

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON HIGHLY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES

Organized by the SAICM Secretariat and the University of Cape Town

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DISCUSSION 2 DIGEST

The Key Role of SAICM NFPs in Reducing Harm from Highly Hazardous Pesticides

INTRODUCTION

One of the key roles of SAICM National Focal Points (NFPs) 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 NFPs 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, from agriculture to 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 and 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 as well as 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 roles of national and regional NFPs in the beyond 2020 instrument, including the possible guidelines for SAICM NFPs 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 NFPs 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 NFPs to get involved in communication with national and international stakeholders on HHPs.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS



Nalini Sharma has over 15 years of experience in addressing environmental issues at the global, regional, and national levels. She has worked 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.



Hans-Christian Stolzenberg 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.

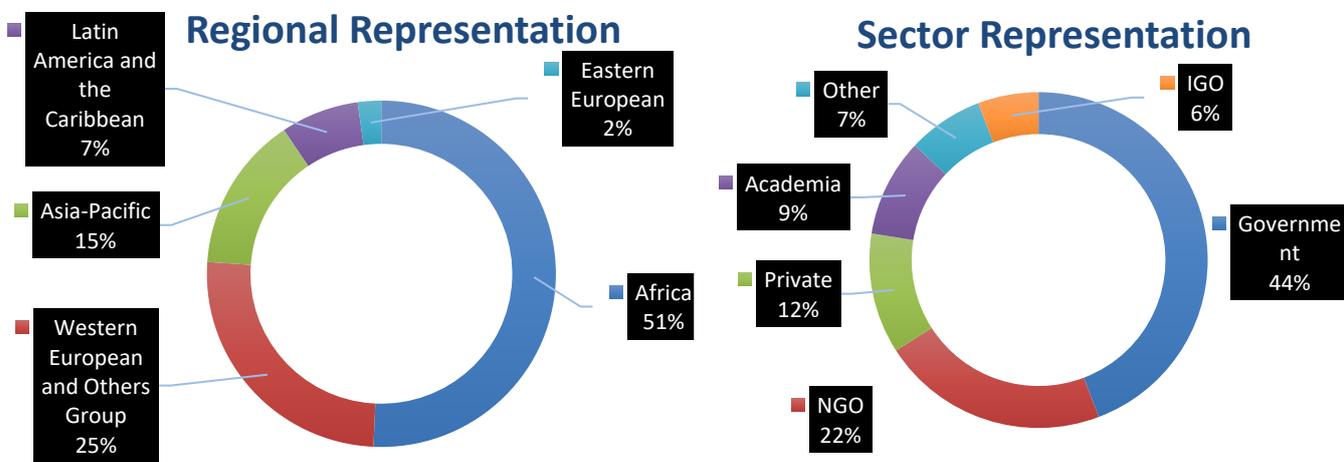


Andrea Rother is Professor and Head of the Environmental Health Division at the University of Cape Town's School of Public Health and Family Medicine. Andrea is also an Honorary Professor in the Department of Public Health, Environments and Society, Faculty of Public Health and Policy (PHP), London School 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.

2022 DISCUSSION 2 ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN

DISCUSSION 2 2022
TOTAL ATTENDEES: 138
Female: 64
Male: 70
Other: 4

KEY:
IGOs - Intergovernmental organisations
NGOs - Non-governmental organisations



Discussion 2 Summary Points and Looking Ahead

1. One of the key roles of SAICM national focal points has been the communication on the Strategic Approach topics with national and international stakeholders. This communication naturally encompasses matters linked to HHPs, such as a strategy to address HHPs in the context of the Strategic Approach. In the past, the majority of SAICM national focal points have been considered to come from the environmental sector. The involvement of the agriculture, health or labour sectors has been less tangible. Ongoing discussions within the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 process provides an opportunity to ensure **wider stakeholder engagement** (i.e., from the agriculture sector) in the future framework and to encourage integrated chemicals and waste management for issues like HHPs.
2. Collaboration between a wide range of stakeholders is critical for success in dealing with HHPs effectively. SAICM National Focal Points bring an important perspective on internationally guided policies on chemicals' risk reduction and management. Together with the Chemical Convention (BRS) focal points, international perspectives, guidance, and experience can **guide and support national actions to phase out, replace and eliminate risks from HHPs**.
3. SAICM is a unique conduit for **bringing together the perspectives and experience of countries, UN agencies, Conventions, Civil Society Organizations, and the private sector on chemicals management**

issues. SAICM recommendations can guide national policy, regulations, and actions of countries as they will benefit from shared accumulated experiences without having to revisit information and by avoiding making mistakes others made while gaining that experience.

4. There is global momentum for action on HHPs which is being effectively channelled through SAICM. IP4 will be making recommendations to ICCM5 that will advise countries to act on HHPs. Many reports and guidance documents and tools are currently being developed and published to support these processes. Regional pesticide regulators' groups are formulating strategies on HHPs. Therefore, the next few years will be a time for meaningful action on HHPs and an opportunity to revise pest management strategies that **favour sustainable approaches based on agroecology, bio-controls, cultural and mechanical tools, and the use of less hazardous chemicals as a last resort.** It is important that SAICM stakeholders support these processes and national regulators work together, follow the recommendations coming from SAICM and ask for support when needed. By 2030, pest management should aim to be free of risks to people and the environment, globally.

For a more detailed summary of the discussion, see the Annex below.

ANNEX

DETAILED SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION 2 2022:

Disclaimer: The information in this digest represents the opinions expressed during the discussion of members participating from different stakeholder groups. The views expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the opinion or the stated policy of the United Nations Environment Programme, the SAICM Secretariat, the GEF or UCT, nor does citing of trade names or commercial processes constitute endorsement.

THE DISCUSSION WAS STRUCTURED AROUND THREE QUESTIONS AND THE KEY DISCUSSION POINTS ARE PRESENTED UNDER EACH QUESTION.

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

How partnerships can get clear and effective mandates and the differences between high income countries (HICs) and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)

Political will

- Identifying HHPs and having the economic and political power to make decisions on controlling, regulating, or prohibiting the sale of HHPs is important at both a global and national level. Decisions by LMICs should be followed by effective substitutes that are relevant to farmers or there will be economic losses.
- To get effective mandate on specific activities/partnership (country specific), a strong political is essential to accomplish such activities/partnerships. The best practice would be to set provisions in some legislation (for example in our Law on chemicals we have set the provision on establishing so called Joint body where participants present different stakeholders). But the practice has taught me that it all comes down to people - who you know and how willing are they to participate/cooperate.

Human resources

- A country's income plays a role in staff sizing and LMICs are not able to have as many staff like HICs. As a result, activities in LMICs can hardly go into depth and details, while in HICs the challenge is bigger to coordinate and cooperate.

Global partnerships

- A global partnership on HHPs would need a mandate from a global body like ICCM. However, many regional partnerships already exist for HHP risk reduction activities (e.g., currently, there are regional HHP strategies in southern and eastern Africa)

Financial resources

- HICs have better resources to prepare. In LMICs, many partnerships are between the chemical industry and government.
- In LMICs, funding resources have been secured previously from industry for pesticide management.

Linking the region to SAICM NFPs

- Linking SADCs regionalization of the process to SAICM NFPs would be ideal.

Government and focal point collaboration

- NFPs facilitate research and consultancy with the public and government stakeholders.

HICs to collaborate with LMICs

- It is important for decision making to take place at cross-border levels for LMICs. In addition, HICs should provide knowledge on scientific assessment schemes.
- EU regulations may not meet the challenges faced globally in agricultural production.

Multistakeholder collaborations

- The most effective approach to empower mandated actions is the inclusion of multiple stakeholders along the agricultural value chain.
- Japan established the "Policy Dialogue on Chemicals and the Environment" which is a forum for exchanging opinions of various stakeholders including citizens, NGOs/NPOs, workers, businesses, government agencies and academic experts. This dialogue served to develop a SAICM national implementation plan which is found on SAICM's website.
- NGOs support farmers to use crops to end the use of dangerous pesticides.
- Mandates for specific national/regional activities should be prescriptive and there should be agreement on the activities amongst the stakeholders. In the past SAICM and other bodies (FAO, UNEP) have made general

resolutions which present a variety of potential options, then the organizational body or a subset thereof would carry it out.

- Partnership can get clear and effective mandates if relevant stakeholders work from both a bottom-up and a top-down approach. Often, information is lost in high level discussions and packaged in a way that is not accessible or known by persons of interest, and for implementation on the ground. Activities should come from grass root levels and involve the vulnerable population who can change political will as they vote a politician in power.
- The multistakeholder aspect of SAICM is so important and it is vital that vested interests do not derail the earnest efforts of some countries and stakeholders to tackle the harms from HHPs.

Transparency

- Getting effective mandates depend on the organization under which the activity/partnership falls under and who its membership consists of. It is important that the mandate comes from those who are members thereof. The mandate should be created by all members and be transparent.

NFPs attendance at national meetings

- NFPs should be encouraged to participate in national meetings.
- It is important for NFPs to participate and be engaged in follow-up enquiries.

Availability of information

- In LMICs, the availability of information is rare and if available and it is not easily shared among Government institutions. There should be open opportunities for information exchange, training and education on chemical assessment and management according to the FAO/WHO framework for HHP risk reduction process.
- As HICs and LMICs have different capacities, there should be channels through which information and evidence can be shared. A challenge is that some countries do not have access to certain platforms like the listing under Rotterdam Convention, despite the interest therein.
- HICs differ from LMICs by capacities of having reliable information. LMICs have no system of reaching out for information.
- Key stakeholders (e.g., policy makers) should share information about HHPs through different avenues such as workshops or online platforms and where possible, create or mandate certain organizations such as FAO/WHO for close follow up.

Policies and legislation

- Clear and effective mandates can be achieved through having good policies, laws, and regulations on enforcement of specific activities related to chemical management.

Mitigating risks

- NFPs should mitigate risks from pesticide exposure.

Poll 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, explain any HHPs work you have done? (n=26)

- **Iran:** A challenge is that in many LMICs countries, scientists are rarely appointed as focal points and instead politicians get appointed.
- **Guyana:** As part of the PTCCB there is a regional policy (of which Guyana is a part of) in reducing the number of HHPs in a country and replace it with fewer toxic alternatives.
- **Armenia:** AWHHE NGOs is working with local farmers, pesticide importers, sellers, and decision-makers to raise awareness on safe agro-ecological alternatives to HHPs like Glyphosate and Chlorpyrifos. Farmers should be trained on the use of alternatives.
- **Zimbabwe:** I am not the focal point, but I am involved in working on HHPs, we have shortlisted HHPs using JMPM/FAO criteria 1-7 and completed National Survey to identify HHPs under criteria 8.
- **Zambia:** I'm not a focal point but a part of the work on HHPs in the country.

- **Rwanda:** We identified HHPs in use to update the national Rotterdam list in Rwanda, we are in the process of phasing out HHPs and phasing in safer alternatives.
- **Benin:** In Benin our NGO GAPROFFA works with SAICM national focal points but on HHPs mainly and pesticides used in the agriculture area.
- **South Africa:**
 - Not a NFP but working on HHPs' identification, strategy development, capacity building.
 - As I work for a retailer, I drive pesticide usage within our grower group. I am not a focal point however I have gained awareness of HHPs and ways to reduce this using the Hierarchy of Control approach.
 - Elimination of HHPs by using the HOC and precautionary principle. I am part of the SADC HHP strategy WG and I removed all HHP out of the Dept Forestry Fisheries and Environment.
- **Tanzania:** I have neither lead nor been a part of any HHP work.
- **Uganda:** Supported work that compiles the country's HHPs situation.
- **Yemen:** I am the national contact point, and we work with the Ministry of Agriculture to monitor highly hazardous pesticides
- **Mauritius:** I am the National Focal Point for Mauritius.
- **India:** I have been involved in primary surveys among the farmers, pesticide dealers and agricultural extension officers to understand their perception of risks related to pesticide use.
- **East Africa:** Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) started in the mid 1940's when synthetic pesticides came into the market in East Africa and worldwide. Over the years, TPRI worked under colonial government, East Africa Common Services Organization.
- **Other:**
 - I worked as National Project Manager on POPs/Stockholm convention dealing with few POPS pesticides, had some personal study on honeybees killing pesticides, neonicotinoids, which is different to the EU/USA approach.
 - Conducted research on pesticide poisoning within farming communities and published the country's report on HHP use.
 - Control of HHPs transportation control mechanisms in the country as well as transboundary movement of HHPs must be regulated.
 - I collected data on acute pesticide poisoning and was involved in drafting FAO's HHP Global Action Plan.
 - I have not been involved in HHP work.
 - Contribution in the adoption of law or decree on the chemical's products and waste.
 - Assessment of the HHP situation in the country
 - I am not a focal point.
 - I am working with UNEP to design and document two projects to reduce the use of hazardous pesticides (HHP's and POP's) and improve the management of agricultural plastics.
 - Advocation and litigation on pesticide regulations and awareness among farmers and housewives is important.

Poll 2: With how many other national focal points do you have direct contact with and work with regularly? (n=35)

- **48%** said they were not a focal point
- **23%** said 2 to 5 focal points
- **20%** said none
- **6%** said 11 or more focal points
- **3%** said 6 to 10 focal points

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

Sector	YES
IGO	➤ NFPs should work together with key stakeholders such as pesticide regulators.
NGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SAICM and BRS NFPs should work on stopping production in Europe and the exportation thereof to countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. ➤ SAICM and BRS NFPs should play an active role in removing HHPs on a national level to prevent human health and environmental risks. Furthermore, they should ensure policies are in place to remove HHPs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SAICM and BRS NFPs should remind countries of their pesticide agreements and work with relevant local stakeholders to ensure change. ➤ NFPs should provide information to countries. ➤ SAICM and BRS NFPs should convince policymakers to phase out HHPs in countries. NFPs and governments should partner to do this.
Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tight control of importation through links with the authority and customs is important. ➤ Decisions to import pesticides should be made in reference to the PIC. ➤ NFPs can accelerate action plans and encourage the coordination of capacity building activities. ➤ As pesticide use depends on local weather conditions and settings, the national government and local regulation are important to control it with farmers and consumers. ➤ NFPs should actively organize opportunities with governmental authorities working on HHPs, including organising HHPs' risk reduction awareness programmes, identification, assessments, and mitigation. The rationale for this approach is to support and better implement the existing three step processes for risk reduction of HHPs. ➤ Tools, knowledge on risk-based decisions and capacities within regulatory bodies is particularly lacking in LMICs. A trusted entity, like FAO, can serve as a facilitator to provide these tools to lower the hurdle for local regulators to make risk-based decisions.
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NFPs can effectively create awareness on HHPs and lobby for the replacement with safer alternatives. ➤ As regulators in LMICs are slow to act, SAICM NFPs should work closely with SADC HHPs strategies to ensure information is disseminated timeously. ➤ Egypt has a high governmental committee for the general management of pesticides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a wide network with relevant local and international stakeholders. - An essential player at the national level in health and environment including economic and social influences. ➤ In Moldova, control over pesticides is carried out by the National Agency for Food Safety. The country has NFPs in the National Agency for Public Health that deals with the supervision of pesticide poisoning and promotes health risk. SAICM plays an important role in providing experience and knowledge. ➤ Many farmers in LMICs continue to be exposed to pesticides from either storing them in or near their residences, while applying pesticides and handling pesticides. Farming populations who are exposed to pesticides suffer from several health problems, primarily neurological abnormalities, respiratory ailments, and reproductive, endocrinological, and dermal problems. Therefore, in LMICs like Tanzania, financial support is needed for relevant stakeholders. ➤ The welfare fund for agricultural laborers in LMICs should include a special program for pesticide applicators. However, the creation and implementation of sound national policies to effectively articulate appropriate guidelines for managing farm pest control activities are necessary. Such policies should be aimed at both limiting pesticide exposure and usage without being destructive to food production. ➤ NFPs should implement strategies on chemical management. ➤ SAICM and BRS NFPs can play an active role by collaborating with relevant stakeholders to remove HHPs. ➤ BRS conventions are mutually discrete, and legally binding. At present the BRS Conventions have no specified mandate in their text to HHPs. Therefore, BRS NFPs have no specific mandate concerning HHPs. Care should be taken in not expanding the scope of BRS without due process, discussions on feasibility of amending the BRS conventions if widening mandate to HHPs is to be considered.
Academica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ BRS and SAICM NFPs should play an active role to protect humans, wildlife, and nature from HHPs pollution in LMICs. Cooperation between SAICM, BRS and other relevant stockholders is necessary. However, SAICM should take the head role. ➤ SAICM and BRS NFPs should play a key role in policy and technical discussions. ➤ SAICM and BRS NFPs play an important role in networking with national agencies and key stakeholders.

Sector	SOMEWHAT
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SAICM NFPs have the capacity to play an active role however, since they are voluntary framework, some decisions may only be reflected to national regulations.

	➤ Though NFPs play an important role, other stakeholders may have more information to inform decisions in a particular country.
Private	➤ Even if legitimate producers are stopped, criminals will make illegal HHPs available. Therefore, a holistic and phased approach is required.
NGO	➤ Despite NFPs playing an important role, civil society and academia similarly have a role to play to eliminate HHPs.

Poll 3: With how many other national focal points do you have direct contact with and work with regularly? (n=35)

- 1st place – Governments
- 2nd place - Professional users (e.g., commercial farmers, pest control operators, small-scale farmers; family farmers; farm workers)
- 3rd place - Industry
- 4th place - NGOs
- 5th place - Trade and Farmer Unions
- 6th place - Consumers
- 7th place – Academia
- 9th place - Retailers
- 10th place - IGOs (e.g., UN)

Poll 4: What support do national focal points require to implement some of the suggestions in the factsheet. Who do you think should provide this support? (n=28)

Needs of countries:

- **Tanzania:**
 - The welfare fund for agricultural laborers could institute a special program for pesticide applicators in LMICs. The primary need, currently, in such countries is creation and implementation of sound management of HHP.
 - Capacity Building, government support, resource allocation is needed.
- **South Africa:** Capacity and scientific skills are needed in LMICs, and the support would need to be provided by the country and the conventions.
- **Yemen:** Financial and technical support is needed.
- **Iran:** Related government agencies, NGOs, community workers, academic and government scientists, exist in many LMICs but there is no enforcement system to support them.
- **Zambia:** The Ministry is responsible for agriculture on general use, health on poisoning cases, commerce on imports and NGOs.
- **Guyana:**
 - Identification of HHPs used, identification of alternatives, promotion of alternatives and IPM.
 - Training and awareness to all pesticide users of HHPs in use and alternatives.
- **Armenia:** Further capacity building for management; information on alternatives; reporting poisoning cases; scientific data

Sector organisations:

- **BRS responsibility:**
 - Should provide NFPs with technical and financial resources.
 - BRS and NGOs could provide trainings and technical support while the government provides financial resources for the different trainings and HHPs activities.
- **Government responsibility:**
 - Platforms to create awareness and implementation of their suggestions in legislation. Senior government officials and policy makers should give this support.
 - Governments should provide a conducive policy environment.
 - A platform with relevant stakeholders to be supported by government.
 - Government should give major support as well as NGOs.
 - Government agencies should pressure the industry not to produce HHPs.
 - National self-assessments conducted by responsible stakeholders to implement action plans.
 - Require policy framework from the government.
 - Institutional backing, funding and manpower support provided by government.

- **Other support needed:**

- Technical stakeholders should organise stakeholder engagement. At a national level there is IICA who were involved in Latin America pesticides legislation.
- Guidance on engaging stakeholders on identifying HHPs.
- Training for education and capacity building.
- Political support, financial, logistical support and sharing of information.
- Understand why products are used and whether risks around their use can be mitigated.
- Relevant training, funding, and constant monitoring.
- To understand why farmers, use these products and whether risks in their use can be mitigated.
- Data to convince decision makers.
- Financial support to reinforce the capacity building activities.
- Sound, independent evidence and information including concerning the harms caused by HHPs and suitable alternatives.

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

Sector	YES
AFRICA	<p>Benin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The country has a limited budget for actions. <p>Cameroon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Cameroonian government establishes a list of approved pesticides; however, the implementation thereof is challenging and there is a need to raise awareness among stakeholders. <p>Eswatini</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A challenge for the country is a lack of resources, capacity building, regional collaboration, and data generation on HHPs. <p>Egypt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Integrated approaches are important for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste. ➤ The participation of the private sector is an urgent necessity. Therefore, the coordination and cooperation with other policies, resources, and sources such as cooperation with specialized organizations in the United Nations will be beneficial. <p>South Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As the country has an outdated pesticide legislation and HHP's are still registered for use, there is a need to implement a precautionary pesticide policy. <p>Nigeria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Capacity building is needed for all stakeholders. ➤ The establishment of a policy-science-industry interface and funding is important. <p>Tanzania</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Technology for the disposal of HHPs waste is a challenge. ➤ There are no funds allocated to the sensitization on the awareness programs to farmers and other users of HHPs. ➤ There is a lack of strict control measures on the importation and use of HHPs ➤ Awareness is necessary for farmers and consumers to be sensitized on the harm of HHPs. ➤ There is a lack of funds in addressing removing HHPs. ➤ There is insufficient research for the efficiency of safer alternatives to pesticides and a lack of willingness from politicians in support removing HHPs. <p>Rwanda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NFPs have little influence in the country. There is a need to influence the policies that are currently in place but limited due to the lack of budget or financial resources.
EUROPE	Armenia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The challenge is to ban HHPs in agriculture (e.g., chlorpyrifos and glyphosate) and to foster relationships with importers and promote alternatives among large-scale farmers. <p>Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ While EU regulations serve as an umbrella for member states, by exporting these principles it has both benefits and drawbacks. Next to the EU framework, there are many national specifics that sometimes make the regulation ineffective for decision making and implementation. ➤ When following a risk-based approach, a challenge for NFPs to consider is the local agronomic reality like product application aspects. <p>Hungary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of human capacity in Hungary is a challenge. ➤ There is a lack of a dedicated platform for relevant stakeholders. ➤ There is no budget to address issues on HHPs.
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	<p>Jamaica</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jamaica needs to raise awareness and engage with an action plan for HHPs. ➤ It is necessary to make specific pesticides inaccessible and empower end-users with information on their hazard. Additionally, pressure should be put on government/politicians to continuously implement and enforce. <p>Guyana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The lack of alternatives is a challenge. Research, promotion, and efficacy trials on alternatives is needed. Although alternatives are not registered yet, they exist, and countries need information and support to undertake local testing and farmer training. It is important that non-chemical alternatives and practices are considered alongside other options. <p>Uruguay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Most NFPs have too many issues to follow, and capacity is not enough to address all of them.
MIDDLE EAST	<p>Yemen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Building the capacities of local NFPs with the agreements that took place, such as the Basel and Stockholm Agreement, is needed. ➤ An orderly and quick policy approach for a chemical inventory inside the Republic of Yemen is needed. <p>Iran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In LMICs, the lack of support by government agencies, lack of communication and relation with academia is a challenge. ➤ In LMICs, there is a lack of awareness of NFPs due to a lack of coordination. Therefore, permanent control by SAICM, BRS, FAO, WHO is needed to see how active and efficient NFPs are.

Poll 5: Do national focal points in your country have a budget for work on the sound management of chemicals and waste? (n=26)

Yes (42%):

- **Sudan:** There is limited funding which makes it difficult to maintain roles.
- **Tanzania:** Yes, but it is not sufficient and limited due to policy and economic issues.
- **Kenya:** Yes, the focal point is well facilitated.
- **Armenia:** Yes, but very insufficient
- **Guyana:** Yes
- **Kenya:** Yes, well facilitated regularly but not sufficiently.
- **Tanzania:** The fund is some time allocated but very limited.
- **Sweden:** Within the overall budget and mandate given by the government to the designated agencies (KemI, Swedish EPA) as part of international work
- Other:
 - Not as much as we would like and it's hard to secure more fund compared to other environmental issues such as climate change or biodiversity. Mainstreaming has been an issue.

Not sure (27%)

- **Sri Lanka, Eswatini, Nigeria, Zambia**
- **South Africa:** I am not certain. I found reference to several committees, e.g., NCCM, that are apparently coordinating the management of chemicals across departments, but I am unable to contact anyone.
- **Kenya:** However, I am not sure if its adequate.
- Other:
 - We have the Dangerous Chemicals Control Act that includes new chemicals

No (31%)

- **Yemen, Bosnia, and Herzegovina**
- **Jamaica:** There is no specific funds for the management of non-pesticide chemicals and waste. A challenge is the budget for pesticides regulation in the country as the authority is self-financed and there is no dedicated focus on other chemicals and specific SAICM funds for toxic chemicals.
- Other:
 - There is no budget.
 - There is a reliance on donor initiated and funded projects.
 - There is a reliance on NGO funds.
 - There is a dependence on projects and sponsorship

Poll 6: Where would you say the work on HHPs should be ranked among focal point duties? High priority, medium priority, low priority (if low, explain why) (n=35)

High Priority (91%)

- **Iran, Guyana, Armenia, Jamaica, Rwanda, Kenya, Mauritius, Hungary, Zambia, Yemen**
- **Tanzania:**
 - We have a challenge on technology for disposal of HHPs waste.
 - No specific funds for the sensitization and awareness to farmers and other consumer of HHPs.
 - Lack of control measures on the importation and use of HHPs.
 - High priority for farmers, national policies, and public awareness.
- It is high priority because of the damage it causes to the health and environment.
- Work on HHP's should be ranked as a high priority among focal points duties due to the impacts on human health and the environment.
- High priority because HHPs causes irreversible harm if not properly managed.
- High priority because we have several of them still in use and disposal is a problem.

Low to medium priority (9%):

- Sweden: It is not prioritized at the national level as HHP are highly regulated at the EU level. However, it is highly prioritized in international collaboration with low- and middle-income countries
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Medium (since they are regulated). High in terms of raising awareness.

Useful 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 NFPs 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 \(HHP\) \[in development\]](#)

- [The Potential Key Role of SAICM Focal Points in Reducing Harm from HHPs](#)

HHPs COP: The Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Environmental Health Division at the University of Cape Town (UCT) created this Community of Practice (CoP) to foster online discussions and address key issues related to Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) among stakeholders from governments, international organizations, industry, academia, and civil society. This CoP is contributing to the SAICM/GEF project on Emerging Chemicals Policy Issues Knowledge Management Component.

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Join the SAICM/UCT HHP CoP at: <https://saicmknowledge.org/community>

If you have any questions or require clarification on this initiative, please contact the SAICM Secretariat at saicm.chemicals@un.org or UCT at uctcops@outlook.com.