

III. Communication Actions

- 1) improve access to information on pesticides, particularly acutely toxic pesticides and alternative safer pest control measures by using the tools of the Rotterdam Convention and other information networks;
- 2) expand awareness raising, education and training appropriate to the public and user communities;
- 3) encourage and facilitate exchange of information, technology and expertise within and among countries by both public and private sectors for risk reduction and mitigation;
- 4) facilitate access to research results related to alternative pest control (both chemical and non-chemical) and crop production measures by pesticide users, those exposed to pesticides and extension services;
- 5) evaluate the efficacy of pesticide risk reduction programmes and alternative pest control methods currently implemented and planned by international organizations, governments, pesticide, agricultural and trade sectors and other stakeholders, and
 - a. distinguish programmes that have achieved significant and sustainable risk reductions from those which have not,
 - b. ensure that results are shared locally, regionally and internationally,
 - c. incorporate evaluation mechanisms and measures of progress in future programmes.

For future consideration:

- governments and stakeholders to consider liability and compensation issues.

The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) is a broad-based alliance of all stakeholders concerned with environmentally sound management of chemicals. It operates on the basis of full and open participation, offering representatives the opportunity to meet and build partnerships, provide advice and guidance, make recommendations and monitor progress. The IFCS was established in 1994 in response to a recommendation adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development -UNCED, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992.

Lead Champion: S. Wibulpolprasert, IFCS President
Champions: I. Makalinao, APAMT
R. Awang, APAMT
W. Temple, APAMT
R. Quijano, PAN Philippines
B. Dinham, PAN U.K.
R. Holt, CropLife International
M. Macarol-Hiti, Institute of Public Health, Slovenia

For detail and up-dated list of Champions, please refer to <http://www.who.int/ifcs/champions/index.htm>

IFCS Secretariat, c/o World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 3650/3873; fax: +41 22 791 4875; email: ifcs@who.int; website: www.ifcs.ch

Acutely Toxic Pesticides



Forum IV recommendations and agreed action items on Acutely Toxic Pesticides



Forum IV

Recommendations and agreed action items on Acutely Toxic Pesticides



Recognising that poisoning of pesticide users and their communities, especially agricultural workers and small farmers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, must be prevented, national governments are hereby provided with guidance for sound risk management and reduction actions, in particular those related to acutely toxic pesticides.

Governments should, with the commitment and support of international, regional and local stakeholders, such as international organizations, scientific and medical communities, pesticide and agricultural industries, public interest groups, agricultural workers, labour unions, small farmers and indigenous peoples, take a variety of actions, best suited to their needs and capacities, such as:

I. Policy Actions

- 1) ratify and implement the internationally agreed Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;
- 2) fully implement the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides as the basis for a comprehensive life cycle approach to pesticide management at national level;¹
- 3) promote a culture of compliance and accountability, and effective enforcement and monitoring programmes;
- 4) give appropriate priority to pest and pesticide management in their national development cooperation strategies in order to access technical and financial assistance, including appropriate technology;
- 5) base national decisions on acutely toxic pesticides on an evaluation of their intrinsic hazards, anticipated local exposure to the products, taking into account their common conditions of use and the need to reduce risks.

II. Regulatory Actions

- 1) promote Integrated Pest and Production Management;
- 2) prioritise the registration and/or use of formulation types suited to the conditions of use in the country;
- 3) ensure that product label statements have clear safety and use information;
- 4) establish licensing systems for the sound storage, distribution and application of pesticides;

- 5) promote appropriate standards for application equipment, container and package design (e.g. size, shape, material), and procedures for maintenance and guidance for use of equipment;
- 6) establish mandatory or voluntary container return procedures, whichever is the most effective;
- 7) establish pesticide use surveillance and monitoring systems to gather information on common conditions of use and their impact on health and environment;
- 8) expand research and capacity for research on alternative pest control (both chemical and non-chemical) and crop production measures;
- 9) Use the tools of the Rotterdam Convention in order to:
 - a. provide appropriate level of resources to Designated National Authorities;
 - b. identify and notify the Secretariat of the Convention of severely hazardous pesticide formulations;
- 10) prohibit or restrict availability (including the use of import and/or export controls as desirable) and use of acutely toxic pesticides (such as formulations classified by WHO² as Extremely Hazardous (class 1a) and Highly Hazardous (class 1b)) and/or those pesticides associated with frequent and severe poisoning incidents;
- 11) substitute acutely toxic pesticides with reduced risk pesticides and non-chemical control measures;
- 12) encourage industry to extend product stewardship and to voluntarily withdraw acutely toxic pesticides when poisoning incidents occur;
- 13) establish or enhance comprehensive national systems for surveillance and reporting of poisoning incidents affecting workers and communities, including:
 - a. training of waged agricultural workers, farmers, communities, and public health professionals to recognize pesticide poisoning symptoms and enable immediate intervention in the field;
 - b. education and resources for health care workers to treat health effects appropriately;
 - c. community and self surveillance monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
 - d. use of incident report forms established under Rotterdam Convention and WHO harmonized human data collection tools, and other available instruments; studies to estimate the under-reporting of poisoning incidents;
 - e. support and strengthen Poison Centers;
- 14) avoid the build up of stocks, and dispose of obsolete stockpiles using the best available technologies and practices in accordance with international agreements;
- 15) prioritize the procurement of least hazardous pest control measures and use best practices to avoid excessive or inappropriate supplies in donor assistance activities.

¹ International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, Food & Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. Revised Version adopted by the Hundred and Twenty-third Session of the FAO Council in November 2002.

² World Health Organization, The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Guidelines to Classification 2000-2002, WHO/PCS/01.5, http://www.who.int/pes/docs/Classif_Pestic_2000-02.pdf