

CLOSING SESSION





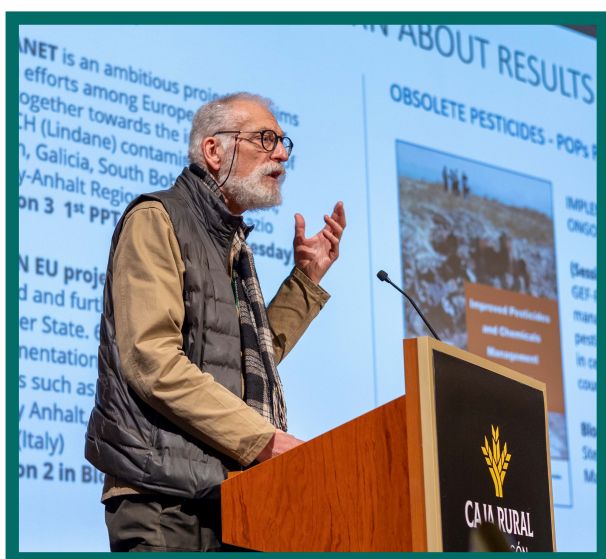


Mrs. Elena Cano, Head of the Contaminated Soils Service (Government of Aragon, Spain)

“Collaboration between European regions is key to joining efforts and creating synergies in the development of strategies and knowledge about pollution and on the techniques applied to eliminate this contaminant”

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Szgwqy4wkwk>)

Mrs. Maria Victoria Esteruelas Aragonese Society of Agri-Environmental Management (SARGA) / Vicente Ros. Responsible for Climate Change and Circular Economy Control Union



John Vijgen, Director International HCH and Pesticides Association (IHPA, Denmark)

Let me first follow up what Elena Cano has said: Thank to anybody here participants, sponsors, the organization with all that fantastic people with their soul to move on like Aragon. I want to thank everybody as IHPA and the way everybody is working here and I hope there is a great future for all of you, so that is why I do not have so much to say anymore. So, I want to show you these pictures again of the children and that is what I talked about in the beginning: the Lindane Legacy and the Obsolete and POPs Pesticides. These were the two lines in the highway.

Please note on the left side the white HCH mountains at French Mega-site Ugine Kuhlmann Huningue (France) (Ref Martin Forter, www.martinforter.ch)

In the next picture, you see where we are standing now here with the Lindane Legacy: we have the status of contaminated sites, you can see the EU regions active in the L Network, and the “HCH in EU” project, a great project where we have made a whole inventory of contaminated sites in the EU Member States, but we are still waiting that the Member States give some answers and do their homework after the termination of this project and that issue is also important to include in the Resolution. Then you see that we additionally made six Action Plans in six EU regions, which are

ready for actions to be taken and thus move forward, so there must come a follow-up! And this is what we have to fight for!



On the side the Obsolete and POPs Pesticides, where you can see that phantastic report we made on the strategy for the Central Asia region as part of EECCA countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asian Republics), how to move forward, where we have explained when you invest now in the old Obsolete and POPs Pesticides for a period of 5-10 years and you have the necessary treatment equipment installed and working, thus the whole infrastructure is ready to tackle thereafter the new hazardous waste in these countries and we talk about millions of tons. Of course, the question was also what we are going to do with the region?

YOU ARE HERE TO LEARN ABOUT RESULTS

LINDANE LEGACY

LINDANET is an ambitious project that aims to join efforts among European regions to work together towards the improvement of the HCH (Lindane) contaminated sites. Aragon, Galicia, South Bohemian Region, Saxony-Anhalt Region, Silecia, and Lazio
(Session 3 1st PPT in Block 9 Wednesday)

HCH IN EU project. EU Wide inventory to be verified and further on the ground in each Member State. 6 Action Plans ready for implementations in the most important regions such as Aragon, Galicia, Alsace, Saxony Anhalt, Czech Republic, Valle del Sacco (Italy)
(Session 2 in Block 8 Wednesday)

OBSOLETE PESTICIDES - POPs PESTICIDES



IMPLEMENTATION IS ONGOING

(Session 2 Block 10 : GEF-FAO Life cycle management of pesticides and disposal in central Asian countries and Türkiye

Block 10 Wednesday
Stephen Robinson & Mark Davis

The way forward is to create network that is able to move the regions forward and therefore we want to hear from the regions what they have to say and what is the result of this resolution and the same way applies for the Obsolete and POPs Pesticides, also here the players are the GEF, World Bank, and the UN Agencies, en we have to do more than the implementation of incidental projects and there should be a long-term Fund or a Mechanism that keeps the countries going so that they can rid of the Obsolete and POPs Pesticides and thereafter can start to work on the future! I want to thank all of you.

Way forward

LINDANE LEGACY

The international HCH and Pesticides Association will close on Dec 31, 2023

A network/association of the Lindane Affected Regions should be established

The follow-on Network should have technical know-how as well as long term political commitment to cooperate on the elimination of Lindane Legacy in the coming generation

POPs PESTICIDES

Implementation of the strategy for the EECCA region being,

Instalment of sufficient capacity to eliminate all the POPs pesticides following making this capacity available to destroy presently occurring hazardous waste in combination with circular economy implementation.

Finance should be pursued with a stronger engagement from the GEF and the European Commission



Mr. Bram de Borst Chairman of the Board (IHPA)

Ladies and gentlemen,

I want to spend a few words also on our Foundation the IHPA is this a very remarkable moment. As John announced in the Opening Session, these are not the last things that we are doing today, because there is still something to be done, a book to be published. John and Katya will be busy with it in the coming months, but nevertheless, it is now the Closure session that we are here together, and I want to spend a few words on our Foundation and especially also to address some words on John. Our Foundation is a mini

thing. It is not a big Foundation; it is not about money; it is about a few people connected to each other who are committed to work for the objective of the Foundation, and it has to do with the

future generations. John has shown in one of his last slides, the small people, the small guys from Central Asia on this picture and that is why we have done this in the past 30 years. And that is also something to hand over. No, it is not something to hand over, because it is not about the target, it is also about the Community that we are together. It is not the small entity IHPA, but much more important is the community of people, you and us together, who are searching together for what we can do to improve the situation, the Legacy, this huge amount of money, but it is not about money, it is also about the guts to solve this problem and to be persistent in achieving the results for the next generations and also for the present generation.

John, 14 Forums and it starts a month before the Forum, then late night calls, or the long phone calls and we are working together since 1986, so we know each other very well and we also developed friendship and I appreciate it very much. But it is so unique, the way you are doing this, and I think most of you have this experience. Most of these conferences started when John came in. I want to thank you for your personal commitment for all the work you have done and for the way you do it-and really show your commitment, but also that you are interfering with people to make them move and you are gifted to do that, which you are using that as well. It is also very nice that during this conference, your own next generation is present and is contributing. They have not yet made the promise to continue your work, it is also not what I want to ask them, because we have to search for other ways to continue the contribution of IHPA but is also nice to see that not only Neel, your wife, but also your children are here and really committed to contribute.

So, I want to thank you!