

Overview on the state of pesticide management in the Republic of Azerbaijan

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During the communist system in the former Soviet Union, the main emphasis in the Republic of Azerbaijan has been mainly put on controlling pests and diseases of field crops. Annually 40-50,000 tonnes of pesticides were applied in the Republic, with an average rate of 13-15 kg/ha. In the district of cotton cultivation this index amounted to 150-170 kg per ha. It is important to state that regulations concerning pesticide applications were often omitted. In addition, DDT was in use until 1982 in the Republic of Azerbaijan while in the other republics it was already banned.

It also should be pointed out that no central storage site with proper facilities for pesticide was available in the whole Republic. The same situation was found in the collective farms owned by the communist state. Additionally, a good transportation system for pesticides was lacking. The poor management of pesticides on the state level had a strong negative impact on environment. At present there is only one store is available, where about 8.5 tonnes of unwanted and obsolete pesticides have been placed. However, here the conditions do not meet the required standards. It was built 15 years ago and is not safe for the environment.

Another important problem needs to be presented. There is no possibility to utilise about 1.5 tonnes of liquid pesticides like BI-58 and others. Moreover, during this period there were no regulations and documents related to proper management of pesticides.

This situation has not been changed until today. The end of the communist system has not brought changes in this matter. Inexpensive analogies of tested pesticides were put on the market. They performed low efficiency in controlling pests and diseases and showed high risk of environmental contamination. In the 90s new directives concerning pesticides management were adopted, however they are outdated and do not correspond with the current situation.

Recently the controlling system of collection, storage and treatment of pesticides has even become more difficult due to the changes in agriculture. Regional ecological authorities undertake activities helping to solve this problem. Companies and firms representing similar profile work together on regulations and directives setting up high requirements to OWOS documents.

Therefore, there is a need to have a technical support from countries having the leading role in the environmental protection and a good experience in solving hazardous waste problem.