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International POPs Elimination Project

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

National Level Awareness and Training Workshop on POPs in Nepal

**Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED)
Forum for Justice
Society for Human Rights, Environment, Law and Governance Activities
(SHELGA)**

Nepal

April 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>

IPEN gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Global Environment Facility, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Swiss Agency for the Environment Forests and Landscape, the Canada POPs Fund, the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM), Mitchell Kapor Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust, New York Community Trust and others.

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

National Level Awareness and Training Workshop in Nepal

BACKGROUND

The awareness level with respect to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and their adverse affects on human health and environment is extremely low in the community. This often results in the adoption of practices such as continued use of POPs pesticides in agriculture, open burning, incineration and others that add to the POPs level in the country. Nepal also faces the problem of obsolete stockpiles, which remains unresolved for now over two decades. These lay stored in bad conditions in over 24 locations posing a serious threat to the health of those living in the vicinity.

The community based organizations (CBOs), non governmental organizations (NGOs), and other civil society organizations can play a meaningful role in creating awareness on POPs in the community. However, to be able to play that role, they themselves need to be aware of the issues and challenges. They can, in addition, play a larger role as an effective stakeholder and contribute to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs in the country. Unfortunately they are not aware of the role that the civil society can play in the whole process.

Likewise, all the stakeholders have a role to play in the process but due to lack of awareness about the issue they are not able to fulfil their roles. To deal with the issue of POPs it is necessary that all the stakeholders participate actively in the process and play the desired roles.

ACTIVITY PROPOSED

Against this background, Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), Forum for Justice and Society for Human Rights, Environment, Law and Governance Activities (SHELGA), three of the leading NGOs engaged with the POPs issues, planned an extensive awareness and training program for the various stakeholders including NGOs, Government and the media. The broad objective of the workshop was to create awareness among the relevant stakeholders about POPs and its impacts on human health and environment, and working towards its elimination.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

The activity was expected to have a multiplier affect towards solving the issue of POPs. The participating NGOs would further raise awareness in their respective communities. The media representatives would help spread the message among a wider section of the population through informative and educative news reporting. This would also help localize the issue of POPs. The concerned government officials would give due recognition to the roles and efforts of other stakeholders and establish inter linkages to ensure smooth implementation of POPs control and management activities by the government. All this would contribute to the effective implementation of the Stockholm Convention in the country.

PROCESS AND SPECIFIC TASKS

To ensure realization of the said objectives, a rigorous preparation process was adopted. The major tasks included: selection of participants in line with the objective; formulation of a comprehensive terms of reference (TOR) for paper writer as well as for the commentators; collecting and sending comments from the commentators to the paper presenters for incorporation in the paper to ensure a comprehensive coverage of the issue; organizing a one-day awareness and training workshop including presentations, interaction sessions,

conclusion and recommendation and network formation and expansion; and lastly, compilation of workshop proceedings and its dissemination among the concerned stakeholders.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

On 3 April 2006, the Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), Forum for Justice and Society for Human Rights, Environment, Law and Governance Activities (SHELGA), all jointly organized a one-day ***National Workshop on POPs Management for NGOs*** to raise awareness and build their capacity and promote active and effective civil society participation in the preparation for implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs.

The workshop was attended by 39 participants (see annexure 1) including NGO representatives working on pesticides, agriculture, environment and public health issues from various parts of the country, concerned government officials, experts, journalists and others. The list of invitees was carefully drawn up and involved a rigorous selection process keeping in mind the basic objective of the workshop as well as the larger objective of International POPs Elimination Project under which the said activity was organized.



Prof. Dr. Ram Prasad Chowdhary, Member, National Planning Commission, was invited as the Chief Guest. He highlighted the importance of awareness-raising and training programs on POPs at all levels towards achieving the larger objective of elimination of POPs sources.

Mr. Asheshwar Jha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative (MoAC), also present on the occasion, highlighted the need for reduction in use pesticides and other POPs. He stressed on the need for a coordinated effort by the government and non-government organization to address the issue. According to him, the way forward is the promotion of organic farming practices in the country.



Mr. Jay Ram Adhikari, National Project Coordinator of POPs Enabling Activities Project under Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST) highlighted the importance of NGO participation in the NIP process. The Pesticide Registrar, Mr. Bhakt Raj Palikhe, gave an insight into the issue of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and the challenges faced by the government with respect to regulating new pesticides and managing the obsolete ones, especially those from the POPs list.

Broadly, four technical papers (see annexure 2) were presented covering the Basics of pesticides, its impact and NGOs role towards Pesticide and POPs management; Role of the Agriculture Ministry towards regulating and solving problem of pesticides and POPs; Role of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology and preparation of the National Implementation Plan (NIP); and legal aspect of Pesticides and POPs.

The papers were presented by Mr. Ram Charitra Sah (Environment Scientist), Mr. Jay Ram Adhikari (POPs Enabling Project National Coordinator), Mr. Bhakt Raj Palikhe (Pesticide Registrar) and Mr. Bhojraj Bhatt (Staff Attorney) respectively. Mr. Ram Charitra Sah from Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED) had earlier participated in the South Asia Regional Capacity Building Workshop on POPs organized by the IPEP South Asia Regional Hub, Toxics Link last November.

The commentators were experts on the issue of pesticide and POPs namely Ms. Urmila Joshi, Dr. Phanindara Neupane, Dr Resham Bahadur Thapa and Justice Binod Prasad Sharma. They chaired the sessions.

In addition, participants were introduced to IPEN and were motivated to join the network and work collaboratively for greater impact. Press releases were issued. Papers as well as other reference material on the issue were distributed among the participants in the form of reference kits.

Below is a detailed description of the process and the work accomplished:

1. A detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) was formulated and agreed upon by the paper writer/ presenters. Four paper writers were identified based on their expertise.
2. A TOR was also drawn for the commentator who were identified and selected from among the experts on the issue. Four commentators were identified.
3. List of invitees was developed based on the preliminary survey of NGOs working in the field of agriculture, environment, waste management and related issues. The determining factor was the past work of the NGO and their understanding of local issues. Prior experience of working on POPs issue was not the prerequisite considering that there are only handful of organizations that are working on POPs issues in Nepal. The NGOs were asked to make a formal commitment to take forward the POPs issue at their levels and engage with it long term.
4. The national level workshop was organized jointly by the three NGOs - CEPHED, Forum for Justice and SHELGA with the support and guidance from the IPEP South Asia Hub.
5. The workshop was designed in a way that each technical presentation was followed by an interaction session and comments from the experts.
6. The workshop participants were given a reference kit comprising of all the four technical papers, material on POPs in Nepali such as posters, booklets, briefing paper, country situation report as well as other material by IPEN and Toxics Link. The participants were given a certificate of participation.
7. The workshop proceeding is in the stages of being finalised and shall be made available to the various stakeholders. This is the first of its kind in Nepali language and shall serve as a reference material for the future activities related to POPs.

CONSTRAINTS

The workshop was organized within certain constraints. Since there was a delay in receiving funds, the program had to be rescheduled twice. This affected the participation since the final call was made at a very short notice. In addition, the growing political unrest and nation wide strikes in Nepal made things more difficult for organizing a national level event.

ANNEXURE 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S.No.	Participant's Name	Organisation
1.	Dr. Ram Prasad Chaudhary (Chief Guest)	Members, National Planning Commission, Singh Durbar , Kathmandu, Nepal
2.	Mr. Asseshwar Jha (Special Guest)	Joint Secretary , Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) , Singh Durbar , Kathmandu
3.	Mr. Jay Ram Adhikari (Special Guest)	Project Coordinator, POPs Enabling Activities Project, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MOEST)
4.	Mr. Bhakt Raj Palikhe	Pesticide registrar, Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Registration and Management Branch, Harihar Bhawan
5.	Dr. Panindra Neupane	CEPRED, Kathmandu
6.	Dr. Resham Bahadur Thapa	Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (IAAS) Chitwan
7.	Mr. Dhrub Narayan Manadhar	Pesticide Expert
8.	Mrs. Urmila Joshi	Environment and Public Health Organisation (ENPHO), Kathmandu
9.	Mr. Binod Pd Sharma	Forum for Justice
10.	Mr. Annant Humja	Forum for Justice
11.	Mr. Shiva Acharya	Forum for Justice
12.	Mr. Bhoj Raj Bhatta	SHELGA
13.	Mr. Bishnu Prasad Timilsina	Environmental Conservation Society (ECOS) Bardia
14.	Mr. Ram Krishna Adhikari	Integrated Community Development Campaign - Nepal (ICDC) Dharding
15.	Mr. Siv Shankar Neupane	Nepal Agro forestry Foundation (NAF) Kathmandu
16.	Mr. Sulakshana Shah	Rural Service Centre Nepal (RUSEC Nepal) , Janakpurdham
17.	Mr. Ganesh Baraili	Heralo Pratishthan, Pokhara
18.	Mr. Tarni Prasad Chaudhary	Jan Kalayan Community Development Center , Lahan , Siraha
19.	Mr. Angel Chitrakar	Environmental Camp for Conservation Awareness (ECCA), Kathmandu
20.	Mr. Raju Shrestha	Filters Nepal Kathmandu
21.	Ms Babina Kharel	Nepal Forum for environmental Journalist (NEFEJ) Kathmandu
22.	Mrs Kasturi Shrestha	Forum for Justice
23.	Mrs Dropti Bhatta	Dalit Uthan, Kailali
24.	Mr. Mukunda Sharma	DIDS, Banke
25.	Mr.Aja Bahadur Shahi	CDS –Park Humla
26.	Mr. Pramod Nepal	Filters Nepal, Nawalparashi
27.	Mr. Rajesh Shing	Filters Nepal, Nawalparashi
28.	Mr. Bibhuti Ranjan Jha	Kathmandu, University, Dhulikhel
29.	Mrs Anju Shrestha	Jagriti Bikash Manch, Birganj, Parsah
30.	Mrs. Sudha Poudel	Women Environment Preservation Committee (WEPCO), Kupandol
31.	Ms. Sheela Manadhar	NASC
32.	Mr. Arjun Prashad	Forestry and Environment Protection Society (FEPS), Dharding
33.	Mr. Kameshwar Yadav	Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED)
34.	Mr. Ratnesh Shashi	(CEPHED, Kathmandu
35.	Mr. Ram Charitra Sah	CEPHED, Kathmandu
36.	Mrs. Archana Shah	CEPHED, Kathmandu
37.	Ms Aashma Bhatta	SHELGA
38.	Mr Tank Prasad Kafle	Society Development Front, Makwanpur , Hetauda
39.	Mr. Raju Parsad Chapagain	Pro Public, Kathmandu

ANNEXURE 1: SCOPE OF PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Paper 1: **Government's Role in Management and Source Reduction of Pesticides, Obsolete Stockpiles and other POPs Sources (From Government's Perspective)**

Paper Writer: *Bhakta Raj Palikhe, Pesticides Register, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative*

Commentator: *Prof. Dr Resham Bahadur Thapa, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (IAAS), Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal*

Paper broadly covers:

- Abstract
- Present status of pesticides and POPs
- Trend of pesticides including Import, Export and Use
- Stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and analysis of the reasons for stockpiles
- Institutional and legal arrangement to address the problem associated with pesticides and their compliance.
- Role of Pesticide Dealers in pesticide management
- Monitoring pesticide use and illegal trade
- Pesticide residues and food contamination study and combating arrangement
- Measures required to control further accumulation of pesticides and POPs
- Alternative biological pest control measures promotion
- NGOs role to supplement governments efforts to deal with the issue of pesticides and POPs
- Contribution towards development of the National Implementation Plan for POPs and pesticide management.
- Constraints and opportunities for the government to address the problem
- Conclusion and recommendations

Paper 2: **Review on Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Implementation of Stockholm Convention.**

Paper Writer: *Mr. Jay Ram Adhikari, National Project Coordinator, POPs Enabling Activity Project, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MOEST), Nepal.*

Commentator: *Prof. Dr. Phanindra Neupane, CEPRED*

Paper broadly covers:

- Abstract
- Update on POPs /Obsolete pesticide inventory and their current situation.
- Government's role in Obsolete pesticides/POPs Management
- Stockholm Convention on POPs and National obligation, ratification status.
- Overview of NIP process.
- National Implementation Plan (NIP) and its development process in Nepal.
- NGO collaboration including public awareness in NIP Process.
- Where we are in the NIP Process?
- Road map for elimination of POPs in Nepal
- Obstacles and opportunities during development and implementation of NIP.
- Conclusion and recommendations

Paper 3: **Current situation of Pesticides and POPs, its Impacts and Solutions in Nepal (civil society perspective)**

Paper writer: *Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, Environment Scientist, CEPHED*

Commentator: *Ms. Urmila Joshi, Senior Scientist, ENPHO*

Paper broadly covers:

- Abstract
- What are Pesticides, POPs and new POPs?
- People's perception towards Pesticides and POPs (and their impacts) and the changing trend.
- Situation of pesticides and POPs in Nepal
- Level of POPs, official figure vs. what is known?
- POPs and their sources (Critically examining the national profile)
- Impacts on Environment, vegetation and public health
- Pesticide residue in food items and its impacts on public health
- Efforts to deal with POPs (from grassroots to national level, NGO prospective)
- Alternatives to pesticides and POPs and their use pattern in other developing countries.
- Civil societies (especially NGOs) working on issues relating to POPs, their opportunities and constraints.
- Recommendation on Inventories (NGO Perspective)
- Recommendation on eliminating POPs (NGO perspective)
- Role of civil society to address the problem of POPs in Nepal.
- Conclusion and recommendations

Paper 4: Legal and Policy Instruments for Pesticide and POPs Management

Paper Writer: *Advocate Bhoj Raj Bhatt, SHELGA /Kathmandu School of Law*

Commentator: *Honourable Judge Binod Prasad Sharma, Forum for Justice/District Court Dang*

Paper broadly covers:

- Abstract
- Background of environmental toxicology (Silent Spring book)
- Necessity of law for management of pesticides and POPs
- National laws, Acts related directly and indirectly to pesticides, POPs and chemical
- International efforts/Laws for the management of Pesticides, POPs and chemical
- International Code of conduct on distribution and use of pesticides
- Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste, 1989 with ratification status
- Vienna Convention /Montreal Protocol on ODS with ratification status
- ILO Convention – safety at work - with ratification status
- Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade 1998- with ratification status
- Stockholm Convention on POPs, 2001 - with implementation status
- Objective and major provision of POPs convention
- National Obligation to implement POPs convention
- Efforts made at international non governmental level to implement international pesticides law
- Nepal –status of implementation of international laws with ratification status and compliance
- National obligation to implement POPs convention
- Role of civil society for implementation of POPs convention in Nepal
- What needs to be done at national level for the implementation of POPs convention
- Constraints and opportunities to Implement POPs convention
- Conclusion and recommendations