars in villages to make villagers and farmers aware of the risks of pesticides.
- 2- Holding seminars by agricultural counsellors to explain the methods of producing organic fertilisers from rice hay and forming organic fertilisers from rice hay as a substitute for artificial fertilisers. Also, holding seminars on the correct techniques of using and spraying pesticides.
- 3- Stop buying pesticides not recommended by agricultural counsellors and agricultural associations.
- 4- Organise campaigns in corporation with the Agricultural Directorate in Alexandria to make farmers aware of the risks of using persistent organic pollutants.
- 5- Foster production of organic crops free of pesticides.
- 6- Urge the local Environmental Office to supervise selling pesticides.



- 7- Prepare information bulletins written in simple language and contain information about persistent organic pollutants and their safe alternatives to be propagated through media to different classes of the society.
- 8- Help agricultural counsellors in playing an effective role in propagating the risks of using persistent organic pollutants.
- 9- Help Environmental Offices in all districts to cooperate with the Agricultural Directorate in supervising and managing selling pesticides in private shops and close shops that violate regulations.
- 10- Request the Minister of Agriculture to confine selling pesticides and fertilisers to Agricultural Societies to control selling persistent organic pollutants.
- 11- Request the Minister of Agriculture to confine selling pesticides and fertilisers to Agricultural Societies to control selling persistent organic pollutants.
- 12- Design a single-paper bulletin with simple form that contains information on the risks of persistent organic pollutants to be distributed to farmers.
- 13- Make sure that the chemical formulae of pesticides are available before selling them
- 14- The Association agreed with Mr. Muhammad Saïd Omar, Under-secretary, and Ministry of Agriculture on organising a three-month educational campaign on the risks of persistent organic pesticides.

**Dr. Wafaa Menecy**  
**Head of the Board of Directors**