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International POPs Elimination Project

*Fostering Active and Effective Civil Society Participation in
Preparations for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*

Global Day of Action

Battling Persistent Organic Pesticides (POPs) in Nepal

An interaction program organized to observe the Global Day of Action

Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ)

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नेवापस

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.

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Global Day of Action

Battling Persistent Organic Pesticides (POPs) in Nepal

An interaction program organized to observe the Global Day of Action

Pesticide Watch Group (PWG) of NEFEJ organized an interaction program on **“Battling POPs in Nepal”** at NEFEJ hall on 22 April 2005 on the occasion of Global Day of Action. Various personnel from government, non-government and media sector were invited to discuss on issues related with disposal of stockpiled obsolete pesticide including POPs and approach of state in this regard.



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Mr. Tirtha Koirala, the President of NEFEJ, chaired the program. The program had started with an introduction note by Dr. Toran Sharma, the coordinator of PWG. After introducing POPs and highlighting the risk it poses to environment and health he called for the concern and intervention of all the responsible departments regarding stockpiled obsolete pesticides including POPs, use of new chemicals of persistent nature and uncontrolled release of unintentional POPS due to various combustion technological processes.

Mr. Ganesh K.C., Program Director of Plant Protection Directorate of Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), followed Dr. Sharma with a presentation on state of POPs in Nepal. He also underlined the pesticide legislation and disposal attempts at government level. He stated that options regarding stockpiled obsolete pesticides including POPs are very limited and that the only option remaining is the safe storage in a safe location.



Dr. Jayaram Adhikari, National Program Manager at POPs Enabling Activities Project under the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology then familiarized the audience with Convention of POPs, its provisions and responses of Nepal government towards the convention. He reported about the

completion of inventory preparation of stockpiled obsolete pesticide including POPs in Nepal. He also informed about the future plan of project regarding the National Implementation Plan preparation for safe disposal of obsolete pesticides and POPs.

A video feature produced by NEFEJ was also displayed to give an outlook about the way obsolete pesticides including POPs were being stored and handled in different parts of the country. The feature demonstrated the urgency to take immediate steps towards the risk of stockpiled obsolete pesticide and some POPs to the environment and health of people.

Opinions, comments and ideas were shared by the participants at the end of the program regarding the probable solution of POPs problem and about securing the health and environment.

Mr Swambhu Man Amatya, secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology concluded the program with the final note of commitment to take necessary steps regarding POPs by collaborating with potential partners.

Mr. Bhairav Risal, a senior journalist, was the coordinator and facilitator of the program.



Recommendations of the interaction Program:

The participants of the program, recommended following list of actions, to be executed in a collaborative effort of all government and non-government organizations, in order to solve the problem of stockpiled obsolete pesticides including POPs.

1. Chronological order of action for each year should be formulated to solve the problem of POPs. Social awareness about the hazard of pesticide and POPs in all the responsible and concerned ministry, organizations, local people and farmer is needed.
2. There is an increasing trend in pesticides both in terms of use and storage. In order to avoid the further stockpiling of pesticides supply and demand relationship should be considered. The incinerator for medical waste management does not hold up to the standard and none of the incinerators

has a pollution control device. So the EIA and IEE procedures should be complied for this. Complying with the existing law and regulation can improve the existing situation.

3. Locating the storehouses of persistent pesticides and disposing it into a safe location must be done immediately. Nepal should ratify the POPs convention. Nepal should be careful while importing technology such as incinerators and clear guidelines should be formulated in order to inhibit the import of such technologies.
4. The monitoring of health impacts and proper dissemination of acquired information about it can raise the level of knowledge about POPs. The manufacturing of the pesticides in the country should be prohibited. The flow of the pesticides and the lick holes for the continued import in the country must be traced out.
5. Due to lack of awareness pesticides are still being used on vegetables and crops. However the research conducted to measure the residue level of pesticide in the vegetables imported into the Kathmandu from Nepal was below the acceptable limit. Only the vegetables imported from India showed a high-level pesticide residue. Hence a restriction provision is required for the vegetable products imported from India.
6. The combustion technology should install air pollution devices for the reduction of release of unintentional persistent pollutants from such facilities.
7. The government work regarding POPs should be made transparent. The problem is not only the lack of awareness but enforcement of the law is also weak. Hence stringent rules and regulation and compliance by the responsible body are needed.
8. The lack of sufficient provision and need of amendment in the law regarding pesticides do not allow the state to intervene immediately as required. Hence laws should be amended as required.
9. Stockpiled pesticides need repackaging and then relocation or safe disposal. New storehouses of obsolete pesticides should be located and the sites should be decontaminated.

Report Compiled by:
Dr. Toran Sharma
Pesticide Watch Group
Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ)

List of Participants

S.No.	Name	Organization
1	Raj Kumar Adhikari	Journalist
2	Mohan Mainali	NEFEJ, Journalist
3	Eliza Rana	The Rising Nepal
4	Navin Thapa	Tribhuvan University
5	Parveen K.Chhetri	Tribhuvan University
6	Srijan Budhathoki	Tribhuvan University
7	Santosh Nepal	Forum for Environment Management and Research Nepal (FERN)
8	Binod Baniya	Environment Science Student
9	Dhruba Basnet	NEFEJ
10	Kamal B.K.	-
11	Prativa Kaspal	Khwapa College
12	Rajana Maharjan	Tribhuvan University
13	Herina Joshi	Tribhuvan University
14	Ranju Pokhrel	Tribhuvan University
15	Kabita Karki	Tribhuvan University
16	Maheshwor Ghimire	Freelancer
17	Laxmi Prasad Sharma	Farmer
18	Nava Raj Khadka	Farmer
19	yagya Prasad Ojha	-
20	BinduKanta Ghimire	Channel Nepal
21	Hem Dulal	The Himalayan Times
22	Ram Charitra Sha	CEPED
23	Bhoj Raj Ayer	SHELGA
24	Birendra Karki	RSS
25	Asha Giri	Annapurna Pot
26	KC Sharma	-
27	D.N.Manadhar	POPs Enabling Activities Project, Ministry of Environment Science and Technology
28	Narendra Pokhrel	Expert on Chemicals-Dioxin and Furans, Pops Project
29	Jay Ram Adhikari	POPS Enabling Activities Project, Ministry of Environment Science and Technology
30	Fanindra Raj Devkota	Pesticide Regulation and Management, Hariharbhawan
31	Dr.Shyam Pd.Lohani	Nepal Poison Center
32	Bhupendra Devkota	MOPET, SinghaDurbar
33	Arjun Dhakal	NEFEJ
34	Ganesh Kumar K.C.	Plant Protection Directorate, Department of Agriculture
35	Binod Bhatta	CAPS
36	Narayan Chapagain	Mansingh School
37	Pushpa Raj Pandey	SHELGA
38	Balkrishna Chapagain	The Janasangarsha Daily, Butwal, Rupandehi
39	Debaki Ale	NEFEJ
40	Matritwa Prasad Ojha	-

MEDIA CLIPPINGS

Organic pollutants harmful to crops

By Our Correspondent,

KATHMANDU, Apr. 24: Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are widely used in agriculture to enhance and increase the production of crops, but they have chemical compound with harmful characteristics.

At the farmer level, more awareness is essential to restrict the potential illegal use of the POPs, speakers that included environmental scientists and human rights lawyers, said at a programme organised by the Nepal Forum of Environment Journalists (NEFEJ) on Friday.

POPs are imported in Nepal in the name of disease control and to increase agriculture production. There were said to be 12 POPs in the world out of which 8 should be banned, speakers said.

These chemicals used in the agriculture never degrade and have long-term effect on human beings like disorder in reproductive system, birth of abnormal child, tumor and cancer, decrease of immune system. They have low VP and low water solubility and travel long distances on air and water

It is said that about 5000 metric tons of obsolete pesticide in the global market.

Nepal is using this chemical without any precaution and safety. Although the government has banned on the import, storage and marketing of the eight POPs under pesticide category which are DDT, Aldrin, Dieldrin, Chlordane, Endrin, Heptachlor, Mirex, and Toxaphene, but the ban does not cover other industrial chemicals, which are also harmful to the environment and human being, including animals.

and the unintentional POPs are being produced from textile and paper mills, lubricating oil and electrification and they should be controlled, said the speakers.

Many of these chemicals are not packed in chemically and environmental safe manner, some of the stockpiles have been used as pesticides in the farms by which the population and disorder of human health is increasing, according to a paper 'POPs situation in Nepal' presented at the programme.

Society for Human Right, Environment, Law and Governance Activities said that to prevent environment and health, the government should formulate law related to the sale, production and disposal of POPs

Concern raised over hazards of pesticides

Himalayan News Service

Kathmandu, April 22

While environmentalists raised serious concern over the piling stock of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Nepal, a government official said it would cost Rs 210 million to initiate disposal of such hazardous chemicals.

Nepal has a total of 75 metric tonnes of obsolete POPs, among them some are the most dangerous pollutants ever produced, said Ganesh KC, official under the ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives ministry. He said this while addressing a talk programme on Problems of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Nepal, organised today by Nepal Forum for Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ).

Nepal has been the signatory of Stockholm Convention on POPs since 2002 along with other 190 countries but the govern-

ment has done nothing towards disposing POPs, he said adding, all the parties to the convention should dispose POPs by 2025 to keep environmental hazards at bay. The government after the promulgation of Pesticide Act 1991 and Regulations 1993 has deployed pesticide inspectors in 71 districts.

"Of the 12 chemicals known as POPs, nine are pesticides and three industrial chemicals," Dr Toran Sharma, environment expert, said. Sharma further said stocking of POPs for long period in and around human settlements are harmful to the people. "POPs can be carcinogenic, allergic and cause loss of human immunity power," he said adding, "disposal should be done in environment friendly manner."

Mohan Mainali, an environmental journalist, blamed the government's negligence in managing obsolete pesticides.