

NGO: Cameroon Pesticide Action Network (CAPANET)

Country: Cameroon

Project: Contributing to training in IPM and safe occupational practices in support of improved implementation of the Code of Conduct.

SAICM GPA activity numbers: 29, 33, 41, 42, 51, 114, 160



In Cameroon, a trainer explains the hazards caused by pesticides use to a group of farmers from the Mbalmayo area.

Photo : Alternatives Durables pour le Developpement



In September 2010, a workshop was organized by Cameroon Pesticide Action Network (CAPANET) in line with the implementation of the FAO Code of conduct on the production, distribution and use of pesticides. CAPANET planned this activity because it felt that the FAO Code of Conduct was not well known in Cameroon, nor carried out by the key actors of the pesticide sub-sector. The activities conducted during this three-day training included presentations by experts in the field of crop protection on:

- Pesticides (definition, toxicity, different classes, etc...);
- Dangers of pesticide use on humans and the environment;
- Protective clothing that should be worn by pesticide users;
- Main actors and their roles in the implementation of the FAO Code;
- Pesticides registration in Cameroon (procedure to follow, law & regulations in force, list of pesticides registered for distribution and use in Cameroon);
- Initiatives to ban the use of dangerous pesticides in Cameroon;
- Government actions to ensure compliance;
- Alternatives to pest control using synthetic chemicals;
- The IPM concept and its implementation in Cameroon;
- International conventions (Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions);
- Anti-poison centers and their role in the implementation of international conventions;
- CAPANET's strategy for the international management of chemical products;
- International standards on the use and manipulation of phytosanitary products (the GLOBALGAP fruits and vegetables private standard); and
- An action plan (including capacity building, advocacy/lobbying, and promotion of alternative methods) to be taken for full implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct in Cameroon to be taken for full implementation

Participants of the workshop included representatives from civil society, Common Initiatives Farmer Association, NGOs, pesticides importers and distributors, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in charge of pesticide registration and control. Following the workshop, participants said to have learned, amongst other things, what pesticides and their toxicity classes are and to what extent these products can harm the operators, the consumers of agricultural commodities and the environment inside which we all live. Almost all of the participants stated that they would share their knowledge with farmers working with them in the field. In addition, the government representative stated that he would make a proposal to their hierarchy to improve the existing phytosanitary legislation in Cameroon.