

**SAICM/UCT  
Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) Community of Practice (CoP)  
Discussion 2 2022 Guide**

<b>Title</b>	<b>The Key Role of SAICM Focal Points in Reducing Harm from Highly Hazardous Pesticides</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>10h00 – 11h30 (GMT+2)</b> <b>AND</b> <b>14h00 – 15h30 (GMT +2)</b> This session will play the recordings of the morning presentations and questions will be addressed by <b>Dr Hans-Christian Stolzenberg</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Keith Tyrell, Pesticide Action Network UK</b>
<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Professor Hanna-Andrea Rother (University of Cape Town), Dr Hans-Christian Stolzenberg (German Environment Agency UBA) and Nalini Sharma (SAICM Coordinator)</b>
<b>ZOOM registration link</b>	<b>10h00 – 11h30 (GMT+2):</b> <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AQLqUCg4T_yJP4nJD7ONwg">https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AQLqUCg4T_yJP4nJD7ONwg</a> <b>AND</b> <b>14h00 – 15h30 (GMT +2):</b> <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_192twz3WRaOrlJ9tsYRnQg">https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_192twz3WRaOrlJ9tsYRnQg</a>
<b>SAICM/UCT HHPs CoP Sign-up link</b>	Make sure you have signed up for the HHPs CoP: <a href="https://saicmknowledge.org/community">https://saicmknowledge.org/community</a>
<b>What's App Group</b>	Join the HHPs CoP What's App Group to receive information: <a href="https://chat.whatsapp.com/JFBuA0TRuRZ0NAqm8JHpp0">https://chat.whatsapp.com/JFBuA0TRuRZ0NAqm8JHpp0</a>

**Two steps are required to join this discussion:**

5. Sign up to the CoP, if you have not done so previously, at: <https://saicmknowledge.org/community>
6. Should you require assistance or have questions, contact: [uctcops@outlook.com](mailto:uctcops@outlook.com)
7. Register for the 27<sup>th</sup> of July ZOOM discussion at: **10h00 – 11h30 (GMT+2):**  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_AQLqUCg4T\\_yJP4nJD7ONwg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AQLqUCg4T_yJP4nJD7ONwg) **and** **14h00 – 15h30 (GMT +2):** [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_192twz3WRaOrlJ9tsYRnQg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_192twz3WRaOrlJ9tsYRnQg)
8. We encourage you also to join the HHP CoP WhatsApp group by clicking on this link:  
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JFBuA0TRuRZ0NAqm8JHpp0>

**Discussion Format:**

1. This is not a Webinar, but rather a discussion among different stakeholder groups.
2. The discussion presenter/s will briefly present a verbal introduction and introduce the questions listed in this discussion guide.
3. Three questions will be posted during the 1 ½ hour discussion. The presenter/s will address questions and comments posted by members in the chat room and participants are encouraged to respond to each other as well.
4. All are encouraged to join the discussion which will be held in English. Feel free to write in another language and members will assist where possible with translation.

## PRESENTER BIOSKETCH



### **Nalini Sharma (SAICM Coordinator)**

Nalini has over 15 years of experience in addressing environmental issues at the global, regional and national levels, including in the field of sustainable development most recently with the SAICM Secretariat and the Special Programme on institutional strengthening for the chemicals and waste cluster, with UNEP's Ecosystems Division as Office in Charge of the Biodiversity Unit, and playing a key role in UNEP's work on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including hosting the interim Secretariat. During her time with UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment she supported the Global Environment Outlook assessments and spearheaded capacity building on integrated environmental assessments.



### **Dr Hans-Christian Stolzenberg (German Environment Agency UBA)**

Hans-Christian has almost 25 years of UBA experience in various fields of environmental chemical safety and chemicals management. By training, he is a certified biologist and further graduated with an ecotoxicological thesis. Since 2012 he heads UBA's International Chemicals Management Section (IV 1.1), in charge of coordinating and contributing to, *inter alia*, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), also as German National Focal Point (NFP); the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), also as NFP; the Minamata Convention on Mercury, also as NFP; Classification and Labelling based on the Globally Harmonized System GHS; environmental assessment and labelling of transported goods; OECD Chemicals Programme, in particular Test Guidelines Programme; socio-economic considerations in chemicals management; developing the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; sustainable chemistry.



### **Prof. Hanna-Andrea Rother (University of Cape Town)**

Andrea is Professor and Head of the Environmental Health Division in the University of Cape Town's School of Public Health and Family Medicine. Andrea is also an Honorary Professor in the Department of Public Health, Environments and Society, Faculty of Public Health and Policy (PHP), London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. She has worked in the field of chemicals and pesticide risk management for over 30 years researching, teaching, and conducting capacity-building work (e.g., academic programmes, communities of practices, diverse training) in the areas of exposures, risk management, risk communication, policy development and analysis, and risk perceptions. Andrea has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and led the development of over 40 risk communication tools particularly aimed at low-literate populations and policymakers.

## DISCUSSION INTRODUCTION, (Nalini Sharma, SAICM Coordinator)

In the discussion today, there will be an opportunity to hear firsthand from a SAICM Focal Point and learn about the challenges they are facing and how these challenges could be addressed.

Before introducing this, we will discuss the insights on the role of the SAICM Focal Points, how the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) has supported addressing highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) and the ongoing discussions on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. One of the key roles of SAICM national focal points has been the communication on Strategic Approach matters with national and international stakeholders. This communication naturally encompasses matters linked to HHPs, like a strategy to address highly hazardous pesticides in the context of the Strategic Approach. ICCM 4 Resolution IV/3 on Highly hazardous pesticides highlights the role of SAICM stakeholders in addressing HHPs.

In the past, the majority of SAICM national focal points have been considered to come from the environmental sector. The involvement of agriculture, health or labour has been less tangible.

Costa Rica is an example of integrating all relevant stakeholders, including from agriculture into chemicals management coordination mechanism.- the Technical Secretariat on Chemical Substances (established by [Executive Decree 33104](#)). Recently, the Government agencies were engaged in the development of a joint ‘National HHP Action Plan’ in order to reduce the use as well as risks associated with the use of pesticides (more information [here](#)).

Ongoing discussions within the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 process provide an opportunity to ensure wider stakeholder engagement (i.e., from the agriculture sector) in the future framework and encourage integrated chemicals and waste management for issues like HHPs.

An information document has been prepared for the IP4 meeting initially scheduled for 2020: Promoting multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation – summary of known obstacles and possible incentives (it will be available for IP4 meeting in Bucharest as SAICM/IP.4/INF/4/Rev.1). It proposes to review the role of national and regional focal points in the beyond 2020 instrument, including the possible guidelines for SAICM national focal points as set out in information document SAICM/IP.4/INF/7/Rev.1.

It is therefore essential to learn what has worked well and where have shortcomings been found concerning the support of SAICM national focal points to addressing HHPs.

IP4 meeting, to be held in Bucharest, Romania, between 29 August and 2 September 2022 creates an opportunity to support better anchoring of integrated chemicals and waste management in the future framework, including in the context of HHPs.

During 2022-23, FAO, WHO and UNEP will continue exploring the modalities for international coordination and concerted actions on HHPs. A progress report on addressing HHPs with proposed concerted actions could be submitted to ICCM5 in autumn 2023. This will constitute another opportunity for the SAICM National Focal Points to get involved in communication with national and international stakeholders on HHPs.

Take away message: **Do not miss this opportunity and be active in the Intersessional Process!**

#### Resources:

- [Compilation of recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, for consideration by the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management](#)
- [Outcome of Virtual Working Group 2 on governance and mechanisms to support implementation](#)
- [ICCM resolution IV/3](#)
- Promoting multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation – summary of known obstacles and possible incentives **[SAICM/IP.4/INF/4/Rev.1 – link to document tbc]**
- Possible guidelines for SAICM national focal points as set out in information document **[SAICM/IP.4/INF/7/Rev.1 – link to document tbc]**.
- [Strategy to address highly hazardous pesticides in the context of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management](#)
- [FAO-WHO-UNEP Action Plan on Highly Hazardous Pesticides \(HHP\) \[in development\]](#)

### QUESTION 1

**(Dr Hans-Christian Stolzenberg, German Environment Agency UBA)**

As a National Focal Point (NFP) for nearly 10 years, a recurring question is how NFPs can strengthen the network amongst themselves, learn from one another and support each other as a community of practice. The backgrounds of SAICM NFPs are diverse, for example, as an NFP, I am the Head of a small unit with various tasks at UBA, a governmental agency reporting to its ministry. My unit has approximately 10 to 12 staff while more than 1600 people work at UBA. Over 360 of UBA’s staff work in the Chemicals Safety Division and nearly 150 staff work in the assessment and approval procedures of pesticides (e.g., plant protection and biocidal products, mostly on an EU level). As we

work closely with a sister unit of the German Environment Ministry, we only have indirect contact with other ministerial departments like agriculture, health, development and cooperation, economy, and foreign affairs. Therefore, as an NFP from an environmental sector and scientific policy advice perspective, it is useful to hear from other NFPs, their backgrounds and the sectors they work closely with.

There are significant specialized resources for scientific policy advice and challenges to implementing multi-sectorial activities. With specific regard to HHPs, there was a national stakeholder event on the topic in May 2022 where the following points were discussed:

1. Expert-generated information on hazards, risks and their mitigation is adequate.
2. Science and evidence-based work can help to avoid regrettable substitution and further strengthen agroecological approaches.
3. To improve the situation in many countries of the Global South, some areas still need capacity building and adequate training. Additionally, funding will require considerable efforts both from governments and the industry/private sector.
4. Participants recognized SAICM and Communities of Practice with their multi-sector, multi-stakeholder elements as approaches to enhance the overall sustainability of the agricultural sector.

Overall, activities like this raise awareness and get more integrated views of those involved. Of interest to the discussion is how documents like the HHPs factsheet can be used to further raise awareness in Germany and how activities can stop the use of HHPs globally.

The new German Government is committed to identifying legal options on how to prohibit the export of certain pesticides which are not approved for use in the EU due to human health protection reasons. However, as a SAICM NFP, I have not directly achieved this commitment and feel there is a lack of information on how far the process is.

**Question 1: How can specific activities/partnerships get clear and effective mandates? Are there differences in principle between how income countries and low- and middle-income countries in this respect or are other general aspects more important to consider?**

**POLLS (Maximum of 2 polls)**

1. As a focal point, have you led on or been a part of any HHPs work in your country? If you are not a focal point, give details of HHPs work you have been involved in. (List your country in your response)
2. With how many other national focal points do you have direct contact with and work with regularly?
  - a. None
  - b. 1
  - c. 2-5
  - d. 6-10
  - e. 11 and more
  - f. Not a focal point

**QUESTION 2**  
**(Prof Andrea Rother, University of Cape Town)**

For question 2, the recently produced HHPs Factsheet led by the Division of Environmental Health at UCT and developed by, the UCT/SAICM Highly Hazardous Pesticides Community of Practice Project team, Umweltbundesamt and the Food and Agriculture Organization, will be presented. The factsheet will be distributed to you before the discussion. If you have not done so already, kindly sign-up to the [SAICM/UCT HHP CoP](#) to receive the announcement of the factsheet.

**Resource:**

- HHP Factsheet **[to be shared soon]**

**Question 2: Do you think SAICM and BRS national focal points should play an active role in the removal of HHPs nationally to prevent health and environmental effects? Explain your response.**

**POLLS (Maximum of 2 polls)**

1. Rank the top three stakeholder groups listed in the factsheet that you consider priority stakeholders to be engaged with as soon as possible.
  - a. Stakeholder
  - b. Governments
  - c. Industry
  - d. Retailers
  - e. Academia
  - f. NGOs
  - g. IGOs (UN)
  - h. Professional users (e.g., commercial farmers, pest control operators, small-scale farmers; family farmers; farm workers)
  - i. Trade and Farmer Unions
  - j. Consumers
2. What support do national focal points require to implement some of the suggestions listed in the factsheet. Who do you think should provide this support? List your country in your response.

**QUESTION 3**  
**(Prof Andrea Rother, University of Cape Town, and Dr Hans-Christian, German Environment Agency UBA)**

National focal points are key to the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste nationally and regionally. However, many focal points face several challenges to implement this work and to engage with a broad range of national and regional stakeholders.

**Question 3: What challenges are national focal points currently facing and how can these be addressed? Be specific as to the problem and solution and list your country/organization.**

**POLLS (Maximum of 2 polls)**

1. Do national focal points in your country have a budget for work on the sound management of chemicals and waste? (Respond, yes, no or I don't know and list your country)
2. Of all the work that is expected of national focal points, where would you say the work on HHPs should be ranked? High priority, medium priority, low priority (if low, explain why in the chat). List your country in your response.