

6th International HCH & Pesticides Forum, Poznań, Poland, from 20-22 March 2001

Summary Report to Forum Statement

Introduction

The purpose of the 6th Forum was to bring together experts in the field of handling stocks of obsolete pesticides, to help find funding, and to share experiences about possible solutions to address this problem, with a special focus on Central and Eastern European Countries (CEC), New Independent States (NIS) .

The 6th Forum was organised by the International HCH and Pesticides Association together with the Polish Plant Protection Institute and hosted by the Polish Plant Protection Institute.

The Forum was attended by 110 participants from CEEC and NIS and representatives from West European countries, North and South America, United Arab Emirates and Africa. Representatives from DANCEE, Dutch Ministry of the Environment, ECPA, FAO, GCPF, HELCOM, ICS-UNIDO, INTAS, UNEP Chemicals, Umweltbundesamt, UNIDO, US AID, US EPA, WHO also attended the meeting, as well as representatives from environmental NGOs, research institutes and the private sector.

Recognising:

- that obsolete pesticides pose severe threats to human health, the environment and development in CEC and NIS,
- that many of the governments in these countries lack the technical, financial and logistical resources to address these inherited problems,
- that addressing these problems requires a national, systematic, strategic and integrated approach towards obsolete pesticides in line with the implementation of the forthcoming POP's convention in which all stakeholders are involved and with appropriate public information and participation
- Part of such a strategic approach is the establishment and implementation of an action plan including nation wide inventories of stocks of obsolete pesticides based on the international accepted standard (e.g. FAO) after which appropriate treatment is applied as well as strategies for prevention of accumulation of stocks
- that there is also a need for agreed strategies and action plans on the sustainable use of pesticides,
- that in most of the CEC and NIS countries there is no detailed, nation wide inventory of obsolete stocks available, and that in most of those countries appropriate mechanisms for treatment are not available,
- that over the last decade, the Forum has successfully brought together scientists, governmental representatives, IGOs and NGOs, agrochemical industry and other stakeholders,
- that there is an urgent need for:
 - more intensive and co-ordinated collaboration with bilateral donors, the European Institutes and other International organisations and countries from outside the region and
 - structured (sub)regional collaboration,

The participants of the Forum recommended:

- that CEC and NIS countries explicitly express the political will to address the problem of obsolete pesticides as a matter of urgency, and to develop and implement national strategic approaches to address this problem, including detailed nationwide inventories,
- that the HCH and Pesticides Forum together with representatives of the recipient countries and involved stakeholders will work towards a mechanism of a (sub)regional organisation that will provide:
 - annual or biannual regional meetings to take stock of the developments in this field, and in particular in this region, and to catalyse new developments that may offer a solution to the handling of obsolete pesticides,
 - a web site with:

- i. the actual situation and developments in the CEC and NIS countries,
- ii. links to other relevant web sites,
- iii. information on different priority issues, such as:
 - 1. inventories
 - 2. decision making support tools
 - 3. technical solutions
 - 4. preventive strategies
 - 5. transformation strategies towards sustainable agriculture
 - 6. research programmes
- a regional advisory Committee with the task to:
 - i. organise the regional meetings
 - ii. develop and maintain the web site
 - iii. provide information and advice upon request of the CEC and NIS
- a regional resources centre, which also hosts the Secretariat of the Steering Committee and the regional web site.
- that countries outside the region and IGOs assist the CEC and NIS in the elimination of stocks of obsolete pesticides and preventing their recurrence, among others by assisting in developing national action plans as well as (sub)regional collaboration.
- that these countries also develop and/or strengthen programmes on sustainable management of pesticides, including: production, import, distribution, application and disposal.