



**COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON**

**HIGHLY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES**

Organized by the SAICM Secretariat and the University of Cape Town

# Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP) Community of Practice (CoP) 2020 DIGEST COMPILATION



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 School of Public Health and Family Medicine  
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## INTRODUCTION

In 2020, the HHP CoP successfully hosted four online discussions on topics specific to highly hazardous pesticides. Collectively, these discussions saw participation from 206 members from various regions such as, Africa, North America, Western European and Other Group, Asia-Pacific, and Latin American and Caribbean. The members represented various sectors such as, academia, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, governments and private sectors within the HHP CoP. From these discussions four summary digests were produced for information, using as a resource and sharing with your networks. This document is a compilation of the 2020 HHP CoP discussion digests.

## ABOUT THE HHPS COP

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) secretariat and the Environmental Health Division at the University of Cape Town (UCT) established a Community of Practice (CoP) in 2020 to address issues and foster discussions with relevant stakeholders related to Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs). This CoP builds on the work and experience UCT has had since 1997 in leading a CoP on pesticides in general.

The objective of the HHP CoP is to foster discussions that will identify key issues related to chemicals linked to highly hazardous pesticides as well as to enable knowledge sharing, best practice, case studies and tacit knowledge amongst participants of this CoP. This CoP is established under the framework of the SAICM project, GEF 9771: Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues under SAICM, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The CoPs intention is to provide a platform for multiple stakeholders to engage with each other on HHPs, as well as contribute to the Beyond 2020 discussions and deliberations.

## HOW TO JOIN THE HHP COP

In 2020 the discussions were held in Microsoft Teams, however, in 2021 the CoP discussions will take place on Cisco WebEx.

- If you have not signed up already and would like to become a member of the CoP to:
- Participate in online discussions with representatives from all relevant sectors, and if you wish, have the possibility to lead on a relevant discussion.
- Have first-hand access to up-to-date information produced by SAICM and other stakeholders on the SAICM emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.
- Actively contribute to peer-to-peer learning exchanges on best practices, case studies and experiences on chemicals management.
- Contribute to the development of new initiatives towards SAICM objectives and the SDGs.
- Receive summaries of discussions held.

Sign-up on the SAICM Knowledge website here, <https://saicmknowledge.org/community>.



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## SAICM/UCT HHPs COP 2020 Discussion forum schedule

No	Date	Topic	Presenter	Chair/Facilitator
1	15 <sup>th</sup> July	Mapping the global landscape of HHP risk reduction work	Ivy Saunyama, <b>FAO</b>	Facilitator: Andrea Rother, UCT  Chair: Tatum, UCT
2	19 <sup>th</sup> August	Perspectives on addressing HHPs in the SAICM context	Brenda Koekkoek, <b>SAICM</b>	Facilitator: Andrea Rother, UCT  Chair: Tatum, UCT
3	16 <sup>th</sup> September	Examples and case studies on strategies for identifying HHPs from different perspectives (suggest one case study per discussant)	Richard Brown, <b>WHO</b> Christoph Neumann and Andy Ward, <b>CROPLIFE</b> Keith Tyrell, <b>PAN UK</b> Halshka Graczyk, <b>ILO</b>	Facilitator: Andrea Rother, UCT  Chair: Tatum, UCT
4	21 <sup>st</sup> October	Overview of the HHP Global Action Plan and way forward	Gu Baogen, <b>FAO</b>	Facilitator: Andrea Rother, UCT  Chair: Tatum, UCT

The information in this digest represents the opinions of members participating from different stakeholder groups expressed during the discussion. 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.

# COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON HIGHLY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES

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Issue: 1 of 2020  
Discussion date: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Discussion 1 digest

### Topic of Discussion: Mapping the global landscape of HHP risk reduction work

Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) are responsible for significant environmental, economic and human health problems including acute and chronic poisoning. Consequently, calls to address HHPs have been on the global development agenda for many years. The 131st UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Council in 2006 recommended priority activities for FAO within the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to include risk reduction and a progressive ban on HHPs. Consequently, in 2008 the FAO and World Health Organization (WHO) Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM) formulated criteria that define HHPs. The FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct revised in 2014 led to a definition of HHPs and articles with specific references to HHPs. Also notable are the resolutions made at both the third International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM3) in 2012 and fourth ICCM (ICCM4) in 2015 for concerted global efforts to address HHPs. Many strategic stakeholders have called for action, guidance and support to address HHPs. These stakeholder groups include regulatory authorities, agricultural extension and public health advisory services, health services and poison control centres; farmers and farmer associations, trade unions and agricultural workers' organizations, private sector, civil society. Since then, there have been some initiatives to address HHPs by various stakeholder groups including Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), academia, the private sector and Governments, which in some cases have collaborated regionally through their respective Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The common goal of all these efforts is to eliminate the short and long-term health and environment impacts of HHPs. However, there has been no stock-take of the HHP risk reduction activities, and as such, there is neither coherence nor formal coordination of implementation at various levels. Considering these challenges, this discussion sought to **map the global landscape of HHP risk reduction initiatives** from various stakeholder group/sector perspectives by engaging around three questions. To view the discussion presentation click, [here](#).

#### ABOUT THE PRESENTER



#### IVY SAUNYAMA

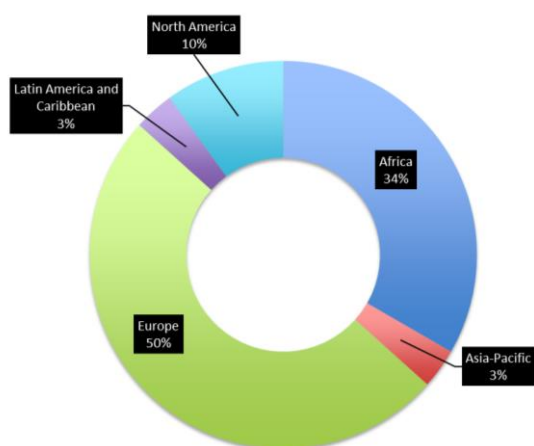
Ivy is an Agricultural Officer with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the Pest and Pesticide Management Team in FAO Headquarters. She is outposted to the FAO Subregional Office for Southern Africa in Zimbabwe. Ivy is an entomologist by training with nearly 25 years' experience in sustainable pest and pesticide management. Her current work involves formulation and implementation of various projects and

programmes to support Governments in the Africa region achieve sustainable life cycle management of pesticide and pesticide risk reduction. Her work includes facilitating training in pest and pesticide management, especially on the FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and related Guidelines and Tools (e.g., Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and the Pesticide Registration Toolkit).

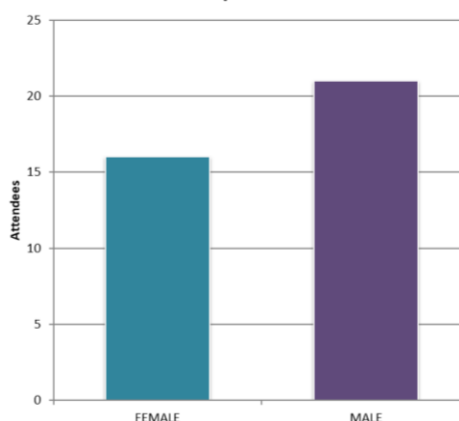
#### DISCUSSION 1 ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN

##### TOTAL ATTENDEES FOR DISCUSSION 1:

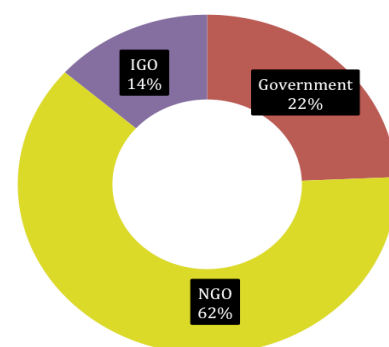
##### Region representation



##### Gender representation



##### Sector representation



KEY: IGO - Intergovernmental organisation  
NGO - Non-governmental organisation

**Q1. Actions undertaken in countries/ region to reduce HHP risks, role of organization – (Government, IGO, NGO, Industry, Academia) in the HHP risk reduction activities and the stakeholder category/categories the sector falls under.**

Sector/ Institution	Interventions
CropLife International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Portfolio Review (Continuous activity that followed on a CLI-co-ordinated voluntary review by all member companies of their entire portfolios against the 8 HHP criteria).</li> <li>➤ Support to the FAO registration toolkit.</li> <li>➤ Promotion of the Code (e-learning tool).</li> <li>➤ GHS implementation (CLI joined the High ambition coalition for the post 2020 chemical framework (post SAICM).</li> <li>➤ Responsible Use programs (e.g. improved application).</li> <li>➤ Regulatory Capacity Building (support for simplified risk assessment).</li> <li>➤ Establishing Spray Service Providers Programs.</li> <li>➤ Industry guide on adherence to the Code/HPPs.</li> <li>➤ Risk Mitigation workshops (with all HHP stakeholders).</li> <li>➤ Promotion of IPM (e-learning tools, projects in partnership).</li> <li>➤ CLI activities (such as capacity building for practical application of IPM) align well with activities referenced by IPEN best practice examples highlighting IPM promotion as a core recommended action.</li> <li>➤ CropLife believes in partnership approaches with stakeholders as the critical element to address HHP and other general aspects of pesticide management.</li> <li>➤ CLI progressing on field risk assessment and is the focus of capacity building efforts.</li> <li>➤ Crop life working with national Governments and other stakeholders to facilitate HHP work. (e.g., capacity building).</li> </ul> <p><b>Key learning shared</b></p> <p>Identified common issues for accelerated stewardship activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recognized hotspots across the globe; the need to engage generic and local crop protection industry.</li> <li>➤ Bringing innovation in Low Income Countries (LICs).</li> <li>➤ Adjusted approach to capacity building – to promote stakeholder/policy maker dialogue focusing on risk mitigation.</li> </ul>

FMC – Agricultural Science Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ongoing efforts to phase out HHPs from our product portfolio including Carbofuran most recently.</li> <li>➤ Committed to not develop or sell any new HHPs.</li> </ul>
Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In 2017, Government imposed stricter control of imports of paraquat (prohibited in the EU but was being exported from a factory in the UK). Government organized a stakeholders' meeting and agreed to information sharing and surveillance.</li> <li>➤ Government organisations in South Africa have developed and are implementing HHP risk reduction strategies through a multi-sectoral collaboration approach, with one government department taking the lead within the stakeholder group of experts comprising government departments, NGO and universities.</li> <li>➤ DEFF has a risk reduction strategy based on the Hierarchy of Controls and best practice.</li> </ul>
eSwatini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Not much done yet in HHPs, but the most used basis in HHP risk reduction is criterion 5 on Stockholm Convention and 6 – Rotterdam Convention.</li> </ul>
South Africa	<p>Used all 8 criteria developed by JMPM to identify HHPs, but criterion 8 most applied as some of the pesticides we use have chronic exposure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pesticides with carcinogenic and respiratory effects considered under criterion 8.</li> <li>➤ The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries in South Africa applied the Precautionary Principle and removed all pesticides meeting criteria 1-7, and are now actively screening for those falling in criterion 8.</li> <li>➤ Criterion 8 found useful to address chronic hazards not covered by the rest of the criteria.</li> <li>➤ Use criterion 8 based on reports received and scientific evidence.</li> </ul>
Mexico	Governments and private sector working on HHP risk reduction
Morocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The National Office of Food Safety (ONSSA) registers pesticides used in agriculture.</li> <li>➤ Ministry of Health responsible for public health pesticides ensures no public health pesticides are HHP.</li> </ul>
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Various ongoing HHP risk reduction projects.</li> <li>➤ Use the Nigeria Pesticide Registration Guidelines and FAO/WHO HHP Guidelines with focus on Criterion 1 (WHO Hazard Classification) and Criterion 8.</li> </ul>
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment (AUPWAE) worked with partners to raise awareness of HHPs among vulnerable communities.</li> <li>➤ Farmer groups have integrated pesticide alternatives and organic farming on their work plans</li> <li>➤ Use of existing community by-law structures in support of addressing HHPs.</li> <li>➤ National Environmental Authority working with NGOs to build knowledge and capacity for targeted farming communities, initially through a project focusing on pesticides listed under Stockholm Convention.</li> </ul>
Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sri Lanka banned all WHO hazard class 1a and 1b pesticide formulations due to high number of deaths and occupational health impacts.</li> </ul>
Collective IGO efforts (all represented in SAICM, namely (FAO, WHO, UNEP); Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Developed HHP Strategy in the SAICM context.</li> <li>➤ Providing information to assist stakeholders to identify and take option on HHPs.</li> <li>➤ The IOMC has consolidated a Toolbox to support countries address national issues regarding chemicals management. One of the tools available is guidance documents to National Management Schemes for Pesticides (<a href="http://www.iomctoolbox.org/">http://www.iomctoolbox.org/</a>).</li> <li>➤ JMPM.</li> </ul>
UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Supporting national Governments strengthen pesticide regulatory frameworks (e.g., At UNEP's Regional Office for Africa, we are currently supporting the Kenyan government to review and amend the national laws on pesticide. This is in the form of the Pesticide Control Products Bill, 2017. If adopted by parliament, this new law will replace the current Act of 1985 and introduce better legal and institutional infrastructural changes.</li> </ul>
FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Developing international guidelines and tools to strengthen life cycle management of pesticides and HHP risk reduction.</li> </ul>
Rotterdam Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rotterdam Convention secretariat is conducting training for national decision makers to enhance capacity for scientifically sound decision making on final regulatory actions on pesticides and tools to access to technical and scientific information.</li> </ul>
CropLife International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CropLife: Portfolio review The 2016 published FAO/WHO guidelines and the 8 criteria laid out there are the basis for action.</li> <li>➤ Underlying principle of risk assessment.</li> <li>➤ i.e. Tiered approach (simplified conservative assumptions to real field scenarios), use of data from local use assessments, necessarily apply setting of models, scenarios &amp; inputs used in regional decision making.</li> <li>➤ Information on local uses.</li> <li>➤ Based on surveys of actual agricultural practises (crop/equipment/application know how)</li> <li>➤ Company network (such as technical services, sales force, etc.).</li> <li>➤ Assessment of exposure; i.e. use of suitable data following clear hierarchy (company own measurements in field &gt; published data&gt; estimations from similar situations &gt; estimates based on extrapolation).</li> <li>➤ Assessment of effects: International accepted reference values (such as Acceptable Operator Exposure Level).</li> <li>➤ Mitigation measures: Label change, stewardship, crop label withdrawal, formulation change.</li> </ul>

### **Poll 1 (N= 23) I have accessed the FAO registration toolkit**

Never= 3 Only once = 1 A few times = 15 Use regularly = 4

## **Poll 2 (N= 13) JMPM Criteria for assessing HHPs**

Never heard of them until today= 3 Using for assessing pesticides =9

Need more information on how to apply them =1

**Q2. What were the resources and protocols that you used/followed to guide the HHP risk reduction work in your region/country? Which criteria did you use to identify HHPs?**

**If your organization/country/region is not actively involved in HHP work, what resources do you think are needed to begin assessing the presence and removal of HHPs?**

### **Challenges**

- Who leads/ organizes HHP partnerships?
- Clear methodology for using criterion 8; lack of data on health or environmental impacts.
- Inadequate pesticide legislation.
- Low education levels and understanding of label instructions and related infographics among farmers.
- Inadequate training for HHP users.
- Lack of ongoing exposure monitoring among pesticide users.
- How to deal with products where there are no risk mitigation measures – remove highly toxic formulations from the market if there are no suitable mitigation measures?
- Criterion 8 and how to apply it for bee affecting pesticides not covered under other criteria.
- How best to apply criterion 8 in a consistent manner.
- Information is readily available for criteria 1, 5, 6 and 7. However, no definitive list of GHS classifications for criteria 2,3 and 4- these are national decisions. While many High-Income Countries publish their official GHS classification decisions, these may vary from country to country.
- Lack of willingness to use safer alternatives as they are usually 'more expensive'.
- Lack of political will to exclude HHPs from Government procurement and to make other decisions and policies for HHP risk reduction.

### **Gaps/ Concerns**

- Extensive risk assessments lacking for many HHPs.
- To understand more about the scale of HHP use in the EU. In some cases, pesticides that are banned in Europe are still in use in LMICs.
- Concerns about the brodifacoums and organochlorines left over from invasive species control programmes being used in agriculture.
- Effects of HHPs on pollinators to be assessed for HHP control, management and regulations.
- How organic farming can be properly implemented if there are farms using pesticides in the same water catchment area.
- Spray drift, especially when IPM is implemented and surrounding farms continue using pesticides. Beneficial insects and other biodiversity is negatively impacted.
- How to achieve industrial scale organic farming.
- Many countries do not have a poison centre:
  - Limited capacity for effective regulatory control.

## **Poll 3 (N= 9) What would you say is the key challenge to identifying HHPs?**

Lack of trained staff =1 Lack of funding= 1 Lack of political will to

**Q3. In your HHP risk reduction initiatives what have been your i) major accomplishments ii) key challenges iii) opportunities iv) lessons learned iv) key recommendations?**

**What are the key challenges and opportunities for those of you and for countries where HHP work is not underway or so evident?**

#### **Governments NGOs and IGOs**

- To accelerate strategic IPM partnerships that the CoP network is interested in.
- To ensure there is a range of different types of pesticide available for resistance management, especially in public health.
- To make more investment in public health pesticides.
- To strengthen pesticide monitoring - environment and human health.
- To develop concise and easy to understand HHP Risk Reduction Strategies that are well packaged to serve as 'one stop shops' for HHP risk reduction.
- To explore possibility of training and certify professional spray teams/ spray service providers.
- To create political will to strengthen the basic infrastructure that exists in the health sector.
- JMPM to have Criterion 8 clearly defined and IGOs to support countries generate health and environmental impact data and conduct risk assessments under local conditions.
- Governments to contextualize the assessment of HHPs and rely on precautionary principle to reduce risks while assessing pesticides – especially with Criterion 8. Note also made to contextualize not only the exposure, but also the hazards.
- To strengthen the health sector recording and reporting system of pesticide poisoning cases; establish and/or strengthen poison information centres.
- Foster close collaboration between pesticide regulators and the health reporting systems.
- To build institutional and regulatory capacity for HHP risk reduction.

#### **Industry**

- To have a level playing field between innovator and generic industry for the evolution of regulatory frameworks and their applicability.
- To contribute to training of professional spray teams or spray service providers to reduce risks to some communities.

#### **NGOs and academia**

- To foster multi-stakeholder collaboration for monitoring environmental impacts of HHPs.
- To make more investment in public health pesticides.
- To strengthen the health sector recording and reporting system of pesticide poisoning cases.

#### **All stakeholders**

- To explore any approach that leads to a definitive global list of HHPs indicating need for risk assessment/mitigation and eventually restriction or replacement so that there can be more consistency in decision making globally. Additionally, there is a need to explore any approach that will support authorities that may not have the resources to conduct the full HHP assessments.

**Poll 4 (N= 14) Is data from other countries (as found in the FAO toolkit) enough to make a decision about HHPs in your country?**

**Poll 5 (N= 11) Has your country/organization started on HHP risk reduction activities?**

Yes=9 No= 1 We want to identify first = 1

## HHP CoP Discussion 1 Summary Points Looking Ahead

1. Addressing HHP is a global issue affecting many countries. There is a need for more coordinated planning of identifying and managing HHPs.
2. Many LMICs lack the resources to address HHPs.
3. Early engagement of all stakeholders is critical, and objectives need to take a bottom up approach to ensure sustainability of decisions taken.

### Some resources that may be of interest:

- International code of conduct on pesticide management. Guidelines on highly hazardous pesticides. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, FAO, 2016.: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5566e.pdf>
- FAO Pesticide Registration Toolkit Brochure: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca3814en/ca3814en.pdf>
- Addressing Highly Hazardous Pesticides in Mozambique, FAO 2016: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5360e.pdf>

Strategy to address highly hazardous pesticides in the context of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: [http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/EPI/HHP\\_strategy\\_English.pdf](http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/EPI/HHP_strategy_English.pdf)

**HHP 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 on 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.

This activity is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project ID: 9771 on *Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*.

If you have any question or require clarification on this initiative, please contact the SAICM Secretariat at [saicm.chemicals@un.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@un.org) or UCT at [uctcops@outlook.com](mailto:uctcops@outlook.com)

Join the HHP CoP at: [saicmknowledge.org](http://saicmknowledge.org)

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# COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON HIGHLY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES

Organized by the SAICM Secretariat and the University of Cape Town

Issue: 2 of 2020  
Discussion date: 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020

## Discussion 2 digest

### Topic of Discussion: *Perspectives on addressing Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in the SAICM context*

In 2006 the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), a multi-stakeholder policy framework to promote sound chemicals management around the world. SAICM is the core international forum for achieving a key goal set in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development: by 2020, chemicals will be used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. In 2015, the International Conference for Chemicals Management (ICCM) adopted a resolution that recognized HHPs as an issue of concern and called for concerted action to address HHPs. The SAICM mandate expires in 2020, long before we will reach the target of minimizing the health and environmental impacts of chemicals throughout their lifecycle. Overall progress has been uneven and there is still a significant need for development and implementation of effective chemical and waste management policies and practices around the globe.

The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) has agreed to facilitate collaboration, cooperation, and contributions of stakeholders in the implementation of the HHP Strategy. The proposed strategy to address HHPs in the context of SAICM was developed by FAO, UNEP, and WHO (see resources below). SAICM stakeholders are encouraged to undertake concerted efforts to implement the HHP Strategy at the local, national, regional, and international levels, with emphasis on promoting agroecologically based alternatives and strengthening national regulatory capacity to conduct risk assessment and risk management, including the availability of necessary information, mindful of the responsibility of national and multinational enterprises. The discussions on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 provide an opportunity to inspire wider stakeholder engagement and a renewed commitment to implementing the Strategic Approach and encourage stakeholders to continue concentrated efforts to address HHPs. To view the discussion presentation click, [here](#).

### ABOUT THE PRESENTER



Brenda Koekkoek is a Programme Management Officer at the SAICM secretariat and has worked in a leading role in the secretariat since 2012. Upon joining UNEP in 2006, she worked to establish and manage the Global Mercury Partnership and providing policy support to the negotiation process for the development of the Minamata

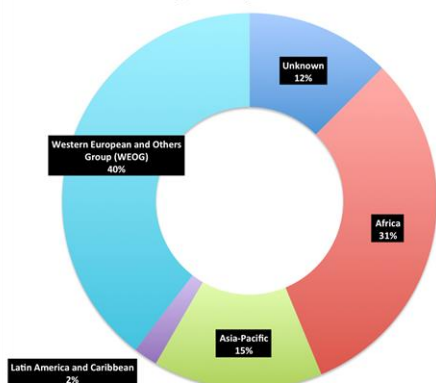
Convention on mercury. Prior to UNEP, Brenda worked at Environment and Climate Change Canada on air quality and chemical-related issues

Brenda holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering and a Master's degree in Environmental Management. On a personal level, Brenda grew up on a dairy farm and has a natural passion for issues related to agriculture and rural livelihoods.

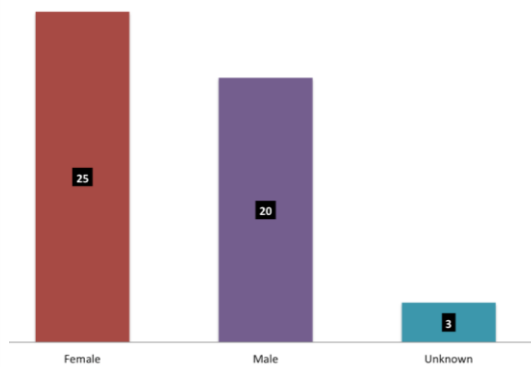
### DISCUSSION 2 ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN

TOTAL DISCUSSION 2 ATTENDEES: 48

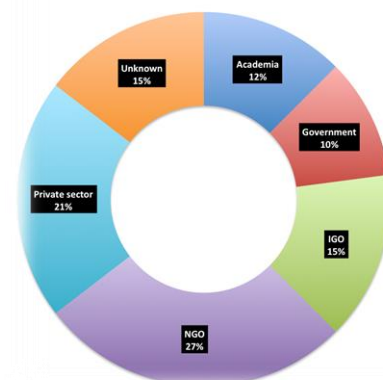
Regional Representation



Gender Representation



Sector Representation



KEY: IGO - Intergovernmental organisation  
NGO - Non-governmental organisation

**Q1. What have been the successes, in your country or organization, in addressing HHPs under SAICM to date? What have been the challenges?**

**SECTOR INTERVENTIONS**

**SUCCESSSES**

**IGOs**

- **FAO**  
The FAO Council's recognition of the need to address HHPs - At the 131st FAO Council a resolution was taken that Pesticide risk reduction 'including a progressive ban on HHPs' within the SAICM framework and that the activity is one of the priority areas in the FAO pesticide management program.
- **Jordan, Egypt, and Tunisia:**  
In collaboration with ministries of health, CEHA conducted workshops in Jordan, Egypt, and Tunisia in February 2020 to develop plans of action to implement the chemical road map. The workshops concluded with the development of a list of priority chemicals of concern in each county and national plans of action to implement the "Global road map for enhancing health sector engagement in the strategic approach to international chemicals management" and HHPs were one of the chemicals of concern in the three mentioned countries.

**NGOs**

- **Asia Pacific**  
PAN and its partners highlight the results of a seven-country study on the impact of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) on people's health and the environment. PAN did, using the JMPM criteria plus some additional ones including endocrine disruption and high environmental concern (based on PBT classification and bee toxicity) ([file://localhost/http://pan-international.org/wp-content/uploads/PAN\\_HHP\\_List.pdf](file://localhost/http://pan-international.org/wp-content/uploads/PAN_HHP_List.pdf)). PAN also publishes a Consolidated List of Banned pesticides (<http://pan-international.org/pan-international-consolidated-list-of-banned-pesticides/>) which provides further insight into pesticides that some countries find too hazardous to use.
- **Bangladesh**  
Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO in collaboration of Six other organization and Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) have submitted a petition to the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh (High Court) seeking orders to compel agriculture, health, and environmental ministries to: effectively regulate pesticide use; cancel the registration and licenses of glyphosate-based pesticides; promote the use of safe alternatives to glyphosate-based pesticides; and study the health impacts associated with the use of glyphosate-based pesticides. The petition also called on the Ministry of Agriculture to investigate deaths associated with exposure to glyphosate-based pesticides and provide compensation to affected families, and to set up an independent commission to monitor the health, safety, and environmental impacts of pesticide use in Bangladesh.
- **Ethiopia**  
Have been implementing agro-ecology together with PAN-UK. We have a successful organic cotton project and the cotton experience is being used in Vegetables. In both projects, we could cut HHPs.
- **Tanzania:**  
I was introduced to SAICM through NGO activities and know that it helped us learn to identify HHPs in the environment through the analysis of hotspots. We have also been able to work with government institutions to identify HHPs in our pesticide register and start planning strategies to eliminate HHPs. Among these is the promotion of Agroecological farming.
- **In SA:**  
Our success has been limited to listing some HHPs in domestic legislation and greater awareness of HHPs in our multi-stakeholder forum for chemicals management. Having said that, many banned EU HHPs are commonly used in SA.

**INDUSTRY**

- SAICM itself as a multi-stakeholder forum has been a success on the whole and is an approach that should be more widely used.
- Management: Recognition that there is not a 'one size fits all' approach to HHP management.
- Activities: CropLife International member companies conducted a portfolio review identifying which products were not HHPs, which were hazardous but could be used safely, and which required mitigation measures or were withdrawn from the market.
- Activities: Country-level, multi-stakeholder risk mitigation activities, research into the effectiveness of PPE materials, stewardship activities resulting in increased adoption of IPM, increased responsible use, and reductions in HHP use.

<b>ACADEMIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b><u>Togo</u></b> SAICM has been applied in the CILSS context and this regional agency banned some HHP. Togo followed these recommendations at a national level.</li> <li>➤ <b><u>Uganda</u></b> In Uganda, Endosulfan has been successfully phased out, however, there is still a need to raise awareness on HHPs and in terminologies that are easily understood by farmers in rural communities.</li> <li>➤ <b><u>Tanzania</u></b> In academia, we have managed to introduce pesticide and health in the health and medical curriculum though to smaller extent.</li> </ul>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b><u>Tanzania</u></b> Cooperation with Tanzania and FAO on identifying HHPs and possible alternatives. Colleagues from Tanzania could add much information. In addition, important action to act on HHPs: Put legislation in place to make actions happened.</li> </ul>
<b>SUCSESSES SUMMARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Priorities being addressed in the HHPs strategy have come forward as a basis for national work.</li> <li>➤ As a tool to address data management and reporting, the SAICM secretariat is working on a global database of information at the national level. This is an opportunity to capture these issues and get that information mapped and communicated.</li> <li>➤ There is a wealth of information and it is often difficult to find or follow. Joint guidelines, tools, and publications produced by FAO and WHO have been noted as successful reference materials.</li> </ul>
<b>SECTOR INTERVENTIONS</b>	<b>CHALLENGES</b>
<b>NGOs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b><u>LMICs:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ While there have been several interventions to address HHPs in several countries, HHPs continue to be widely used without mitigation measures, especially in LMICs. Reasons for continued use of HHPs include but are not limited: limited access to knowledge and information for stakeholders e.g, farmers &amp; decision-makers; the limited ability of governments to adopt and implement regulatory reforms for HHP risk reduction; lack of safer alternatives or lack of incentives for use of alternatives, etc.</li> <li>➤ Regional approaches often required addressing HHPs because of the similarity of HHP issues and porous borders and related illegal pesticide trafficking in LMICs. However, currently limited regional HHP strategies being implemented.</li> <li>➤ Limited financial and technical resources support Governments to address HHPs.</li> <li>➤ The challenges are associated with local use of pesticides which are open to buying for farmers at a cheap rate. Proper legislative actions are lacking in those rural areas by enforcement units and to stop using banned pesticides. However, Government authorities are trying to stop the illegal use of pesticides.</li> <li>➤ Need to raise awareness on HHPs and in terminologies that are easily understood by farmers in rural communities.</li> <li>➤ The challenge is, there are a lot of HHPs being used in LMICs but there are little or no alternatives being used and no national policies supporting the phasing-out of HHPs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Lack of enough regulations and particularly no enforcement.</li> <li>➤ No multi-stakeholder platform on HHPs and no action on a global progressive ban.</li> <li>➤ <b><u>Ethiopia</u></b> We wanted to scale it up but we are still limited to two regions in Ethiopia.</li> </ul>
<b>INDUSTRY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Management: Working across different stakeholder groups, especially where there are incompatible perceptions and expectations.</li> <li>➤ Incident reporting systems – There is a significant lack of capacity and there is a real need for governments to establish the systems – so that incidents are captured no matter their origin.</li> <li>➤ SAICM needs meaningful indicators of progress.</li> </ul>
<b>ACADEMIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The challenge is following important issues like SAICM politically and not scientifically like some other countries in the ME.</li> </ul>

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**CHALLENGES  
SUMMARY**

- Challenges were noted on incident reporting and transport of some HHPs from countries where they have been banned or severely restricted to other regions and countries where there is no legislation.
-

**Q2. What are possible areas of future dialogue and collaboration leading up to ICCM5 and beyond/ in moving forward for addressing HHPs?**

**KEY PRIORITIES FOR BEYOND 2020 IN ADDRESSING HHPs THAT WERE RAISED BY PARTICIPANTS**

Working with farmers.	Collaboration and awareness among stakeholders.	Having an accompanying list of risk management for products that countries can work from.	More accurate incident reporting systems.
Effective mechanisms to elevate chemicals in political agenda.	Promoting work on implementing ICCM4 resolution on HHPs.	Develop the capacity of service providers.	Stewardship must extend to the full lifecycle of HHPs.
Identify non-chemical alternatives.	Gendered strategies.	Getting reports of countries' situations of HHPs.	Globally agreed HHPs list that all countries can work from.
Identification and promotion of safer alternatives to HHPs at national/local level.	Engagement and participation of social science experts and the scientific community.	Replace HHPs with agroecology.	Reach out to end-users to promote safer pest control methods.
Sharing experiences of alternatives.	Risk mitigation implemented in partnership.	Risk assessment and appropriate management is a must for any pesticide in use.	Encourage inter-ministerial pesticides monitoring programme to ensure implementation.

**QUESTION 2 SUMMARY POINTS**

- Collaboration aspect among stakeholders is a key element in addressing HHPs as well as the cross-cutting aspects that pesticides encompassed in the SDG agenda, not just in terms of agriculture but also in terms of food, livelihoods, and equity.
- UNEP's report being prepared for UNEA-5 on pesticides and fertilizers and the Global Plan of Action being developed by FAO, UNEP and WHO bring opportunities to further develop concrete actions on HHPs.
- The timing of ICCM5, now in July 2021, is an opportunity to build political will for a future approach to continue and elevate the track set at ICCM4.
- A Global Plan of Action on HHPs is being developed by FAO in collaboration with WHO, and UNEP. There is a timely opportunity for stakeholders to input into it.
- SDGs – we are all on board 100%.

**Q3. From your stakeholder perspective and mandate, what recommendations can you make for effective stakeholder engagement under the SAICM umbrella? What is needed to implement these recommendations?**

**SECTOR INTERVENTIONS**

- NGOs**
- We must have equal participation of different stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, small food producers, agroecological farmer representatives (as they provide the solutions), CSOs.
  - A wider range of stakeholders including traders in agricultural produce, consumers orgs., health practitioners, poison centers, non-chemical pest management product companies, etc need to be involved.
  - Avoiding double standard of promoting HHPs for use in one region where they have already banned in other regions (problems noted of one country banning a pesticide for use but allowing it to be manufactured for export).
  - Giving space for industries that produce alternatives to HHPs (ex. bio-pesticides)
  - FAO, UNEP, WHO, and ILO to coordinate mitigating HHPs impacts on the food system (high-level residues), environmental and biodiversity impacts, human health impacts and occupational health impacts respectively.
  - More of this kind of discussion on focused topics that SAICM stakeholders are interested in and want to learn more about.
  - Raised a desire for a legally binding instrument on HHPs.
  - Raised a need for a mechanism to raise issues of concern, such as HHPs, to a higher level of obligation.

- INDUSTRY**
- Multi-stakeholder approaches in which representative farmers are core stakeholders.
  - We do not lose sight of the Code of Conduct and the responsibilities under it.
  - To remember that farmers need tools for appropriate effective pest management and also resistance management.
  - Approaches should consider local conditions and be bottom-up rather than imposed in a top-down fashion.
  - We need negotiated decisions which require representatives who are prepared to negotiate.

- GOVERNMENT**
- Communication between the stakeholders must be on a platform where each and every stakeholder's voice is considered important.
  - One example of effective stakeholder collaboration is the Arctic Monitoring Programme (AMAP) wherein indigenous people are the focal point.

- SUMMARY**
- A multi-stakeholder approach is widely supported.
  - Stakeholders have a lot of different areas of focus.
  - Let's focus on a set of key priorities together and ensure we have a proper framework to work together. The FAO, UNEP, WHO is preparing a global plan of action for consideration that can help with this.
  - COVID-19 is a new reality, including bringing more opportunities for virtual meetings and briefings.
  - We need more stakeholders involved, especially farming groups.
  - SAICM secretariat offered the knowledge management platform as an information hub in moving forward.

**QUESTION 3 INFORMATION BOX**

**STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFIED FOR FURTHER ENGAGEMENT:**

- Farmers
- Indigenous peoples
- Small food producers
- Agroecological farmer representatives
- FAO
- UNEP
- WHO
- ILO

- Consideration of more stockholders from NGOs, those that you can make sure have enough experience and expertise about these dangerous materials. Also related to academics. From people that are directly related to pesticide regulations, people from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), because of the big problems for wildlife like "second generation anticoagulant rodenticides" that are killing much non-target wildlife and related issues, there are many.
- A wider range of stakeholders including traders in agricultural produce, consumers orgs., health practitioners, poison centers, non-chemical pest management product companies, etc. need to be involved.

## HHP CoP Discussion 2 Summary Points: Looking Ahead

1. Building capacity for the identification and phase-out of HHPs is an important role that academia can play.
2. Technical cooperation among countries must be a focus of ICCM5 and beyond. The expertise that countries with effective policies have and wherein the implementation has been successful, must be shared with other countries. The sharing of know-how must be fluid enough so that all can benefit.
3. ICCM5 will have the opportunity to consider a Global Action Plan on HHPs under preparation by FAO, WHO, and UNEP that proposes to engage a wide range of stakeholders.

### Useful Resources:

- **ICCM4, ICCM resolution IV/3**  
[http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/ICCM4/doc/K1606013\\_e.pdf](http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/ICCM4/doc/K1606013_e.pdf)
- **Strategy to address highly hazardous pesticides in the context of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management**  
<http://www.saicm.org/Implementation/EmergingPolicyIssues/HighlyHazardousPesticides/tabid/5479/Default.aspx>
- **FAO introduction to HHPs:** <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/code/hhp/en/>
- **FAO/WHO Guidelines on HHPs (2016):**  
[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/205561/1/9789241510417\\_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/205561/1/9789241510417_eng.pdf?ua=1)
- **Rotterdam Convention – Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations:**  
<http://www.pic.int/Implementation/SeverelyHazardousPesticideFormulations/SHPFsOverview/tabid/3108/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- **Summary of responses on draft proposal on Highly Hazardous Pesticides**  
[http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/EPI/hhp\\_compilation\\_responsesav1.doc](http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/EPI/hhp_compilation_responsesav1.doc)

**HHP 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 on 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.

This activity is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project ID: 9771 on *Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*.

If you have any question or require clarification on this initiative, please contact the SAICM Secretariat at [saicm.chemicals@un.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@un.org) or UCT at [uctcops@outlook.com](mailto:uctcops@outlook.com).

**Join the HHP CoP at:** <https://chemicalswithoutconcern.org/community>

**Disclaimer:** The information in this digest represents the opinions of members participating from different stakeholder groups expressed during the discussion.

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.

# COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON HIGHLY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES

Organized by the SAICM Secretariat and the University of Cape Town

Issue: 3 of 2020

Discussion date: 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Discussion 3 digest

**Topic of Discussion:** *Examples and case studies on strategies for identifying and addressing HHPs from an IGO, NGO and Industry perspective*

Identifying and addressing Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), although guidance exists, often relies on governments and specific projects for this work to occur at the country level. Many sectors and organizations are taking the lead to assist countries with HHP work either directly or indirectly. During this discussion, we heard about the HHP work from three different sectors - international government organizations (IGOs) –WHO and ILO; industry - CropLife International, and a non-governmental organization (NGO) - PAN-UK. A lively discussion took place with 64 attendees where many learned about what HHP work is being undertaken to address the issue of HHPs globally. To view the discussion presentation click, [here](#).

### ABOUT THE PRESENTER



**Dr Richard Brown**, is a Technical Officer at the **World Health Organization** (the Chemical Safety and Health Unit).



**Dr Halshka Graczyk**, is a technical officer with **the International Labour Organisation**.



**Dr Keith Tyrell**, is Director of the NGO, the **Pesticide Action Network UK**. sector, academia, and civil society.



**Dr Christoph Neumann** is the Director for International Regulatory Affairs at CropLife International.

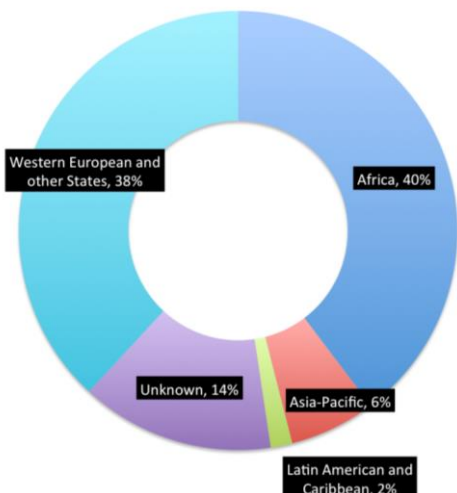


**Dr Andy Ward** is the CropLife International Stewardship Director.

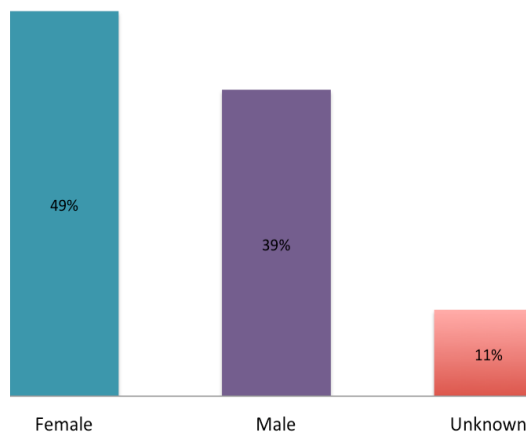
### DISCUSSION 3 ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN

TOTAL DISCUSSION 3 ATTENDEES: 64

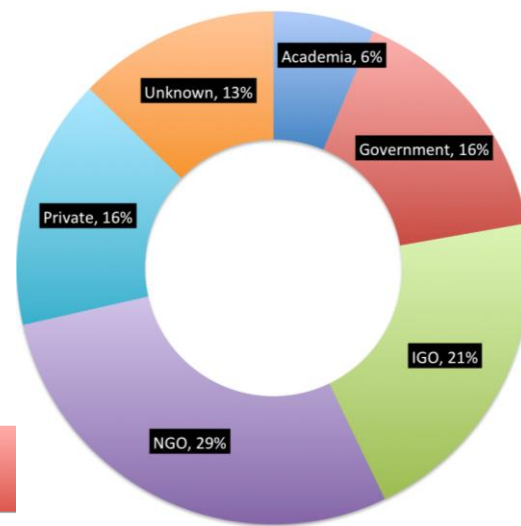
#### Region representation



#### Gender representation



#### Sector representation



## Discussion Summary Points and Looking Ahead

1. Regarding the discussion on vector control, countries tend to follow **WHO** advice for vector control, but the choice of product is often dictated by the susceptibility of the mosquitoes in the area with resistance, and also cost (financial) considerations. Vector control activities tended to be run by local authorities or external programmes, rather than by WHO directly (in most countries). WHO (through local offices) indicated being able to provide advice. Discussions highlighted that the best way to collate improved data on poisoning (including pesticides, and particularly HHPs) would be for countries to set up poison centres, considering that less than half of countries have a poison centres, as well as looking at having regional centres.
2. Related to the discussion on the HHP relevant work lead by the **ILO**, the discussion highlighted that ILO is a key actor for addressing HHPs. All sectors (including national governments) should engage more with regional and country ILO field offices around the world that engage directly with Ministries of Labour, workers and employers organizations. A key point raised was that for effectively addressing HHPs, the work should focus at the local and national level. But when it comes to implementing labour standards, ILO can assist from a legal perspective, as well towards effective and responsive public policy development.

Additionally, many members were not aware of the extensive work of the **ILO**. There was a keen interest in the various outputs generated by the ILO in the scope of pesticides. Specifically, the recent baseline summary on the most recent published evidence from occupational epidemiological studies where the statistic of 300'000 fatalities from use of pesticides was referenced. This is a report of chemical exposures in the world of work, not focused solely on pesticides. Engaging with existing organizations, like the ILO, is key to take the HHP agenda forward, especially for resource poor countries.

3. There is very little data available on HHPs for evidence-based decision making. **NGOs** have collected some data in low-and middle-income countries, which is assisting countries with decision-making. Poison information centres could play a role with data collection and surveillance, but not enough countries have one. Without data, countries are struggling to identify HHPs. Alternatives came up often in the discussion highlighting the need for more research and work required on alternatives. There is also a need to support governments with alternative identification. How to make HHP decisions without data, how to collect more data, and providing governments with HHPs alternatives information are key.
4. Risk mitigation is the key approach of **CropLife International** and its member companies with regulatory and stewardship activities in line with the FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and the FAO registration toolkit. The industry believes that these activities need to be implemented in partnership with others and build on previous experiences. Opportunities for collaborative working are being sought.

There was interest shown in maintaining the whole industry in relation to HHPs and not just CropLife international. Participants raised issues of industry engaging with government and NGOs. Additionally, participants felt that there is a need to get the information to farmers.

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

## ANNEX

### DETAILED SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

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

**Q1. Are you aware of the work that WHO and ILO are currently engaged in to assist with the identification and addressing of HHPs in vector control and in different work settings? What is needed to bring more attention to and to support this work in your country?**

#### **CAMEROON**

##### **NGO**

- Despite the work carried out by the WHO and the ILO, pesticides are governed in Cameroon by Law No. 2003/003 of April 21, 2003 on phytosanitary protection relating to plant protection. However, to draw more attention to the work of the ILO and WHO, a national policy on pests and pesticides should be developed; make alternative products accessible; raise awareness and build capacity on integrated pest management approaches.

#### **ESWATINI**

##### **Private**

- In Eswatini, I am not aware of any work by WHO and ILO in identifying and addressing HHPs. However, I do know that the Malaria Control Programme which still uses DDT for vector control is gradually introducing other new chemistries to control mosquitoes. I think they are working with the local WHO office. In the other setting, nothing much has been put to the public domain in terms of activities done.

##### **Government**

- ILO has conducted a survey on work related mortality and the major cause is linked to pesticides and agro-chemicals due to accidental spills and application of HHPs pesticides. ILO has introduced criteria to prevent injuries and health effects caused by HHPs. WHO in the fight against Malaria has introduced an alternative to DDT because DDT has been declared an H. In FAO/WHO, in joint collaboration they have set out the identification criteria of Highly Hazardous Pesticides, these are pesticides that present a high level of acute and chronic hazards to health and the environment. This identification is in accordance to internationally accepted classification systems such as the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). It is noted that HHPs should be defined as having one or more of the eight criteria set out by the joint meeting of FAO and WHO on pesticide management.
- Eswatini needs to come up with the list of pesticides in use and be evaluated using the FAO/WHO 8 Criterion and phase out all HHPs. Eswatini should use the presented alternative to DDT in the control against malaria.

#### **JAMAICA**

##### **Academia**

- I am aware of the work that is done by both ILO and WHO in addressing HHP. However, on a local level within country there is no sensitization as to the work that is done, neither am I aware of regular intermittent reinforcement of this information. This could be as a result of the fact that only some stakeholders are included at the table for discussions.
- What is needed to bring more attention to and to support this work in Jamaica? There must be collaborative work among ALL key stakeholders, both in capacity building, programme planning and dissemination of information. Research through the use of both primary and secondary data can also help in to guide decisions for policy.

#### **FINLAND**

##### **Government**

- The main concern about HHPs in an international perspective are related to LMICs as the HHP management is weak in those countries. Additionally, apart from the associated cost etc, one important factor is the export and use of pesticides to LMICs which are banned in HICs.

#### **INDIA**

##### **NGO**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not aware of any. Our focus of identifying the use of HHPs is in cotton farming in particular and agriculture in general, and support farmers to eliminate the use of these.</li> </ul>
<b>UGANDA</b>
<b>Academia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WHO and ILO primarily engage directly with the Ministry of Agriculture/Department of Crop Protection in Uganda in regards to strategies for HHPs.</li> </ul>
<b>UK, Netherlands</b>
<b>Private</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CropLife International engaged with ILO some years ago and Health and Safety in Ag - we have considered this when developing our Responsible Use Training Manual.</li> <li>- CLI Responsible Use Training Manual <a href="https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Responsible-Use-Manual-160617.pdf">https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Responsible-Use-Manual-160617.pdf</a></li> <li>- Lack of reliable data on the number of cases of pesticide poisoning is a real problem.</li> </ul>
<b>IRAN</b>
<b>Academia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As I know WHO is active in Iran including for HHPs in vector control, until last year I as the representative of the Iranian Society of Toxicology (IranTox) with some other scientist and government employees were participating in a bimonthly regular session for controlling pesticide use in home and vector control but unfortunately stopped.</li> <li>- We have many academic papers published now including about pesticides/ chemicals but need more cooperation between academics and industry and government for more attention.</li> <li>- I tried a lot in the past 2-3 decades to improve the workers/ occupational protection with some success but still there is no real system for licensing and certification.</li> </ul>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>
<b>Government</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes. but only in the last year or so. I think linkages to your countries' legislation and rules. For example, the WHO standards are applied in SA under the SANS codes and ILO is in line with OHS policy.</li> <li>- I am quite interested in Clothianidin as SA still uses DDT in a mosaic implementation with pyrethroids as there has been incidences or resistance building</li> </ul>
<b>TANZANIA</b>
<b>Academia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I cannot say for sure that I am aware of the work that WHO and ILO are doing on HHPs in vector control partly because I don't know who they are working with in Tanzania, and communication on the subject locally is not coordinated so might not reach most people.</li> <li>- To support the work in Tanzania, we need identification of stakeholders and engaging them in the effort.</li> </ul>
<b>PRESENTERS COMMENTS</b>
<b>WHO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Countries tend to follow WHO advice for vector control, but the choice of product is often dictated by susceptibility of the mosquitoes in the area wrt resistance, and also cost (financial) considerations.</li> <li>- Vector control activities tend to be run by local authorities or external programmes, rather than by WHO directly (in most countries). WHO (through local offices) can provide advice. The best way to collate improved data on poisoning (including pesticides) would be for countries to set up poisons centres. Less than half of countries have a poison centre unfortunately.</li> </ul> <b>ILO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ILO has field offices around the world that engage directly with Ministries of Labour, workers orgs and employers orgs, the best would be to work at the local and national level. But when it comes to implementing labour standards we can assist from a legal perspective as well towards effective and responsive public policy development.</li> <li>- Q: What is the basis for the referenced 300'000 fatalities from use of pesticides: A: This is from a recent baseline survey based on the most recent published evidence from occupational epidemiological studies. Happy to share once it is published. This is a report of chemical exposures in the world of work, not focused solely on pesticides.</li> </ul>

#### Poll 1 Results (N=19)

**Q:** I know about the HHP work that WHO is engaged in?

**A:** From the participants, 89% said yes, 5% said no and 5% said other.

#### Poll 2 Results (N=0)

**Q:** I know about the HHP work that ILO is engaged in?

**A:** 0%

## Q2. What are the barriers governments face to removing HHPs from use? How can civil society best help to address those barriers?

<b>Legislation, regulation and policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legislation on review and “decision-making criteria”.</li> <li>- In addition, the use of “standards”, like “ecological production” is good and could work in certain export crops (coffee production, horticulture crops etc.) but the HHP exposure of the local communities in the countries could still be a problem.</li> <li>- Involvement of stakeholders at an early stage is essential when governments/authorities are making decisions. The support as described in these references is necessary and as well as the exchange of information between stakeholders during the process.</li> <li>- Lack of regulations in most developing countries and particularly lack of enforcement.</li> <li>- Lack of certification and licensing program.</li> <li>- No international agreed list of HHPs provided to governments.</li> <li>- There is no policy to register HHPs separately and no policy to de-register them.</li> <li>- No international agreed list of HHPs provided to governments.</li> <li>- In Nigeria, the major barrier government face is lack of capacity to enforce appropriate regulation in the sense that there is lack of cooperation amongst government ministries and agencies ( Min. of Environment, Min. of Agric, NAFDAC) etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Effective alternatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pesticides mafias, smuggled pesticides, consumer’s interests particularly farmers and gardeners, false propaganda about some outdated pesticides.</li> <li>- Lack of safer alternatives.</li> <li>- So some of the barriers we have come across in the Uganda context, is the demand for these pesticides because of their effectiveness. Therefore raising awareness of HHPs by civil society is something that should be prioritised. We need to target especially the vulnerable communities in getting the message out on risks, PPEs, alternatives etc.</li> <li>- Alternatives - the private sector is investing heavily in alternative, including biologicals; also over the years donors have invested in research in alternatives - ultimately most will need a route to commercialisation.</li> </ul>
<b>Availability of data and reports to identify HHPs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Necessary information for decisions to ban or restrict pesticides or certain uses. The FAO/WHO guidance on HHPs gives guidance. Further detailed guidance using available data and reports linking to the FAO/WHO guidance on HHPs is given by the Kemi “Guidance on national chemicals control Hazard and risk assessment and risk reduction of pesticides” (see link below): <a href="https://www.kemi.se/en/publications/guidance-on-national-chemicals-control-for-other-countries/hazard-and-risk-assessment-and-risk-reduction-of-pesticides">https://www.kemi.se/en/publications/guidance-on-national-chemicals-control-for-other-countries/hazard-and-risk-assessment-and-risk-reduction-of-pesticides</a></li> </ul>
<b>Funding/lack of resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PIC is often cited but countries struggle with financing these. Countries cannot easily identify the HHPs in their jurisdiction (under their local conditions) if they cannot identify poisoning cases.</li> <li>- Funding should come from realistic pricing of registration services and pesticides themselves (e.g. taxes) that take account of externalities such as poisonings and environmental contamination, waste management and post registration inspection and monitoring.</li> <li>- HHPs are generally cheaper and the end users 'prefer' HHP's so it is difficult to remove, also if the NDA does not advocate for NOT using HHP's is even more difficult.</li> <li>- I think in Tanzania the government does not have capacity to remove HHPs from use because they have not researched on alternatives. Regulatory authority has identified the HHPs on the national pesticide register and suggested chemical alternatives for some, but even then the costs are high on end users for the new chemicals.</li> </ul>
<b>Lack of extensive exposure data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of extensive exposure data is one gap that needs to be filled in order to influence the HHP policies internationally. Additionally, transition to HHP alternatives will require efforts from government to educate the farmers about the reliability of using alternatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Pesticide regulators not well equipped for</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They need to be more closely aligned with crop production, extension services, farmers' organizations and agricultural input suppliers to decide on the most appropriate pest</li> </ul>

<b>chemical control</b>	management solutions rather than whether another chemical should or should not be registered.
<b>Investigation of health effects</b>	- Poisoning and its effects are important and critical to be investigated but also long-term exposure results in chronic illness. So both acute/chronic exposure must be taken into account in the HHP exposure research. perhaps WHO could collaborate more on such funding opportunities with national partners.
<b>Buy-in</b>	- Low buy-in from various stakeholders due to lack of knowledge on issues to do with HHPs and safer alternatives in both the agriculture and health sectors.
<b>Inadequate data</b>	- Type of exposures, documented health issues relating to pesticide poisoning within the farming communities, inventories on the monitoring of pesticides used annually according to type and code and most importantly the dis-aggregation of data for pesticide exposure visits to health facilities. Often times information is not captured to identify, gender, age, hospital stay and specific pesticides when national surveillance reports are done. The information therefore does not have much value for evaluation.

#### Poll 1 Results (N=14)

**Q:** Do you feel you have enough information on the conditions of use of HHPs to manage them effectively?

**A:** 36% of the participants said yes and 64% said no.

#### Poll 2 Results (N=17)

**Q:** Do you feel you have enough information on HHPs to manage them effectively? What more information would be most helpful?

**A:** From the participants, 35% responded that more information to identify which specific pesticides are causing problems, 24% said more information on the real life conditions of use, 29% said more information on the health impacts in use and 12% said more information on environmental impacts.

#### Poll 3 Results (N=14)

**Q:** Do you think that health monitoring of pesticides in your country is good enough to provide accurate data on the scale of pesticide poisoning in your country?

**A:** From the participants, 29% said yes and 71% said no.

#### Poll 4 Results (N=15)

**Q:** Is the post authorisation monitoring system in your country able to identify which HHPs cause health and environmental problems?

**A:** From the participants, 7% said yes, 60% said no and 33% said they did not know.

**Q3. What experiences do you have in identifying and implementing HHP Risk Management (Assessment & Mitigation) activities? What are the hurdles and what are the opportunities?**

#### **IRAN**

##### **Academia**

- About 4 decades ago working on my MSc thesis: Determination of residue of Diazinon in different varieties of apple fruit by Gas Chromatography in two methods of spraying, fixed program and surveying program (a 4 years long GC analysis research on Diazinon and Methidathion (supracid)). About 4 decades ago working on my MSc thesis: Determination of residue of Diazinon in different varieties of apple fruit by Gas Chromatography in two methods of spraying, fixed program and surveying program (a 4 year long GC analysis research on Diazinon and Methidathion (supracid)).
- I participated in the “Training for Trainers FAO workshop for Obsolete pesticides” some years ago, also in Zaragoza Spain 2015 for the <http://www.ihpa.info/hch-forum/13th-hch-forum/> lots of discussions about HHPs, obsolete pesticides, etc.

#### **SWEDEN**

##### **Government**

Opportunities:

- Use assessed data and reports from other countries and regions.
- Stakeholder workshops on risk management of HHPs

Hurdles:

- Decision making on pesticides.
- Get the information on risks and risk management across to the farmers /users.

## ZIMBABWE

### Government

- I have no experience in identifying and implementing HHP Risk Management activities but I think of the hurdles will be lack of funding.

## USA

### Private

- I fear that trying to align generic manufacturers would be a futile effort. Their business model is to produce and sell chemicals. Our concern is to get their dangerous products out of use. The two objectives are opposed.
- We try to engage authorities on this. But it becomes challenging as the non-CLI companies tend to be local and can be more supported by the authorities.

## TANZANIA

### NGO

- In implementing HHP Risk Management activities there is a lot of politics. Government officials either out of ignorance downplay the effects of HHPs and priorities other activities. Politics have entered in data collection, analysis and reporting as well. Opportunities we have is we can work with communities directly in identifying and managing HHP Risks. We need to mobilise stakeholders at lower levels to tackle the hurdles.

## UK

### NGO

- Opportunities- agroecology is very appropriate in the contexts where HHPs cause most problems.
- Obstacles - Broad spectrum HHPs inhibit adoption of many methods; poor training infrastructure (extension).

## BELGIUM

### Private

- Yes there is whole industry engagement - this was a function of the risk mitigation) - CLI would welcome governments to engage in this process.

## JAMAICA

### Academia

- Opportunities: Climate change issues helps to stimulate a conversation for alternative and sustainable way to grow food. The economic benefit to gain from assessment and mitigation will help to alleviate the health burden associated with pesticide poisoning.

### Poll 1 Results (N=15)

**Q:** In what area of pesticide risk management would you be most interested in engaging with the plant sciences industry?

**A:** From the participants, 33% said the Promotion of the Code of Conduct, 7% said Review of labels, 27% said Promotion of and access to label recommended PPE, 27% said Access to information and 7% said Other areas and discussed in list in chat.

### Poll 2 Results (N=15)

**Q:** What have been the key constraints to effective pesticide risk management?

**A:** From the participants, 29% said they are unable to achieve effective collaboration, 24% said regulatory or institutional issues, 6% Lack of user behaviour change, 6% said levels of understanding, 6% said labelling problems, 18% said lack of access to data, 6% said lack of access to information and 6% said other and listed in the chat.

### Useful Resources:

- **FAO/WHO guidance for identification of HHPs:** <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5566e.pdf>
- **WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides publication (which is one of the identification criteria for HHPs in the FAO/WHO guidance)**
- **Risk/benefit considerations for use of pesticides in vector control (risk to health (and environment) from using a hazardous pesticide balanced against the health gains from having fewer cases of the vector-borne disease such as malaria, dengue etc.)**
- WHO position statement on DDT <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/69945>
- WHO news item “WHO prequalifies indoor residual spray for vector control” [Clothianidin – a neonicotinoid class insecticide] <https://www.who.int/pq-vector-control/WHOprequalifies-spray-for-vector-control/en/>
- FAO/WHO Guidelines on highly hazardous pesticides <https://www.who.int/whopes/resources/9789241510417/en/>

- WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard 2019 <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240005662>
- ILO Baseline Survey on the scope of workers' exposures to chemicals (focus on HHPs) including a case study
- International labour standards/normative instruments for occupational safety and health (OSH) and agrochemical exposure in agriculture
- ILO Chemicals Convention, No. 170
- ILO Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, No. 184
- ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Agriculture
- ILO training materials on OSH and agriculture
- Website with a collection of ILO materials on occupational safety and health in agriculture, including normative instruments, training tools, etc: [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/industries-sectors/WCMS\\_219011/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/industries-sectors/WCMS_219011/lang--en/index.htm)
- Replacing Chemicals with Biology – Phasing out HHPs with Agroecology [https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/replacing\\_chemicals\\_with\\_biology\\_-\\_?e=28041656/45478976](https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/replacing_chemicals_with_biology_-_?e=28041656/45478976)
- Alternatives to HHPs – A short Guide [https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/a\\_short\\_guide\\_to\\_alternatives\\_to\\_hh?e=28041656/54580868](https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/a_short_guide_to_alternatives_to_hh?e=28041656/54580868)
- Tackling the pesticide threat in Georgia <https://www.pan-uk.org/tackling-pesticide-threat-georgia/>
- A responsible approach to Highly Hazardous Pesticide: <https://croplife.org/a-responsible-approach-to-highly-hazardous-pesticides/>
- An overview of: Highly Hazardous Pesticide: [https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/HHP-Infographic\\_v5-12.pdf](https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/HHP-Infographic_v5-12.pdf)  
[https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/HHP-Infographic\\_v5-2.pdf](https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/HHP-Infographic_v5-2.pdf)
- A commitment to sound management of highly hazardous pesticides: <https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SAICM-v3.pdf>
- IPM In Adoni, India: <https://croplife.org/case-study/ipm-in-adoni-india/>
- Evolution of the Crop Protection Industry since 1960: <https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Phillips-McDougall-Evolution-of-the-Crop-Protection-Industry-since-1960-FINAL-REPORT.pdf>
- Our commitment to data transparency: <https://croplife.org/data-transparency/>
- <https://www.pan-uk.org/acute-pesticide-poisoning-among-smallholder-farmers/>

**HHP 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 on 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.

This activity is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project ID: 9771 on *Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*.

If you have any questions or require clarification on this initiative, please contact the SAICM Secretariat at [saicm.chemicals@un.org](mailto:saicm.chemicals@un.org) or UCT at [uctcops@outlook.com](mailto:uctcops@outlook.com). **Join the HHP CoP at:** <https://chemicalswithoutconcern.org/community>

# COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON HIGHLY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES

Organized by the SAICM Secretariat and the University of Cape Town

Issue: 4 of 2020

Discussion date: 21 October 2020

## Discussion 4 digest

### Topic of Discussion: *Overview of the HHP Global Action Plan and way forward*

Despite the success of many actions to eliminate Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), they continue to pose unacceptable risks. HHPs disproportionately account for the negative impacts of pesticides on human health and the environment, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where they are a barrier to sustainable development. Evidence indicates that reducing or mitigating these impacts would significantly reduce the negative impacts of pesticides overall. Concerted actions are, therefore, required to mainstream the regulation and sound management of HHPs and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. To this effect, FAO-WHO-UNEP are jointly developing a Global Action Plan (GAP) on HHPs to explore a viable and concrete pathway for the international community towards progressive elimination of poisoning and contamination of HHPs and progressive phase-in of alternative measures. The GAP calls for global action by all relevant stakeholders on addressing HHPs and outlines the overall objectives and roadmap. This discussion solicited input from various stakeholders on the current GAP draft. To view the discussion presentation click, [here](#).

### ABOUT THE PRESENTER

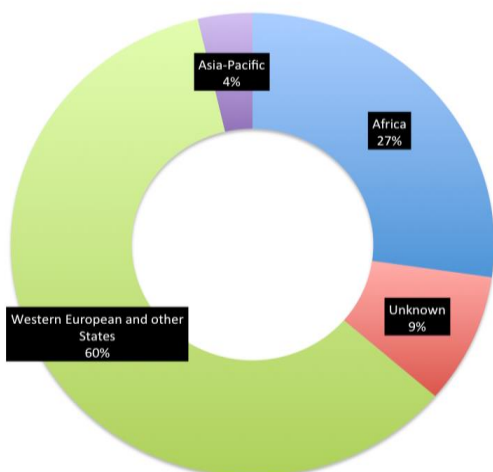


Dr **Baogen Gu** is a specialist in pest and pesticide management. Dr Gu joined FAO in September 2016 and has been responsible for pest and pesticide management as well as farmer field schools as the leader of Pest and Pesticide Management team in the Division of Plant Production and Protection, FAO.

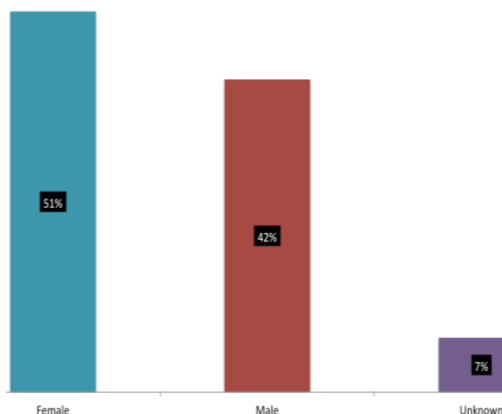
### DISCUSSION 4 ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN

DISCUSSION 4  
TOTAL ATTENDEES: 55

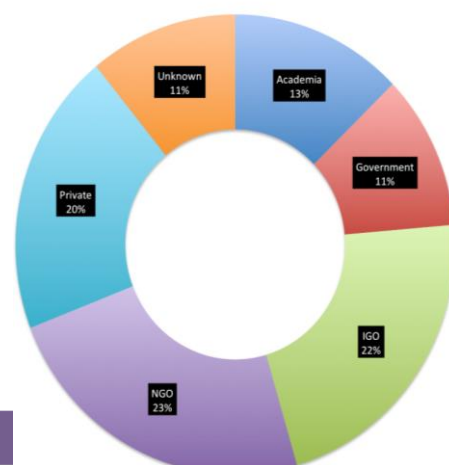
#### Region Representation



#### Gender representation



#### Sector representation



**KEY:**  
IGOs - Intergovernmental organisation  
NGOs- Non-governmental organisation

## Discussion Summary Points and Looking Ahead

1. Four key points were discussed during question one - *Why is the GAP on HHPs necessary?*
  - The Global Action Plan (GAP) is widely supported by all sectors. Many colleagues in the discussion agreed that the GAP is necessary and important to implement, and that it could help shape the development of relevant national policies and align actions from stakeholders.
  - The engagement between stakeholders and national action is crucial. Improving global co-ordination and governance is very important because different countries have different policies and legislations on HHPs. The GAP would be helpful in achieving this global coordination.
  - Issues such as banned pesticides and illegal trade are examples of the need for engagement on a global level.
  - There is a lack of knowledge on HHPs and the capacity to address this issue is different between countries. Global awareness of the risks posed by HHPs and risk reduction activities could be enhanced by the implementation of the GAP.

**Currently, no coordinated mechanism exists for managing HHP activities. The GAP is supported as a good first step and support for a more binding or a stronger mechanism (e.g., an Alliance) was suggested.**

2. Four main points were suggested for question 2 - *What are the key issues that you think the Global Action Plan should address?*
  - Six valuable suggestions were made: First, joined action among stakeholders is very important. Second, banning or high restriction in legislation is crucial especially when mitigating measures do not work. Third, there is a necessity to intervene in illegal trade, especially when a pesticide is legal in one country and not in another but being used irrespective. Fourth, the co-operation between exporting and importing countries and the availability of alternatives. Fifth, the harmonisation of residue standards because it was mentioned that there are differences in the residue standards between different countries. Lastly, monitoring of the implementation of the GAP is very crucial.
  - It is difficult to set specific indicators for the GAP, however issues such as poisoning should be discussed and revised for inclusion in the document.
  - Vector control – policies for phasing out of vector vs agricultural HHPs will be different. The GAP focuses on finding a suitable alternate policy for agriculture and vector control (note: in vector control, there are only two HHPs and GAP could focus on risk mitigation).
  - Legal binding treaty and mandate of the code of conduct - if there is a globally binding treaty, the problem could be solved easily.

**Key is that by addressing issues related to HHPs, the GAP will assist in reducing health and environmental risks until a more legally binding mechanism is in place. Performance indicators in national chemical and pesticide legislation and in international mechanisms (e.g., SAICM, SDGs) should include the elimination of HHPs.**

3. Four key suggestions were made linked to question 3 - *What are your suggestions for the best approaches to implement the Global Action Plan?*
  - National governments should take the lead role in implementing the GAP, not only with banning but also provide financial incentives for alternatives and IPM.
  - Engagement of key stakeholders is vital, including industry and farmers, as well as sharing information through awareness raising, education and training.
  - A global steering committee to guide and monitor the implementation of the GAP and communicate it with the different stakeholders is needed.

- With adequate funding, the GAP could be a good platform for coordination and to address many of the current challenges (e.g., coordination of information sharing, sharing success stories and lessons learned amongst countries).

**SAICM secretariat could play a role in convening a global steering committee for the GAP.**

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

## ANNEX

### DETAILED SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION 4:

**Disclaimer:** The information in this digest represents the opinions of members participating from different stakeholder groups expressed during the discussion. 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

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

**Question 1: In your view, is the Global Action Plan on HHPs necessary?**

#### **Non-profit organisation**

##### **Asia Pacific**

- Yes, it is necessary, because there is no global governance of HHPs, because HHP use is widespread, with 385 million cases of unintentional acute poisoning every year, 43% of farmers are suffering acute poisoning every year. In some regions, such as SE Asia it is even higher, up to 70% (see PAN Asia Pacific. 2018. Rights and Poisons: <https://panap.net/2018/10/of-rights-and-poisons-accountability-of-the-agrochemical-industry/>)

##### **Western European and other:**

- In India, we not only find many HHPs banned in Europe/US (imported) but the companies selling these (mainly international companies based in Europe) also engage in very aggressive village level marketing to convince farmers to purchase and spray these. This is not acceptable.
- Given that HHPs produced in one country - though may be banned for use in that country - can be exported to poor countries like ours (India), there must be global governance and action plan.

#### **Government**

##### **Western European and other:**

- Yes, the Global Action Plan on HHPs is necessary because HHPs are chemicals that are mobile, persistent and toxic. So only a global plan and its implementation is the way forward to minimize the consequences of the HHP exposure. Also, in today's world export and import of items is common. So if HHPs are used in one country although banned by the second. It does not solve the underlying problem. All nations must be on the same page, i.e. having similar regulations and following similar guidelines and protocols on HHP use.

##### **Africa:**

- My view is that the Global Action Plan on HHPs is necessary to help standardize the effort of eliminating or reducing their effects world over. My observation is that LMICs continue to import and use HHPs that are prohibited for use in developed countries as evidenced by the number of suicidal poisoning. So global action to ensure that people are aware of the risks posed as well as the capacity building of relevant authorities in different countries is really necessary. Most LMICs lack the knowledge and capacity to implement.
- The global action plan is necessary for countries in the tropical region to learn how

<b>Private</b>	<p>best we can eliminate HHPs. The main issue with tropical countries or LMIC is that the illegal crossing from one country to another perpetuates the illegal trade of HHPs.</p> <p><b>Western European and other:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CropLife International is supportive to the Global Action Plan, with focus on actions on national level.</li> </ul> <p><b>Africa:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If global action is not taking place, individual efforts of some countries will not be practical (Mozambique banned 30 HHPs but those products are being used in the neighbouring countries and due to poor border control, some of those are being imported illegally).</li> </ul>
<b>Intergovernmental organisation</b>	<p><b>Western European and other States</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A global action plan can help shape the development of relevant national policies and align action from stakeholders.</li> <li>➤ From the exchanges it is important at all levels: national action is important, global too (framework and coordination) and regional action is also key to avoid problems among neighbouring countries.</li> </ul>
<b>Presenter notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Actions should be carried out globally in all countries but export of banned HHPs and illegal trade is a challenge.</li> </ul>

### Poll 1 Q1 Results (N=18)

**Q:** What do you think is the main purpose of a GAP and what do you think it can achieve?

#### **OPEN ENDED ANSWERS:**

1. To address the double standard of companies - not selling in high income countries yet exporting to LMICs.
2. Build capacity of policymakers and lawmakers in LMICs.
3. Make open and transparent regular sharing of data on health and environmental impact of HHPs.
4. To make provisions for compensation seeking from companies by farmers, workers and communities poisoned by HHPs.
5. Mainstreaming of actions among all relevant stakeholders in a country, including farmers and all relevant players. It also needs an approach reflective of all risk management options available. The GAP would benefit from addressing why certain progressive has not been made (e.g., the implementation of the Stockholm Convention).
6. The phase out of HHPs in agriculture.
7. Streamlining the HHP use and regulations, globally.
8. Help inform and provide recommendations for concrete action on pesticides in the beyond 2020 process for the sound management of chemicals and waste.
9. Harmonizing identification of HHPs and alternatives.
10. Exchange of information.
11. Protect agricultural workers and bystanders.
12. Help standardize the most relevant actions and promote collaboration among different stakeholders.
13. To set common objectives linked to the SDGs and promote collaboration.
14. To act as a platform for sharing information and international harmonisation.
15. To reduce health harm and poisonings caused by HHPs and to engage all stakeholders in phasing-out HHPs.
16. Global coordination of HHP risk reduction work. With adequate funding, yes, it can be an excellent platform for coordination and to address most of the current challenges (e.g., information sharing).
17. Consistent, rather than contradictory, approaches.
18. Bringing together the key stakeholders to agree an approach to work towards improving human and environmental health.

### **Q2. What are the key issues that you think the Global Action Plan should address?**

**There is a need to develop the mechanisms for working together:** we can see in the discussion

that there are different points of view but how can we still work together.

**FAO/WHO categories 1-7 HHPs should be banned and stakeholders should inform about viable alternatives:** Efforts should then be expanded to help countries identify HHPs that fit into HHP category 8 so that they too can be removed from use. There is no reason for countries to keep using harmful pesticides when viable non-toxic alternatives are available. The weakness is in poor advice to farmers and the strength of the pesticide industry aggressively selling its products where they aren't needed.

**Residual limits:** The GAP should address the issue of food products turned back by the EU market because of the bridged standard these food products are then sold in the LMIC local markets.

**Agricultural different realities are complex:** the FAO CoC and the guidance on HHP provides a very good frame, that can now be strengthened through a Global Action Plan.

**Clear targets on poisoning and phase-out of HHPs in agriculture along with a commitment to monitoring progress:** The success will be seen in the prevention of deaths and ill health from exposure to HHPs, in the number of countries in which HHPs are banned and in % drop in volume sales in HHPs annually.

**Sometimes there are vector-borne diseases that can only be prevented by using HHPs for vector control:** This gives a justification for using certain HHPs because human health is at risk. For agricultural uses, there are usually

alternatives available. For non-food crops (e.g. cotton) there is not even a food security argument.

**A legally binding treaty, making the Code of Conduct mandatory and include the removal of HHPs from agriculture:** This needs to happen if there is no clear commitment from everyone to ensure the phase out of HHPs from agriculture through the GAP.

**Banning and phasing out the use of HHPs should be a priority:** However, to establish robust authorization schemes in countries should also be supported to prevent new HHPs from entering the market.

**Identification of HHPs and regulatory actions are urgent and must be addressed to begin with:** There should be a timeframe introduced for such actions because otherwise it won't give results that the global action plan is aiming for.

**Identification and promotion of alternatives is a priority:** Important for governments to have enabling environments to foster sustainable production systems (e.g., with incentives for farmers underpinned by robust financial, regulatory and extension policies & systems).

**FAO recognises that a needs analysis is part of deciding what mitigation measures are needed, including withdrawal:** Where this has been done there have been a number of cases where effective alternatives are not (yet) readily available. Removing without alternatives undermines an HHP strategy.

### Poll 1 Q2 Results (N= 17)

**Q: Which activity of the GAP do you think is the MOST important one and should be prioritized?**

**A:** From the response:

- 17% said to mobilize key actors to strengthen linkages and communications between them,
- 41% said to foster regulatory actions on HHPs,
- 41% said to ensure that viable HHPs alternatives (i.e. safe, sustainable, affordable methods) are developed and accessible to end users.

Comments included: Agree that regulatory action to remove HHPs from use is key. Action should be focused on removing HHPs from use entirely.

### Poll 2 Q2 Results (N= 85)

**Q: What information should be shared under the GAP?**

**A:** From the responses to the poll:

- 22% said country lists of identified HHPs,
- 21% said national poisoning data awareness raising and risk communication material on HHPs,

- 20% said to have alternatives identified and registered, and
- 11% said national suicide data.

Comments (2) included: Import and export data on HHPs - countrywise; Data sale proceeds of from HHPs by all companies. Import and export data on HHPs - countrywise; Data sale proceeds of from HHPs by all companies

### Q3. What are your suggestions for the best approaches to implement the Global Action Plan?

There needs to be a small Bureau/Steering Group drawn from each of the stakeholder organisations to provide overall governance, assistance, and guidance to the Coalition, including collating and reporting on annual reports and monitoring by the stakeholders, supported by a secretariat provided by FAO. It would meet on-line for the present. Without such a mechanism, efforts will be scattered, inconsistent and inadequate. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint provides a good example of what can be achieved with coordination and direction.

Exchange of information of good experience from countries/regions having experience working on HHP risk management, such as lessons learned, recommendations for future work, viable alternatives to HHPs, experience from the cooperation between stakeholders etc.

Many stakeholders are missing from this discussion and there needs to be thought and action on how to integrate them. For example, sustainability standard-setting bodies such as fair trade and rainforest alliance; commodity trading organizations for coffee, cocoa, cotton, etc. major food processors and retailers and consumer organizations.

The Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint is quite successful - For HHPs, we propose to adopt a similar model. This can be done at a relatively low cost, primarily operating online. It should include a range of key stakeholders and tracking progress would be one key function. It could also help to mobilize resources.

For the implementation of global action plan, all countries and industrial partners first agree that HHPs are not the problem of one single country or region. Industrial partners should step in and provide safer alternatives and the info between countries on HHPs must flow swiftly. No country can avoid HHPs if those are being used in another country. This confirms that a global action plan is needed.

We should not be counting on "Industry" to provide solutions to HHPs. It is not in the interest of chemical industry to support a move that is aiming to reduce their markets. Regulators and farmers need to be looking elsewhere: agroecology, biopesticides, etc.

Availability of alternatives is important, but it is well known that regulatory action can be a spur to innovation and encourage the development and deployment of alternatives, plenty of examples from other sectors where regulatory action has increased availability and helped drive down prices.

How do we involve industry other than CropLife International members? In addition, the discussion on HHPs policy is quite narrowly happening in the EU - what is the role of companies in the major producing countries that are outside of the EU (a look to the global chemical outlook on where pesticide production is happening might help.) Double standard discussions in the EU is held on products that most have global OECD registrations - what about the HHPs that are banned by Stockholm and that are still being used and all the illegal pesticides that are floating the market? If this is missed out the Global plan will fail or make slow progress.

Farmers keep asking our extension workers the same question, why should the government poison the hands which feed them - farmers - they trust the government not to register HHPs. Farmers do trust the government more than voluntary standards. It's extremely important that some sort of legally binding action is taken, and government - lawmakers and policymakers - are educated on HHPs.

For tropical countries, the GAP, can be implemented through SADC signatories countries, regional implementation can also help. This will enable surveillance to be effective particularly on countries that have identified and eliminate HHPs.

### **Poll 1 Q3 Results (N= 10)**

**Q: What is needed for national governments to observe the GAP?**

**A:**

1. Legally binding instruments that are agreed upon
2. Scientific bodies and policymakers should form a platform/working groups via which they follow the GAP and taking necessary actions based on scientific evidence.
3. This is not a question that is easy to answer, and naively perhaps not just a question of political will. LMICs government may lack not only technical capacity but also enforcement capacity. Maybe the most effective action would be incentives via standard-setting organisations (fair trade, organic etc.) and food manufacturers and retailers.
4. All stakeholders' commitment: public pressure highlighting the concern
5. Build Capacity of Lawmakers and Policymakers - they need to know what they are approving for use in countries, enable them to monitor the progress of phasing out of HHPs
6. They play a vitally important role. They need a regulatory authority that has good information (e.g. links to agricultural, environment, health) and does not include industry due to conflict of interest. They also need access to evidence of the impact of HHPs and effective alternatives. Often they are chemists with limited resources and without this broader understanding. They need support from FAO and others for that.
7. A small Bureau drawn from each of the stakeholder organisations could provide overall governance, assistance, and guidance to the Global Alliance, issuing annual progress and monitoring reports
8. Political awareness of the cost of inaction.
9. An evidence-based understanding of the implications of implementing the GAP, what other areas of policy they will need to consider.
10. Vital for all governments to implement it fully.

### **Poll 2 Results (N= 36)**

**Q: What mechanisms should be put in place to action the GAP?**

**A: From the responses to the poll:**

- 16% annual meetings face to face,
- 25% virtual meetings every two months,
- 36% data and materials sharing online platform,
- 19% HHP app for quick information and responses, and
- 2% said other.

Comments included: Actioning the GAP will require support for the GAP which will come from buy in from different stakeholder groups, establishing a bureau to keep track of progress and that meets virtually. A funded dedicated unit to support GAP implementation. A funded dedicated unit to support GAP implementation. A multistakeholder alliance along the lines of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint primarily with low cost, online meetings. A mechanism to coordinate the whole process such as a Bureau or Steering Group.

### **Useful Resources:**

1. [FAO-WHO-UNEP Draft Global Action Plan on HHPs.](#)

2. PAN Asia Pacific. 2018. Rights and Poisons: <https://panap.net/2018/10/of-rights-and-poisons-accountability-of-the-agrochemical-industry/>

**HHP 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.

This activity is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project ID: 9771 on *Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*.

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

**Join the HHP CoP at:** <https://chemicalswithoutconcern.org/community>