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## **International POPs Elimination Project**

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

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# **Participatory Action Research on POPS Pesticides in a Philippine Rural Community**

**RESIST, Pesticide Action Network Philippines**

**Philippines  
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>

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# **Participatory Action Research on POPs Pesticides in a Philippine Rural Community**

**Project location:** San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan, Philippines

**Project duration:** 10 months (July 2005 to April 2006)

## **Summary of work performed**

The project focused on peasant communities in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan province, the central part of the Philippines where pesticides has been heavily used over the years. Through this project, the status of POPs pesticides use in the peasant communities were determined and verified persistent reports that some POPs pesticides such as DDT, Dieldrin, Endrin and Chlordane are still being used in the area despite the fact that these POPs pesticides have been banned in the country. The project also conducted an information and education campaign to raise the awareness of peasants to the dangers POPs pesticides.

A participatory action research was conducted from November 4, 2005 to March 30, 2006 mainly through a household survey, focus group discussions and key informant interviews. They activities were done by selected leaders from the Sandigan Samahang Magsasaka (SASAMAG) and Tungkong Mangga Unified Farmers Association Inc. (TMUFAI), with the staff of Resistance and Solidarity Against Agrochemical Transnational Corporations (TNCs) or RESIST. Through the community based approach, farmers were able to effectively organize themselves, thereby strengthening their capacity for further action and advocacy to protect their health and their environment, improve their livelihood, and enhance their struggle to attain food security and food self-sufficiency in their area.

## **Public release of project results**

The results of the project were communicated to the target peasant communities on April 5, 2006. It was attended by 50 participants from SASAMAG and TMUFAI. Prof. Cesar Tolosa, spokesperson of the Tanggol Magsasaka, and Rhodora Gueta, RESIST Secretariat, served as the consultants for this project. The project was shared with the general public through community meetings and a public forum on several occasions. During the information dissemination, activities included press releases (to the local and the national tri-media). Discussion groups, seminar/workshops, and public meetings were also used to popularize the project results. Additionally, the results of the project will be posted at the website of PAN Philippines and shared with the IPEP group.

## **Justification of the project**

Efforts to reduce the use of pesticides have been going on for several years in the Philippines, through the joint campaign of Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Philippines and RESIST in selected peasant communities in Southern Tagalog and Mindanao. However, the use of pesticides for specific crops like onion, cabbage, and other vegetables is still on the rise. At this point, it is necessary to strengthen the farmer communities with regards to their understanding of POPs pesticides, so that they will be able to finally eliminate the use of such POPs pesticides and encourage other farmers in other communities to do

the same. Based on our previous experience of using “farmer-to-farmer” approach, which is usually more effective and sustainable, we focused on strengthening farmer communities to deal with this issue.

## **Introduction and aims of the project**

San Jose Del Monte (SJDM) City occupies 30, 946 hectares of land and is considered as one of the biggest cities in Bulacan. It has 59 barangays and a household population of 65,859.

The main source of livelihood in SJDM City is agriculture. The total agricultural land is 3,780 hectares. The kind of soil in this city is loamy and sandy that is good for agriculture. *Palay* (unmilled rice) is the primary crop while vegetables are planted in 450 hectares of land. The rest of the agricultural lands are planted by fruits like mango, papaya, melon, pineapple, banana, root crops, legumes, corn and coffee.

In each barangay, there are 2-3 pesticide stores. An initial survey conducted in 2001 by a partner organization of RESIST, the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Bulacan (AMB) or Alliance of Farmers in Bulacan, showed that about 15% of the pesticides used in the area are POPs (such as DDT, Endrin, Dieldrin). There are reports from farmers that some of these highly toxic pesticides are still marketed freely in the agricultural stores in the area. It is necessary, therefore, to undertake a participatory action research in the area to determine the veracity of these reports directly by farmer community groups so that they themselves will learn the issue of POPs pesticides better, be more knowledgeable about the impact of POPs on health and the environment, and communicate to other farmers about the POPs issue. This project will allow farmers to discover by themselves the danger of POPs pesticides and strengthen their capacity to deal with the problem.

The project objectives were as follows:

1. To increase the understanding of the farmers on the risks of using POPs pesticides in their communities.
2. To strengthen the organizing of farmers’ communities through participatory action research, focusing on identifying and describing the use of POPs pesticides in farming.
3. To help farmers develop action plans based on the results of the participatory action research.
4. To undertake a public information and education campaign to disseminate the results of the project and to increase public awareness on POPs pesticides.

## **Detailed description of action research project activities**

### **Project Location and Participants**

The project was conducted in Barangay Tungkong Mangga that comprises 1,000 hectares of land primarily used for agriculture. The rest of the land is for residential and commercial use. It is composed of 8 sub-barangays called “purok”. Purok 1 and 2 are subdivisions named Pecsonville and Farmview respectively; Purok 3 is the city proper; Purok 4, named Sitio San Isidro, is a peasant community; Purok 5-7 are part of the Paradise Farm for piggery and poultry use; Purok 8, named Ricafort, is the farthest area and also a peasant community.

Tungkong Mangga has a population of more than 7,000, but the focus of this project is on Purok 4 (Sitio San Isidro) and Purok 8 (Ricafort), the only peasant communities in the Barangay. The Sitio San Isidro has about 311 hectares of land cultivated by 800 farmers in barangay Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan. One hundred nine (109) farming families were beneficiaries of the government’s Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), and Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAS) were awarded to the farmers in 1988.

The Sandigan Samahang Magsasaka (SASAMAG) and Tungkong Mangga Unified Farmers Association Inc. (TMUFAI) from Purok 4 and 8 respectively, were the local peasant organizations in the community identified to be involved in the action research. Pesticide use has been rampant in the area over the years. Through this project, the farmers expect that the status of POPs pesticides use in Barangay Tungkong Mangga will be determined and persistent reports that some POPs pesticides such as DDT, Dieldrin, Endrin and Chlordane are still being used in the area will be verified, despite the fact that these POPs pesticides have been banned in the country.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Results</b>
July 24, 2005	Meeting of RESIST Secretariat in Quezon City	Updated the RESIST secretariat on the status of the Participatory Action Research on POPs Pesticides in a Philippine Rural Community project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RESIST secretariat assigned its Coordinator to be responsible for the project implementation</li> <li>Secretariat also agreed to suggest to AMB officials that the best peasant community to be involved in the project is SASAMAG, based on the secretariat's initial observation.</li> </ul>
July 31, 2005	Preparatory Meeting with AMB leaders in Malolos, Bulacan	Conducted preparatory meeting with AMB leaders to select location and action research groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder involved in the program had the same perception in the project implementation</li> <li>SASAMAG farmers were selected as the peasant community group identified to be involved in the project implementation</li> </ul>
August 7, 2005	Meeting with SASAMAG Leaders in San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan	Meeting with SASAMAG leaders, particularly with the Chairman, Secretary General and the Finance Officer to discuss the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RESIST Coordinator discussed the detailed project proposal and the expected output</li> <li>They also identified and thoroughly discussed the responsibilities of each stakeholder on the project implementation – RESIST Coordinator, AMB leaders, SASAMAG leaders and its community to avoid duplication of work and for easy management and control.</li> </ul>
August 20-22, 2005	Discussion Groups on Initial Course Outline Development of action research in Barangay Tungkong Mangga, San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan	Discussions with selected farmer-leaders of SASAMAG to brainstorm the course outline development of action research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted discussion groups with leaders of SASAMAG on the course outline development of action research</li> <li>Produced draft guide questions for the course outline development of action research</li> </ul>
September to October 2005	Course Outline Development	Discussion on the final action research process with selected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted workshop on course outline development of action research</li> </ul>

	Workshop of action research in Barangay Tungkong Mangga, SJDM City, Bulacan	community organizers and leaders from SASAMAG and RESIST staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produced guide for the implementation of action research</li> </ul>
November 4 to December 2005	Training on Action Research for Community Groups in Barangay Tungkong Mangga, San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan	Training on action research group on the process of action research and development of plans for the implementation of action research with selected SASAMAG and TMUFAI leaders and organizers and RESIST staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted the training on action research</li> <li>There were clear plans made on the implementation of action research</li> <li>There was clear task assignment among group members on action research activities</li> </ul>
January to mid-February 2006	Data collection of community groups	Collection of data from different sources based on the issues identified during the action research training, which focused in POPs pesticides. The Community Organizer and members of the action research group collected the data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on the distribution of POPs pesticides (in stores, market and household) were gathered</li> <li>Information on the use of POPs pesticides in agriculture were documented</li> <li>Information about the impact of POPs pesticides on health and environment were identified</li> </ul>
Mid-February to March 2006	Data Analysis and development of action plans by the community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis on the data collected by the members of the action research group</li> <li>Verification of some samples of the pesticides being used in the community that is predicted as POPs pesticides</li> <li>Development of the community action plans that is based on the result of data analysis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The data gathered during the action research activities was collated and analyzed</li> <li>Some samples of pesticides were sent to a laboratory to determine whether the pesticides were really POPs</li> <li>The action plans of the group during post-action research were developed</li> </ul>
April 5, 2006	Seminar on action research result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Popularization of the results of action research activities</li> </ul> <p>Gathering of support from different organizations and institutions on the farmer's action to solve the issues related to elimination of POPs pesticides</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The result of the action research was presented during the seminar</li> <li>These were initial efforts to get support for the implementation of farmers' actions on the elimination of POPs pesticides</li> </ul>

### **Program Preparation**

During the program preparation, one (1) meeting of the RESIST secretariat was held on July 31, 2005 to update the secretariat on the status of the project. The secretariat assigned its Coordinator to be responsible for the project implementation. The secretariat also agreed to suggest to the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon (AMB) or Alliance of Farmers in Bulacan leaders that the best peasant community to be involved in the project was Sandigan Samahang Magsasaka (SASAMAG) located in Barangay Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan.

One (1) meeting was conducted with the AMB leaders on July 31, 2005 in Malolos, Bulacan, where the project location and action research groups were identified and selected. It was agreed to implement the project in Barangay Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan. It was also agreed that the organization that will be involved in the action research was to be the Sandigan Samahang Magsasaka (SASAMAG).

The meetings conducted also served as a venue to inform and educate selected farmer-leaders of AMB and SASAMAG, as well as the RESIST secretariat, on the dangers of POPs pesticides.

On August 28, 2005 it was also decided that the TMUFAI be included in the action research.

### **Course Outline Development Workshop**

The discussion groups held on August 20-22, 2005 in Barangay Tungkong Mangga, San Jose Del Monte City, were conducted with selected farmer-leaders of SASAMAG to brainstorm the possible course outline development of action research. Discussion groups held later produced a draft of guide questions for the course outline development of action research. However, it was agreed to subject this draft to further discussion and study on the 2nd phase of the project implementation.

It was clearly identified that a participatory action research was the best approach to involve the farmers in the project. The activities undertaken for the one month project implementation included several meetings and group discussions. Through the community based approach, farmers effectively organized themselves thereby strengthening their capacity for further action and advocacy to protect their health and their environment, improve their livelihood, and enhance their struggle to attain food security and food self-sufficiency in their area.

The period of September 2 to October 29, 2005 was concentrated on the Course Outline Development Workshop for action research. Discussions were held on the final action research process with selected SASAMAG and TMUFAI community organizers/leaders, RESIST staff, and volunteers. On October 28, 2005 the guide for the implementation of action research was produced.

### **Training, Data Collection, Validation and Review on Action Research**

From November 4 to December 19, 2005, activities were devoted to preparation and actual training on action research for community groups. The workshop on action research was conducted on November 15, 2005. Ten local organizers from SASAMAG and TMUFAI joined the action research training. The training was conducted by Prof. Tolosa (from Tanggol Magsasaka) and Rhodora Gueta (from RESIST). It was evaluated that Prof. Tolosa and Ms. Gueta were capable of facilitating the action research training, as they have had enough experience on this campaign under RESIST. The clear plans and tasking for the implementation of action research were produced on February 6, 2006.

Data collection from different sources was carried out from January 7 to February 16, 2006. Data collection was based on the issues focusing in POPs pesticides identified during the action research training. The survey was conducted in peasant communities in SJDM, particularly in Purok 4 (Sitio San Isidro) and Purok 8 (Ricafort). There were 10 persons, divided into two teams, who conducted direct



interviews with the farmers and employees from local government units (LGUs). Two kinds of questionnaires were provided by Dr. Romeo Quijano of PAN Philippines (see Annex 2).

After the actual gathering of information, through direct interviews among respondents, the RESIST secretariat then reviewed all data, and ensured that questionnaires were properly accomplished. Validation was done through focus group discussions and repeat interviews. Encoding and processing of data were done at RESIST office.

Data analysis was done by the RESIST secretariat and Prof. Tolosa. Ms. Gueta is the coordinator of RESIST secretariat since its founding in September 2001. Ms. Gueta had attended several trainings and seminars (at local and international level) on pesticides and POPs pesticides. Prof. Tolosa also had training, and attended the 5-day “Training of Facilitators on Community-based Pesticide Action Monitoring (CPAM)” held in September 2005 in Malaysia.

## **Detailed description of the public information and education campaign activities**

### **Forum and Exhibit on Pesticides**

In time for the commemoration of the Bhopal Day that took place in India, and the “No Pesticide Day” campaign of the Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PANAP), the RESIST launched a project entitled *Forum and Photo Exhibit - The Danger of Pesticides: Pushing for Peasants’ Alternatives* from December 3 to 10, 2005.

Series of fora and discussions were held in three peasant communities in Laguna, Bulacan, and Rizal, a university in Manila, and another university in Quezon City. The community forum got Aurelio Mercado (BISSIG), Prof. Cesar Tolosa, Wilfredo Marbella and Imelda Lacandazo as its main speakers, as a concrete application of what was learned from the recently concluded CPAM Facilitator’s Training held in Malaysia. The forum at the University of the Philippines Manila had Dr. Nisperos from the Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD) as the main speaker.

The photo exhibit focused on the historical background of pesticides, the health, environment and socio-economic effects brought by pesticides, and the people’s resistance and alternatives to pesticides, including POPs pesticides. The exhibit was placed in Laguna, Bulacan, Rizal and Manila from December 3 to 10, 2005.

### **Round Table Discussion**

A *Round Table Discussion* was held on December 3, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. It was attended by more than 30 people, most of whom were national leaders, organizers and staff from Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), Pamalakaya, Amihan, Unyon ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA) or Union of Agricultural Workers, office of the Rep. Rafael Mariano (Anakpawis Party List), Sentro para sa Tunay na Repormang Agraryo (SENTRA), NNARA, NNARA-Youth and Tanggol Magsasaka. It served as a unification forum for the participants to advance the “No Pesticide Use Campaign” among the farmers, peasant women, agricultural workers and fisherfolk. Danilo Ramos, KMP Secretary General, and Prof. Cesar Tolosa, spokesperson of Tanggol Magsasaka, served as its main speakers. Prof. Tolosa talked on the “Politics and Health Effects of Pesticides” while Mr. Ramos focused on “Sustainable Agriculture: The Farmer’s Alternatives against Pesticides”. The Round Table Discussion was held in Bahay Ugnayan, Religious of the Good Shepherd (RGS) Compound at Quezon City.

### **Multi-sectoral Leaders Forum**

Immediately following the round table discussion on December 3 was the Multi-sectoral Leaders Forum. Also held in Bahay Ugnayan, it was dubbed as the *No Pesticide Use Multi-sectoral Leaders Forum* with participants from BAYAN member organizations such as Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Gabriela, Anakbayan



(youth organization), KMU (May 1<sup>st</sup> Movement), and Center for Women's Resources. More than 40 leaders, campaign officers and public information officers attended the forum with strong commitment to help with the campaign. There were even requests to continue the education among their ranks to help them understand the issue more. Representatives from KMP and RESIST served as resource persons. Dr. Gene Nisperos, RESIST Coordinating Body and Secretary General of the Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD) talked on the "Politics and Health Effects of Pesticides" while Danilo Ramos, KMP Secretary General focused on "Sustainable Agriculture: The Farmer's Alternatives against Pesticides".

### **Campus Forum and Photo Exhibit**

NNARA-Youth led the photo exhibit on *No Pesticide Use Campaign* at the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) of the University of the Philippines (Manila Campus), which started on December 3, 2005 and lasted until February 2006.

A forum was also conducted on December 9, 2005 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. entitled *No Pesticide Use Campaign: The Danger of Pesticides: Pushing for Peasants' Alternatives*. This was attended by at least 100 junior and senior students from the CAS. Representatives from KMP, BISSIG and RESIST served as resource persons. Dr. Gene Nisperos, RESIST Coordinating Body and Secretary General of the Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD) talked on the "Politics and Health Effects of Pesticides". Aurelio Mercado from BISSIG shared his experience on the "Effects of Pesticides". Danilo Ramos, KMP Secretary General focused on "Sustainable Agriculture: The Farmer's Alternatives against Pesticides".

### **Community Forum and Exhibit**

On December 7, a forum on *No Pesticide Use and Peasants Alternative* was held in Purok 4 Sitio San Isidro, Barangay Tungkong Mangga, San Jose Del Monte City in Bulacan. SASAMAG hosted the forum with more than 80 participants (60% were peasant women).

On December 9, the same forum was hosted by the Parawagan Upland Association with 50 participants (50% were peasant women). The farmers who attended planted traditional rice varieties, and at least 20% are now practicing organic farming. Prof. Cesar Tolosa served as the main speaker. The people agreed to support the campaign against pesticides and continue to re-use and save their traditional seed varieties and exchange with other peasant organizations who intend to practice sustainable agriculture.

On December 10, BISSIG hosted a Round Table Discussion among its leaders and members. BISSIG agreed to continue its part to push forward the campaign against chemical poisoning that killed 8 of its members. Prof. Cesar Tolosa and Imelda Lacandazo, KMP National Vice-chairperson were the main speakers.

### **Asian Peoples Tribunal against IRRI**

When the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) was established through PD 1620 in April 4, 1960 in the Philippines, it restructured Asian farmers' sound traditional agricultural practices to become dependent and subjugated to chemical inputs that were products of TNC-controlled agri-businesses. IRRI's chemical dependent seeds and intensive capital input high yielding varieties (HYVs) eroded the traditional rice varieties (TRVs) of Asian rice farmers and had a negative impact on the ecological system of agricultural lands.

The Tribunal came into being during the discussion between the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PANAP) in January 2006, after the successful *International Rural Peoples' Tribunal against WTO*, sponsored by Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) and PANAP, held in Hong Kong on December 15, 2005 during the 6<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference. It focused on 10 years of WTO's catastrophe to agricultural producers.

The *Tribunal against IRRI* was conceptualized to feature the great havoc its 46 years of existence has caused among Asian farmers. The theme of the tribunal was “End Imperialist Control in Agriculture! Intensify the Struggle for Genuine Agrarian Reform!” It was held on April 4, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Balay Kalinaw, University of the Philippines, Diliman in Quezon City. It was sponsored by the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) and the Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PANAP) and hosted by Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and RESIST Agrochemical TNCs. The Tribunal was attended by more than 500 people, mostly farmers and its advocates from Malaysia, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

## **Action Research Results**

### **Personal Data**

There were 54 respondents, 50 (92%) were farmers and 4 (8%) from LGUs. Seventy four percent (74%) of respondents were women while 26% were men. Majority (78%) of the respondents were married while 22% were single. Some of them (20%) were in their mid-30s to early 50s. Among the respondents, 4 (7%) were able to reach college level while 10 (18%) were able to reach secondary education. Thirty four (34) or 63% finished primary education while 6 (11%) did not have any formal education.

Twenty (37%) respondents got to know pesticides and POPs only during the implementation of the project (responded with “Know just now”). On the other hand, 17 (31%) respondents got information from seminars conducted by RESIST while the other 32% did not know about pesticide and POPs (see Annex 1 for figures).

### **Pesticide exposure and use**

Prior to the 1970s, pesticides were primarily used on plantation crops. Small farmers began to use pesticides intensively in the early 1970s. Under the dictatorship of President Ferdinand Marcos, import of pesticides in the Philippines grew in the six-year period of 1972-1978. During the decade from 1977 to 1987, importation of insecticides grew by 93 percent.

Pesticide use is concentrated on three crops: vegetables, bananas and rice. Vegetable farmers are the most intensive consumers as reflected in our action research in Barangay Tungkong Mangga. Rice farmers, on the other hand, are the single biggest users of pesticides in the country.

Obviously, the invasion of pesticides in the Philippine agriculture had tremendous impact on the majority of small farmers. Before the widespread application of agrochemicals, their farms provided them with fish, snails and other viands for free. The ‘Green Revolution’, however, put an abrupt end to this kind of self-sufficiency. Moreover, due to rising input costs, the real income of farmers declined and debt problems among small farmers worsened. The same experience was shared by our respondents as well.

In the Philippines, the following are banned and restricted pesticides based on the interview conducted with Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) officials.

### **Banned Pesticides**

- |                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 2, 4, 5-T                          | 15. HCH/BHC             |
| 2. Aldrin                             | 16. Heptachlor          |
| 3. Azinphos Ethyl                     | 17. Leptophos           |
| 4. Chlordane                          | 18. Mercuric Fungicides |
| 5. Chlorodimeform                     | 19. Parathion-Methyl    |
| 6. Copper Aceto-Arsenic (Paris Green) | 20. Parathion-Ethyl     |

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 7. DBCP                                   | 21. 1-Naphthylthiourea (ANTU)   |
| 8. DDT                                    | 22. Nitrofen                    |
| 9. Dieldrin                               | 23. Organotin                   |
| 10. EDB                                   | 24. Sodium Fluoroacetate        |
| 11. Elemental Phosphorus (White & Yellow) | 25. Sodium Fluoroacetate (1801) |
| 12. Endrin                                | 26. Strychnine                  |
| 13. EPN                                   | 27. Thallium Sulfate            |
| 14. Gophacide                             | 28. Toxaphene                   |

### Restricted Pesticides

DDT	All users cancelled except for malaria control purposes by the Department of Health.
Paraquat	Restricted for Institutional Use Only. Approval of use will be based on strict compliance by the imported / end-user of the requirements act for its use.
Phenamiphos Entropop Methidation	For use in Banana Plantations Only.
Inorganic Arsenicals (Arsenic Trioxide)	For use by FPA Accredited wood treatment and wood preserving plants only.
Lindane (Gamma / BHC)	The only allowed use to date is on pineapple plantations by soil pre-plant application.
Pentachlorophenol	For use in wood treatment only by FPA Accredited wood treatment plants and institutions.
Endosulfan	Not for use in paddy rice culture. Concentration be lowered to 5% EC or lower for other uses.
Monocrotophos	Allowed use is for bean fly control only.
Methyl Bromide Carbon Disulfide Phosphine Generating Compounds HCN Generating Materials Carbon Tetrachloride Chloroform Ethylformate	Adequate time for aeration is required after treatment before commodities are processed into food or feed.
Aldicarb	Importation Not Allowed Except in Cases of Emergency as determined by the Authority

The following pesticides were used by the respondents during farming activities in Purok 4 and Purok 8. Eighteen (18) or 33% of the respondents use Machete while thirteen (13) or 24% use Complete. Among the respondents, 12 (22%) farmers used Furadan while 8 (15%) use Urea. Only 4 (7%) respondents do not use pesticides.

<b>Brand Name</b>	<b>Active Ingredient</b>	<b>Distributor (as of December 2003)</b>
1. Furadan	Carbofuran	Agway Chemicals, Du Pont
2. Machete	Butachlor	Monsanto
3. Complete	Acephate	Zagro Corp.

Thirty (30) or 55% of respondents use pesticides to increase harvest while 16 (29%) use pesticides because of farming practice. Only 8 (16%) use pesticides for no specific reasons (see Annex 1-Figure 5).

In Bulacan, only 3 companies were licensed area distributors of agricultural pesticides registered under Fertilizer and Pesticides Authority (FPA). These were Baliwag Marketing Company, Luciano Agro Services and Planters Choice Agro-products Inc. based in Baliwag, Bocaue and Plaridel respectively. (FPA, December 2005)

Since most of the respondents were farmers, 95% of them were directly exposed to pesticides. Some (20%) of the respondents still believe that pesticide use will increase their harvest. However, another 30% of the respondents believe that the best alternative to pesticide use is through sustainable agriculture or organic farming. Aside from pesticides, respondents were asked about POPs pesticides (see Annex 1 for figures).

### **POPs Pesticide Exposure**

POPs are toxic chemical substances, including some pesticides that can last in the environment and remain dangerous for a very long time, sometimes for many generations. They build-up in the fatty tissue of living organisms, including humans.

POPs from pesticides and different kinds of synthetic chemicals are found globally because they are widely used in industrial and household products including detergents, lubricants, cosmetics, plastics, etc. They have also been found in regions where they have never been used because they are carried by air and water.

During an interview with FPA officials on the banned and restricted pesticides and chemicals in the Philippines, the status of POPs pesticides (as of December 2005) was revealed.

#### ***Pesticides***

Aldrin	Banned
Chlordane	Banned
DDT	Restricted All Uses cancelled except for malarial control purpose of the Department of Health
Dieldrin	Banned
Endrin	Banned
Heptachlor	Banned (Never Registered)
Hexachlorobenzene	Banned (Never Registered)

Mirex	Banned (Never Registered)
Toxaphene	Banned (Never Registered)

### **Chemicals**

Dioxins	Not Regulated by the Authority
Furans	Not Regulated by the Authority
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)	Not Regulated by the Authority
Hexabromobiphenyls	Not Regulated by the Authority
Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)	Not Regulated by the Authority

During interviews, it was found that majority of the respondents do not know about POPs pesticides and were not able to differentiate the POPs pesticides from other pesticides. Only (15%) knew about POPs pesticides. These respondents attended several activities on POPs conducted before the survey, thus making them informed about POPs. Majority (85%) were only informed about POPs during the implementation of the project (see Annex 1 for figures).

It is unfortunate that information dissemination on the distribution, use and impacts of POPs pesticide was not properly done by the Philippine government, although there was one television station that aired advertisement on POPs during the 3rd quarter of 2005. One radio station monitored by RESIST also aired general information on POPs, but the topic was given very limited air time. The local government units in Bulacan, however, did not have any information campaign about POPs pesticides.

This project served as an opening salvo on the issue of POPs pesticides particularly in Purok 4 and 8 but can be replicated on the national scale since RESIST is a national network. Ironically, even the employees of the local office of the Department of Agriculture in Bulacan who were interviewed were not very much aware of the POPs issue and its possible effects. Thus, the limited information campaign of the Philippine government on POPs was not really sufficient.

During the focus group discussions conducted, it was shared that distributors were misleading the general public on POPs issues so that their sales will not be affected. This way, farmers will not be able to recognize adverse effects or illnesses due to exposure to pesticides. However, during the interviews conducted, 40% of the respondents have experienced the following common illnesses which may be attributed to POPs pesticide exposure:

1. Severe headache
2. Cough
3. Dizziness
4. Hyperacidity

Despite these common illnesses, no detailed surveillance program was instituted in the area to monitor the adverse effects of pesticides on health and the environment. It was then recommended that the Pesticide Quick Response and Surveillance Team (PQRST) be set up in the area. The PQRST was conceptualized

by Dr. Romeo Quijano of Pesticide Action Network Philippines. It proposed the setting up of a team (consisting of medical personnel, local organizers, and NGO representatives) able to respond to reports of adverse events related to pesticides. The functions of the PQRST are:

- To determine the veracity of the report
- Gather relevant data
- Properly document the incident
- Make an initial evaluation on the association of the observed adverse event and pesticide exposure
- Undertake initial response measure
- Make appropriate recommendations for further action.

### **Data Analysis and Development of Action Plans**

The following plan of action was identified by SASAMAG and TMUFAI to continue their campaign against POPs pesticides:

1. Regularly hold discussion groups, fora, and seminars on POPs pesticides. The aim is to educate all of its members and reach out to other farmer groups in Bulacan.
2. Continue research on POPs pesticides with the help of other stakeholders.
3. Hold a series of dialogues or public meetings with local government units to monitor the status of POPs in their area.
4. Educate the pesticide industry, especially the distributors and local stores in Bulacan, for them to stop selling POPs pesticides in the future.
5. Set-up Pesticide Quick Response and Surveillance Team (PQRST) in the area to respond to reports of adverse events related to pesticides within the area or at the national level if possible.
6. Lobbying at the House of Representatives to adopt a law that will ban or prohibit the entry of POPs pesticides in the country.
7. Attend seminars or conferences sponsored by the Philippine government or private institutions tackling the issue of pesticides.
8. At the international level, help disseminate the information on POPs and support the campaign to stop the use of POPS.

### **Seminar on Action Research**

A seminar was conducted on April 5, 2006 at Purok 4, Barangay Tungkong Mangga, with 50 participants from SASAMAG and TMUFAI. Prof. Cesar Tolosa, spokesperson of the Tanggol Magsasaka and Rhodora Gueta, RESIST Secretariat served as the consultants for this activity. Representatives from local government units, such as barangay officials, and representatives from AMB and the RESIST network joined the 1-day seminar. During the seminar, the results of the action research was shared, and support was obtained from different organizations and institutions on farmers' actions to solve the issues related to pesticides, including POPs pesticides.

## **Project results and outcomes**

As expected, the project activities conducted increased the knowledge of farmers' communities regarding the risk of pesticide use, particularly POPs pesticides. Through this project, farmers who joined several activities conducted under the project have experienced the participatory approach. The participatory research helped them to assess and study their conditions, especially those that were harmful to their health, environment and livelihood.

The farmers were able to develop action plans toward dealing with the problem of POPs, and they were able to encourage other farmer's communities and other organizations/institutions to support their struggle for POPs pesticide elimination. The project also strengthened the network of the AMB farmers through the implementation of farmer-to-farmer follow up events done by the farmers themselves.

Project activities such as the week-long *Forum and Photo Exhibit -The Danger of Pesticides: Pushing for Peasants' Alternatives* from December 3 to 10, 2005 was able to raise the awareness of other stakeholders, especially students, professionals, some members of the Local Government Units (LGUs) and other institutions, and pushed them to act for the benefit of farmers. The recently concluded *Asian Peoples Tribunal Against IRRI* also served the objectives of this project, bringing the issue of pesticides at the Asian level. In addition, the identified objectives of the seminar on action research were met. The participation of local government units in the seminar brought us one step further towards solving the issues related to pesticides under POPs, by enlisting initial communication with local government officials on the POPs issue.

Finally, with the documentation of the action research project results and the skills learned through the project, this can eventually help the community obtain support from local sources for project continuity.

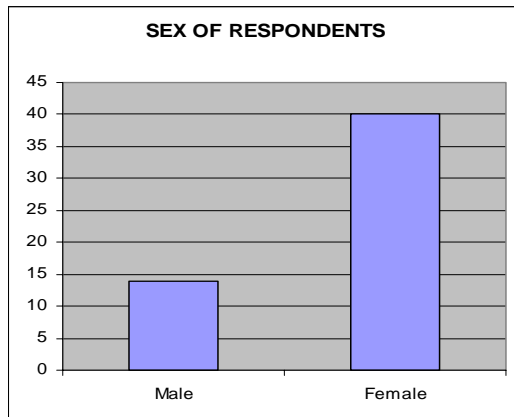
## **Opportunities for project replication**

The main strategy to repeat the project is through the network of AMB farmers in Bulacan province and the RESIST network at the national level. Using AMB's regular activities such as fora, meetings, and discussion groups, they can promote these strategies to other farmer groups by conducting the same process of action research activities, thereby continuously updating information about POPs pesticide use in their respective communities. To conduct these activities, the AMB farmers' network/advocates can look for support from local sources or other interested donors to continue and develop further action plans of the farmers. RESIST will help raise funds or introduce the work of the farmers' network to other potential donors who might be interested in supporting the struggle of farmers.

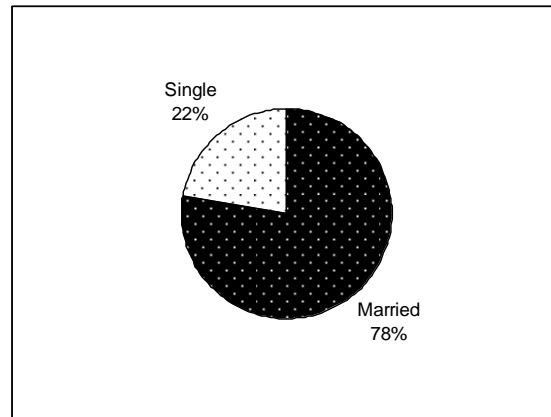


## Annex 1. Figures

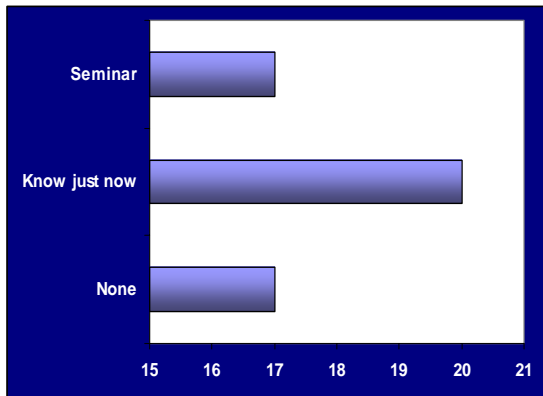
**Figure 1. Sex of respondents**



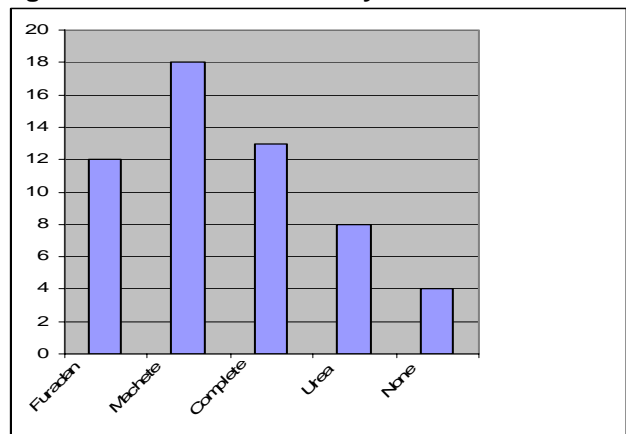
**Figure 2. Civil Status of respondents**



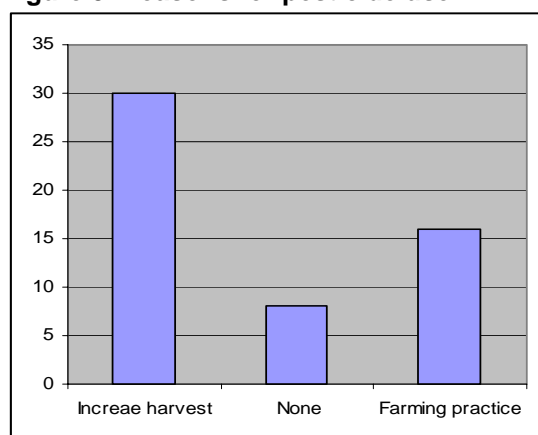
**Figure 3. How respondents know about POPs**



**Figure 4. Pesticide commonly used**



**Figure 5. Reasons for pesticide use**



## Annex 2. Questionnaires Used in the Action Research

### QUESTIONNAIRE - Pesticides

1. Name of Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Civil Status \_\_\_\_\_
3. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
4. No. of people in the household \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you use pesticides in the farm or in the house? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What pesticides do you use? For what purpose and when did you use the pesticide?

Name of pesticide used	Purpose	When
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
7. Do any of your neighbours use any pesticides? \_\_\_\_\_
8. If Yes, what pesticides, for what kind of pest and when?

Name of pesticide used	Purpose	When
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
9. Did anybody in your community ever use DDT, Chlordane, Dieldrin, or Thiodan? \_\_\_\_ If Yes, which one, for what, and when was it used? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What kind of illnesses have you or any member of your household experienced during the past year? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Which illnesses do you think are due to exposure to pesticide? Please describe in detail(illness, name of person with illness, age, sex, name of pesticide that caused the illness, manner of exposure, symptoms, severity, duration, treatment, recurrence upon re-exposure).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Did any other person in your neighborhood experience any kind of illnesses due to pesticide exposure? If Yes, please describe in detail(illness, name of person with illness, age, sex, name of pesticide that caused the illness, manner of exposure, symptoms, severity, duration, treatment, recurrence upon re-exposure).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What do you think are other possible causes of the illnesses experienced?  
\_\_\_\_\_

QUESTIONNAIRE –POPs Pesticide  
Key Informant

1. Name of Key Informant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Civil Status \_\_\_\_\_
3. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Main Responsibility: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Areas of responsibility: \_\_\_\_\_
7. What do you know about Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How did you know about POPs? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Is there any POP pesticide still used within your area of responsibility? \_\_\_\_\_ If Yes, which POP pesticide is still used? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Who is using the POP and where (specific barangay, town)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How were they obtained? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Has there been any information campaign by government about POPs pesticide in your area? \_\_\_\_\_  
If Yes, how was the information given? \_\_\_\_\_
- 13.. Do the farmers generally use pesticides in their farms? \_\_\_\_\_
14. If Yes, what pesticides, for what purpose and when?  

Name of pesticide used	Purpose	When
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
15. Do you know of anybody in your area who experienced any kind of adverse effects or illnesses due to exposure to pesticides? If Yes, please describe in detail(name, age, sex, symptoms, severity, duration, treatment, date of occurrence, etc.).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. Is there any detailed surveillance program instituted by your agency or any other agency to monitor possible adverse effects of pesticides on health and the environment? \_\_\_\_\_  
If Yes, please describe the monitoring program. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. Do you think the illnesses experienced are related to the use of pesticides? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_
18. What do you think are other possible causes of the illnesses experienced?  
\_\_\_\_\_
21. What do you think are the main problems related to the use of pesticides in your area?  
\_\_\_\_\_
22. What solutions do you suggest? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Organization and address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annex 3. “Forum and Photo Exhibit - The Danger of Pesticides: Pushing for Peasants’ Alternatives” Program (December 3 to 10, 2005)**

Topic	Speakers	Focus
Politics and Health Effects of Pesticides	Prof. Cesar Tolosa, Tanggol Magsasaka  Dr .Gene Nispersos, RESIST Convenor and HEAD Secretary General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Pesticides, Politics and Monopolies</i></li> <li>• <i>Politics and Pesticides in the Philippines</i></li> <li>• <i>Some pesticides and their symptoms</i></li> <li>• <i>What to do in case of poisoning</i></li> </ul>
Testimony on the Effects of Pesticides	Aurelio Mercado, Brotherhood of IRRI Workers Support Services Group (BISSIG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The peasant testimonies on the effects of pesticides</i></li> </ul>
Sustainable Agriculture: The Farmer’s Alternatives against Pesticides	Danilo Ramos, KMP Secretary General  Wilfredo Marbella, KMP Deputy Secretary General for Internal Affairs  Imelda Lacandazo, KMP National Vice-chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sustainable Agriculture as an Effective Alternative of Farmers</i></li> </ul>
<i>Open Forum, Synthesis and Closing</i>		

## Annex 4. Concept Paper: “Asian Peoples Tribunal against IRRI”

### Background

When the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) was established through PD 1620 in April 4, 1960 in the Philippines, it restructured Asian farmers' sound traditional agricultural practices to become dependent and subjugated to chemical inputs that are products of TNC-controlled agri-business. IRRI's chemical dependent seeds and intensive capital input high yielding varieties (HYVs) eroded the traditional rice varieties (TRVs) of Asian rice farmers and had a negative impact on the ecological system of agricultural lands.

Ironically, the 220 hectares of land where IRRI and its experimental farms is located was land grabbed from the farmers in Bay, Laguna by virtue of PD 457 and PD 1046-A. IRRI's 46th year existence in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, serves as an instrument of imperialist plunder and control in seeds, pesticides, technology and agriculture throughout the world. It is now involved in what we called “Gene” Revolution and we are again being made to believe that it will end hunger. Worst, the Gene Giants have tactically used the World Trade Organization (WTO) to open up restricted markets and genetic engineering (GE) played a major role in this strategy.

These were done through funding of intensive agricultural biotechnology research and development no other than by seed companies and agro-corporations. Globally, western countries have infused some US\$6 billion annually to aid research and development, over US\$7.5 billion a year is spent on in-house biotechnology programs.

The seed – which contains all the hard work of farmers and the culture instilled on it brought about by centuries of local farming tradition – is being manipulated to serve the interest of these TNCs. Right now, the government in different Asian countries is also raging high profile propaganda moves for people to accept its thrust for biotechnology in rice. In the Philippines, IRRI would definitely benefit on the Charter Change being pushed by the President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) which allow 100% foreign ownership of land.

The desperate regime of GMA is also taking desperate move against the ever strengthening Philippine peasant movement. It is linking the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) as a communist front organization and its three national leaders in her desperate effort to quash not only the strengthening peasant movement but also the ever growing resistance against her regime.

Despite these situations, numerous people in Asia are now up in arms against the hazards of agricultural biotechnology for various reasons. Concerned people's organizations, NGOs, academe, scientists, health workers and individuals in the world, especially in Asia are united and determined to expose and struggle against IRRI and its cohorts, the Agrochemical TNCs and the imperialist globalization.

Throughout countries in Asia, our struggle gained initial victory. For Asian peasants, the application of science and technology at the expense of our lives and livelihood and of the lives and livelihood of millions of people are not only admissible.

### Why Peoples' Tribunal against IRRI?

The **Tribunal** came into being during the discussion between KMP and Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PANAP) in January 2006, after the successful **International Rural Peoples' Tribunal against WTO, sponsored by Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) and PANAP**, held in Hong Kong on December 15, 2005 during the 6<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference focusing on 10 years of WTO's catastrophe to agricultural producers.

The **Tribunal against IRRI** was conceptualized to feature the great havoc of its 46th year existence at the expense of the Asian farmers.

The theme of the tribunal is **“End Imperialist Control in Agriculture! Intensify the Struggle for Genuine Agrarian Reform!” to be held on April 4, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Balay Kalinaw, University of the Philippines, Diliman in Quezon City.** It is sponsored by the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) and the Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PANAP) hosted by Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and RESIST Agrochemical Transnational Corporations (TNCs). The **Tribunal will have farmers and its advocates from India, Malaysia, Pakistan, and the Philippines.**

**Mechanics:**

The Tribunal will take the form of international peoples' trial against IRRI and its cohorts, the Agrochemical TNCs and the imperialist countries pushing for the implementation of the IRRI's agenda and have committed heinous crimes against the toiling peasant masses such as and including, the landlords, each country's government and US imperialism through President George W. Bush.

**The Tribunal program will start from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** The process will incorporate some standard court/legal procedures. There will be a presidium of judges, a college of jurors and a panel of prosecutors from different countries. Each of the countries participating in the tribunal will present the current state of their farmers, the effects of pesticide and chemical poisoning, the plight of IRRI workers, the peasants' on-going alternative against GE and their struggle for land, and other resistance against imperialist domination. In the end, the tribunal aims to reach a people's verdict and set further grounds for the strengthening of our struggle. It is estimated to have more than 1,000 participants who will attend the Tribunal.

**Objectives:**

1. Serve as a venue for sharing of situations and experiences on IRRI and TNCs control in agriculture and the peasants struggle for genuine agrarian reform.
2. Expose IRRI and held them liable for its crime against the peasants and workers as instruments of imperialist plunder, domination and control on seeds, technology and agriculture of Asian.
3. Strengthen the international peoples' movement by building further unity and actions among themselves and strengthen their alliance for future actions against TNCs and imperialist globalization.

**Program:**

Opening Song

Opening Speech – Dr. Gene Nisperos

Introduction of Presidium of Judges, College of Jurors and Prosecutors

Presidium of Judges – Dr. Irene Fernandez (Chief Judge), Dr. Romeo Quijano and Atty. Jobert Pahilga

Prosecutors – Dr. Giovanni Tapang, Fatima Burnad and Dr. Azra Sayeed

College of Jurors – Fernando Hicap, Dr. Chito Medina, Carmen Buena, Shen Maglinte, Maita Gomez, Prof. Cesar Tolosa and Atty. Pura Calleja .

Presentation of Witnesses

- Danilo Ramos, Aurelio Mercado and Mrs. Granzore (land grabbing, violation of farmers and workers rights in IRRI)
- Dr. Shahid Zia (Green Revolution to Gene Revolution)
- Sarojeni Rengam (Pesticides and chemical poisoning)

Cultural Presentation

College of Jurors' Deliberation

Cultural Presentation

Verdict

**Sponsors and organizers:**

The Tribunal is sponsored by the **Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) and the Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PANAP).**

APC is an Asia-wide peasant coalition with more than 14 million members from farmers, landless peasants, fisher folks, agricultural workers, dalits, indigenous peoples, herders, pastoralists, women and youth across these coming from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Indonesia, and Philippines. APC's current secretariat is the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

PANAP is the regional base for PAN an international coalition of citizens groups and individuals opposing the misuse of pesticides and support reliance on safe, sustainable pest control methods. PANAP is linked to more than 150 groups, working consistently with some 50 groups in 18 countries in the Asia Pacific region.

**International POPs Elimination Project – IPEP**

Website- [www.ipen.org](http://www.ipen.org)



The Tribunal will be hosted by KMP and RESIST Agrochem TNCs, a broad coalition of 52 organizations and institutions coming from the peoples' organizations, scientists, health professionals, academes, environmentalists, academes and individuals in the Philippines.

**Follow-up activity:**

The follow-up activity would be the publication of the proceedings of the Tribunal for distribution to participants and to international network (including media).

## **Annex 5. Verdict of Asian Peoples Tribunal against IRRI**

**ASIAN PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL  
DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY  
PHILIPPINES**

**ASIAN PEASANT COALITION,  
Complainant,**

**-versus-**

**FOR: VIOLATION OF  
WORKERS AND PEASANTS'  
RIGHTS, LANDGRABBING,  
CHEMICAL AND PESTICIDE  
POISONING, INTRODUCTION  
OF HYV AND GE SEEDS TO  
FACILITATE IMPERIALIST  
PLUNDER AND CONTROL OF  
SEEDS, PESTICIDES,  
TECHNOLOGY AND  
AGRICULTURE.**

**INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE, GEORGE W. BUSH AS  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA, FORD AND ROCKEFELLER  
FOUNDATIONS, GLORIA MACAPAGAL  
ARROYO AS PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, ET AL.  
Defendants.**

**x-----x  
V E R D I C T**

### **Prefatory**

The International Rice Research Institute's (IRRI) 46 years of existence merely serves as an instrument of imperialist plunder and control in seeds, pesticides, technology and agriculture throughout the world.

The IRRI through the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations beginning on April 4, 1960 at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna has restructured Asian farmers' sound traditional agricultural practices to become dependent and subjugated to chemical inputs that are products of TNC-controlled agri-business. IRRI's chemical dependent seeds and intensive capital input high yielding varieties (HYVs) have eroded continuously the traditional rice varieties (TRVs) of rice farmers, destroyed systematically the ecological system of agricultural lands, and put to great danger the life and health of farmers and peoples here and throughout Asia and the whole world.

Moreover, locally, the IRRI has been with impunity wantonly violating the rights of workers and peasants. IRRI has land grabbed too some two hundred twenty two (222) hectares of farmers' land in Laguna, Philippines.

## Parties

*This is an Indictment brought by the Asian Peasants and Peoples – or the peasants, farmers, fisher folk, agricultural workers, peasant women, indigenous peoples of Asia-- in solidarity with other oppressed and exploited peoples of the world -- as Plaintiffs, through the Panel of People's Prosecutors.*

This Indictment is against INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, GEORGE W. BUSH AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FORD AND ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATIONS, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, ET AL, who are acting, confederating, collaborating, cooperating or working with one another, and who participated or cooperated in the commission of the offenses herein described, or by their tolerance or inaction, despite knowledge thereof, allowed the commission thereof, hereinafter referred to as the **"Defendants"**.

## Charges and Violations

The Defendants are hereby charged by the Asian Peasants and Peoples of widespread and systematic **VIOLATION OF WORKERS AND PEASANTS' RIGHTS, LANDGRABBING, CHEMICAL AND PESTICIDE POISONING, INTRODUCTION OF HYV AND GE SEEDS TO FACILITATE IMPERIALIST PLUNDER AND CONTROL OF SEEDS, PESTICIDES, TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE.**

## Allegations

The above-named defendants, conspiring and mutually confederating with one another committed the above-mentioned charges as follows:

### **1. LANDGRABBING**

IRRI is also built on hectares of land illegally and immorally taken away from the farmers. In 1974, by virtue of Presidential Decrees (PD) 457 and 1046-A issued by late dictator Ferdinand Marcos under martial law, landowners and tenant-tillers were forced to sell their lands for less than their worth. To prevent unrest, IRRI duped the farmers by hiring most of the displaced tenant-tillers as field workers and promising them "security of tenure" that would extend to their children. These are in reality empty promises that are being breached wantonly by IRRI.

In actuality, by virtue of these outdated and immoral laws including PD 1620, coupled with the Philippine government's unabashed coddling of IRRI, this imperialist institution has not only able to take away from the farmers some two hundred twenty two (222) hectares of farmlands but likewise relegated the poor farmers to a position of hapless tenants and farm workers that would have been quickly disposed of by IRRI after serving their productive years therein. Worst, IRRI is getting away from all liabilities because of stupid local laws that protect IRRI and grant this imperialist institution immunity from suit in the Philippines.

**In the testimony given by Danilo Ramos which was directly collaborated by the statements of Aurelio Mercado, respondents IRRI, the government of the Republic of the Philippines, and the Ford and Rockefeller foundations, are proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt of land grabbing as consequence of forcible acquisition of lands by virtue of PD 457 and PD 1046-A.**

### **2. VIOLATION OF WORKERS AND PEASANTS' RIGHTS**

Using an immoral and unconstitutional Marcosian Decree (Presidential Decree 1620), IRRI has and continuously been subverting the rights of the Filipino workers by conducting union busting activities like

massive harassment of unionist and their leaders, implementation of mass lay-off and dubious retrenchment program. Hundreds of Filipino workers were illegally and arbitrarily terminated.

Worse, some of these workers who were arbitrarily severed from work, were also suffering from work related illnesses or those directly brought about by chronic exposure to toxic chemicals and pesticides. A number of them have never recovered and died already of these work related illnesses such as cancer, liver ailments, Parkinson's disease, etc. They died without receiving anything by way of compensation and or benefits from their work or devotion of their productive years with IRRI.

These workers were subjected to IRRI's anti-worker policies and practices. IRRI has shrewdly used PD No. 1620 to give itself "immunity from civil and legal cases." Under PD No. 1620, the rights of IRRI workers and employees have been even more exploited, violated and repressed. What made things more miserable, the Philippine Supreme Court and the Department of Labor have callously sided with IRRI by unreasonably upholding this stupid and unwarranted immunity.

To date, more than 500 Filipino workers have already been forcibly retrenched by IRRI through its Staff Adjustment Program that started in 1990. The workers that objected to and fought this scheme were the first victims of this so-called "program". Many of them were members of the Brotherhood of IRRI Workers Support Services Group (BISSIG). Cases were filed at the Department of Labor (DOLE) but they were eventually dismissed because of PD 1620.

**Based on given testimony as clearly established in the visual presentation, oral arguments and statements pronounced, and on documents at hands, IRRI is guilty of violation of workers and peasants rights as provided for in Section 3, Article XIII; Section 11, Article II; and Section 18, Article II of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.**

**PD 1620, which is constitutionally defective law, cannot be the basis for immunity since IRRI has no standing in international law and therefore cannot enjoy immunity from suit based on international law.**

### **3. CHEMICAL AND PESTICIDE POISONING**

The life and health of Filipino workers and employees in IRRI were shamelessly forsaken in the name of greed and profits. Farmers have been enormously exposed to chemicals and pesticide and become victims of toxic chemicals and pesticides being used in the experimental fields.

Because of this, eight IRRI workers have already died of dreaded diseases as consequence of exposure to chemicals and pesticide during their employment with IRRI. These hapless field workers died without seeing the dawn of social justice in the name of rice research.

The IRRI management did not even bother to look into these cases of rampant death and illnesses directly resulting from use of chemicals and pesticides. On the contrary, IRRI has even tried to whitewash the truth, despite the fact that several television stations have already uncovered and featured the real story behind IRRI and this IRRI-work related chemical and pesticide poisoning.

Outside IRRI, the effects of chemical and pesticide being applied to seeds and crops are equally being experienced by farmers who were programmed to use these toxic chemicals and pesticides into the IRRI designed seeds and crops. In turn the consuming public would have eaten these crops produced out of these toxics and poisons. This is a local and global scenario directly attributed to this IRRI program of toxics and poisons.

**The studies on Health Effects of Pesticides on Former IRRI Workers in 2000 fervently manifested the ill-effect of experiments conducted by IRRI. The oral testimony of Dr. Romeo Quijano further**

**reveal the adverse effect of chemicals and pesticides on health and life of IRRI workers. Therefore, IRRI is guilty of chemical and pesticide poisoning.**

#### **4. GREEN REVOLUTION AND GENE REVOLUTION TOWARDS CONTINUING IMPERIALIST PLUNDER AND CONTROL OF SEEDS, PESTICIDES, TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE ALL OVER THE WORLD**

Corollary to this, in 1966, IRRI released its IR8 rice seed - it spread in Asia so fast and it was nicknamed "miracle rice." Unfortunately, the IR8 IRRI's high-yielding varieties (HYVs) required vast amounts of pesticides and fertilizers, jacking up the cost of production and destroying the environment. The native snails, frogs and crabs being used by farmers and their families as naturally abundant free viands disappeared from the rice fields.

The Green Revolution ended harshly and hazardously. It destroyed farm lands and crops. It left millions of farmers hungry and landless. It poisoned our foods, destroyed biodiversity and threatened food security, our health and the environment.

IRRI crimes do not stop there. It is continuous. IRRI is now involved in the second generation of transgenic crops or genetically engineered seeds (GE seeds). Or what is now called "Gene" Revolution and we are again being made to believe that it will end hunger. But the GE being driven by agrochemical TNCs and strongly supported by the US government is a global drive to open new markets, gain dominance and control over the world's food, seeds and agriculture.

Worst, the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) was even more designed to promote biotechnology, TNCs corporate farming and industrial agriculture. The Gene Giants have tactically used the WTO to open up restricted markets and GE played a major role in this WTO strategy.

These were done through funding of intensive agricultural biotechnology research and development no other than by seed companies and agro-corporations. Globally, western countries have infused some US\$6 billion annually to aid research and development, over US\$7.5 billion a year is spent on in-house biotechnology programs.

The seed – which contains all the hard work of farmers and the culture instilled on it brought about by centuries of local farming tradition – is being manipulated to serve the interest of these TNCs. Right now, the Philippine government is also raging high profile propaganda moves for people to accept its thrust for biotechnology in rice.

The government, through the IRRI and its local counterpart Philippine Rice Research Institute (PHILRICE) are trying the people to accept introduction of transgenic rice such as the hybrid rice and the BB (Bacterial Blight) rice.

The Philippine government - thru the help of agrochemical TNCs-funded institutions and research bodies such as the IRRI, the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications or ISAAA, also based in Laguna (whose mandate is the transfer and delivery of biotechnology products in developing countries), the World Bank base and funded Consultative Groups on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), among others – continue to conduct research and development and science and technology programs aimed under the framework of the "free market" and globalization.

Moreover, the national sovereignty of the Philippines is blatantly and shamelessly being violated by IRRI. With the help of imperialist puppet government like the Arroyo Government IRRI continuously plunders the genetic resources and patrimony of various countries particularly in Asia.

Likewise, IRRI would definitely benefit on the Charter Change being pushed by the Arroyo government that will allow 100% foreign ownership of land in the Philippines, making IRRI stay in the country for ever.

**The oral testimony of Dr. Shahid Zia further reveal that IRRI facilitated the patent claim on Basmati through sharing of the germ plasm it collected from Pakistan and India. Pakistan Government found it difficult to dispute the patent because of the very high costs involved in challenging the patent.**

**In another testimony of Sarojeni Rengam, she testified that IRRI's research agenda is for profit and working with the grassroots will truly determine what kind of research and technology should be done among the farmers in Asia.**

**Therefore, the Philippine government of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Ford and Rockefeller foundations, US President George W. Bush, and IRRI are guilty of plunder, control of seeds and agriculture as clearly manifested by the testimonies.**

### **Evidence**

These general and specific allegations shall be substantiated and proven before the Asian Peoples' Tribunal through testimonies of victims, material witnesses, and their relatives and documentary and object evidence including videos, PowerPoint presentations, publications, fact sheets, affidavits, fact-finding mission reports, judicial records; and the reports and/or studies of the organizations who are participating in the Asian Peoples' Tribunal.

The peasants and the People in general will establish that the Defendants, despite their knowledge of the atrocities and their corresponding obligation under the Constitution and international laws of their responsibility to protect and observe the rights of the peasantry, the farmers, the farm workers, and the peoples, not only failed to prevent the commission of such crimes but on the contrary committed, tolerated, abetted and encouraged the same.

### **Call to Action**

The Asian People and the peasantry, after establishing the guilt of the defendants in the crimes charged, respectfully recommend to the Asian People's Tribunal the following penalties, sanctions and measures: That –

- 1) The IRRI be abolished and the imperialist institutions behind it be banned from operating in the Philippines and elsewhere;
2. The local laws upholding and protecting IRRI, especially P.D. 1620 be repealed and or scrapped;
3. The government of the Republic of the Philippines be made to answer also for its complicity to these IRRI crimes on the local peasants, workers and people, and be pressed to decisively take steps that will abolish IRRI and halt IRRI atrocities;
- 4) The findings of this Tribunal be invoked among solidarity groups and individuals locally, regionally, and in the international community to support the Asian peasants and rural peoples' struggle;
- 5) The Defendants be made to pay compensation and indemnification for the victims' rehabilitation, restitute their material and moral damages, and issue a sincere public apology to the people as well as to the other oppressed and exploited peoples;
- 6) Local and international pressure be exerted on IRRI and the United States of America to desist from these criminal acts, imperialist plunder and control of seeds, biotechnology, land and agriculture, particularly of the Asian Countries;

7) The Defendants be further charged or complaints be filed with the United Nations and its pertinent committees and Special Rapporteurs, the International Criminal Court (ICC) under the Rome Statute, the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC), the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC);

8) The Tribunal to further demand the creation of a legitimate and independent body to try crimes committed in furtherance of the immoral and illegal IRRI programs here and in other Asian Countries;

9) The Government of the defendant United States of America be admonished and pressed to renounce and stop its other imperialist policies and actions; and

10) The concerned Defendants other than IRRI, having been notified and given an opportunity to be heard and after a rendition of a Guilty Verdict by a College of Jurors to be constituted under the authority and supervision of a Presidium of Judges, be forcibly ousted or overthrown from positions of power and perpetually and absolutely barred from holding any public office;

**OTHER RELIEFS**, as may be deemed proper under the premises, are likewise sought and prayed for

University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines. April 4, 2006.

**PANEL OF PEOPLES' PROSECUTORS:**

**Dr. AZRA SAYEED**  
Pakistan

**Dr. GIOVANNI TAPANG**  
Philippines