

TRANSCRIPT

SESSION 2

Discussion date: 27 July 2022

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

Question 1: Dzejna Milakovic RamadanToEveryone 1:58:28 PM Good day to all and kind regards from Bosnia and Herzegovina. My name is Džejna Milaković Ramadan, Head of Chemicals and Biocides Department at The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Asmaa QhtanToEveryone: 1:58:49 PM Dr. Qhtan Asmaa Assistant Director General for Environmental Safety Environment Protection Authority Ministry of Water and Environment P.O BOX: 603 Crater Aden Republic Of Yemen Email: althalabif14@gmail.com EPA: Info@epa-ye.org mwe@mwe-ye.org asma.qhtan@yahoo.com Aden city, Khour.Mukser. Burhan.Building 5th fl

Ahmad MahdaviToEveryone

1:58:49 PM Hello from Ahmad Mahdavi, University of Tehran, Iran.

DINA RAKOTOARISOAToEveryone

1:59:14 PM Hi everyone my name is Dina, national focal point of SAICM Madagascar

Placido SilvaToEveryone

1:59:39 PM Hi. I am Placido Silva from Colombia Ong Colnodo focal point Saicm

Andrew BeyakToEveryone

1:59:39 PM Hello, Andrew Beyak, Senior Policy Analyst from Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada - Canada's primary pesticide regulatory body.

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

Ahmad MahdaviToEveryone

2:33:12 PM For Menti- Iran- The problem is that in most developing countries the real and genuine scientists are rarely appointed as the focal point but rather politicians get appointed. If SAICM itself is

appointing these focal points, then why this happens? If governments do this, then this is another story! I have been involved in HHP 30-40 years observing many deaths of sprayer farmers, orchard owners, pesticide factory workers, etc. few hours after getting poisoned by HHP, please see again: How pesticides are handled in developing countries (my message 25 years ago):
<https://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2008/01/industry-scientists-persuade-state-to-implement-more-lenient-pesticide-regulation/>

Asmaa QhtanToEveryone

2:33:13 PM Yes, the environmental impact of these chemicals is evaluated and permits to be used according to the modern science policy, but we still need to work hard with developed country and learn from them . Asmaa Yemen

Cyd LudidiToEveryone

2:33:48 PM Hi all, Cyd Ludidi, MCRM student at UCT from Cape Town RSA

Christopher KanemaToEveryone

2:34:10 PM Question 1. There is a difference between between HIC and LMIC. In LMIC availability of information is rare and if available, it is not easily shared among Government institutions

Steven LevineToEveryone

2:34:22 PM Create open opportunities for information exchange and training and education on chemical assessment and management following the FAO/WHO framework for HHP risk reduction process (identification, assessment, mitigation).

00:56:13 Suresh Amichand: Suresh Amichand, Guyana. There is indeed difference between HIC and LMIC as the LMIC countries mostly depend on the HIC countries to bridge from their decision on regulatory actions such as registration of chemicals.

00:56:14 Ahmad Mahdavi: Thanks Hans-Christian.

00:56:19 Asmaa Qhtan: Thank you, Asmaa, YEMEN

00:57:14 Ahmad Mahdavi: Yes I agree, thanks.

00:57:54 Tatum Louw, South Africa (UCT): You may answer the poll here:
<https://www.menti.com/b626a7eq2z>

00:57:55 Sheila Willis: Because of difference in capacity, it is so important that countries have channels through which information and evidence can be shared. It is a pity that some few countries continue to block some channels e.g., listing under Rotterdam Convention, while the vast majority are in favour of listing and accessing PIC procedures

00:59:13 Ahmad Mahdavi: For Menti- Iran- The problem is that in most developing countries the real and genuine scientists are rarely appointed as the focal point but rather politicians get appointed. If SAICM itself is appointing these focal points, then why this happens? If governments do this, then this is another story! I have been involved in HHP 30-40 years observing many deaths of sprayer farmers, orchard owners, pesticide factory workers, etc. few hours after getting poisoned by HHP, please see again: How pesticides are handled in developing countries (my message 25 years ago): <https://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2008/01/industry-scientists-persuade-state-to-implement-more-lenient-pesticide-regulation/>

00:59:15 Asmaa Qhtan: Yes, the environmental impact of these chemicals is evaluated and permits to be used according to the modern science policy, but we still need to work hard with developed country and learn from them . Asmaa Yemen

00:59:50 Cyd Ludidi: Hi all, Cyd Ludidi, MCRM student at UCT from Cape Town RSA

01:00:12 Christopher Kanema: Question 1. There is a difference between between HIC and LMIC. In LMIC availability of information is rare and if available, it is not easily shared among Government institutions

01:00:23 Steven Levine: Create open opportunities for information exchange and training and education on chemical assessment and management following the FAO/WHO framework for HHP risk reduction process (identification, assessment, mitigation).

01:02:26 Dzejna Milakovic Ramadani: Bosnia and Herzegovina: In order to get effective mandate on specific activitie/partnership (country specific) there should be a strong political will to accomplish such activities/partnerships. The best practice would be to set provisions in some legislation (for example in our Law on chemicals we have set the provision on establishing so called Joined body where participants present different stakeholders. But the practice has thought me that it all comes downt to people - who do you know and how willing are they to participate/cooperate.

01:02:29 Tatum Louw, South Africa (UCT): @all, we have five minutes left to discuss question 1

01:02:41 Michael Musenga: CEHF Zambia - Michael Musenga Halo to every one

01:02:56 María Cárcamo: Hello everyone, RAPAL Uruguay has carried out an assessment of the use of HHP in our country, and there are many of them that are not use un Europe

01:03:47 Christopher Kanema: Strengthening the Science and Policy panel

01:04:27 Tatum Louw, South Africa (UCT): To answer the poll click here: <https://www.menti.com/b626a7eq2z>

01:04:58 Lloyd Nundwe: Hello everyone. Zambia recently completed a survey of HHPs used as part of the phase out process. HHPs are still widely used.

01:05:05 Jane Mdwegele: Clear and effective mandate can be through having good policies, laws and regulations as a country in enforcement of specific activities related to chemical management. High income countries differ from low income countries by capacities of having reliable information. LICs have no system of reaching out of information.

01:05:13 Sounkoura Adetonah: Strengthening the SAICM ONG focal point in the country

01:05:16 Sounkoura Adetonah: thanks

01:05:17 Placide Nshuti Kanyabujinja: Map key stakeholders and try to share information about HHPs through different platforms including the workshops, online platforms and where possible create or mandate certain organizations such as FAO/WHO a close follow up. Among the stakeholders policy makers would be involved as well to have a stronger voice.

01:05:25 Andrew Beyak: Andrew Beyak, Health Canada: Getting an effective mandate depends on two things: 1) The organization under which the activity or partnership and who its membership consists of have to be considered. It is important that the mandate come from the membership, and that creation of the mandate is transparently and consultatively created with engagement of the membership. For eg. organizations consisting of member countries/parties need to engage with those countries parties, and mandates should not be created by the administrative or coordinating bodies of such organizations. 2) Mandates for specific activities should be as prescriptive as possible, with agreement on the activities to be taken. In the past SAICM and other bodies (FAO, UNEP) have made general resolutions which present a variety of potential options, then the organizational body or a subset thereof embarks on a very specific course of action.

01:09:39 Andrew Beyak: Andrew Beyak, Health Canada - There are very important regional dimensions (e.g. LMICs, MICs) to HHP management. Broad coordination is a positive approach, though should allow for targeted, and regional prioritization of measures where they will serve identified needs.

01:09:57 Lennart Dock: On Q2: would be interesting to know more about the collaboration between NFC. What NFC are in regular contact?

01:10:28 Sherika Whitelocke-Ballingsingh: Partnership can get clear and effective mandates if relevant stakeholder work both bottom -up and vice-versa. Often time information is lost in high level discussions and packaged in away that is not accessible or know by persons of interest. Activities should come from grass root involving the vulnerable population who can change political will since most times they are the influencer of voting politician in power. We should package information in different format to reach all levels of population in society.

01:15:35 Sheila Willis: I agree with Sherika, great point. The multistakeholder aspect of SAICM is so important and it is vital that vested interests do not derail the earnest efforts of some countries and stakeholders to tackle the harms from HHPs

01:17:36 Michael Musenga: CEHF Zambia Michael Musenga We need more involvement in this process at country National level.

01:17:50 Sheila Willis: Sorry if I missed it, is there a link to the HHP fact sheet?

01:18:51 Placido Silva: We can make a lot of efforts, but if the industry insists on looking for marketing channels, HHPs will always be in the market.

the best control of contamination is NOT TO PRODUCE IT, PERFORM A CONTROL AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PIPELINE.

01:20:17 Ahmad Mahdavi: However disappointed about other related past stockholders, we are putting all our hope on SAICM now.

01:20:45 Andrew Ward: Andrea doesn't mention considering how risks can be mitigated. An analogy would be with cars which are dangerous but we work to make their use as safe as possible. With pesticides National Focal Points also need to consider how risks can be mitigated.

01:21:13 Sounkoura Adetonah: the best way is also to look at all the chain of the process

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

01:22:01 Ahmad Mahdavi: Q.2- Iran- Surely these two must play an active role, as we are already observing the bad situation of killed people and wildlife and nature pollution by HHP in developing countries we can clearly judge that why these happened? So more cooperation between SAICM, BRS and surely some other stockholders is necessary.

01:22:57 Lloyd Nundwe: Hello all, I am Lloyd Nundwe Inspector from the Zambia Environmental Management Agency.

01:23:12 DINA RAKOTOARISOA: yes, they do because national focal point should implement the strategic and orientation about how to manage the chemical

01:23:12 Christopher Kanema: Yes the SAICM and BRS national focal points are key to ensure that HHPs are identified and phased out

01:23:23 Ilako A. Maurille ELEGBEDE: q2 Bénin yes but sometimes some other poepee have more information than them..this is dependiing of the country organisation

01:23:39 Ahmad Mahdavi: What I have to add is that SAICM is better to take a organizing/head role than BRS.

01:23:39 Andrew Ward: @Placido even if you stop legitimate producers criminals will make illegal HHPs available. A holistic and phased approach is required

01:23:52 Anthony Wainaina: Kenya - Yes. The focal points can take advantage of the strategic position as they are also focal points for other MEAs and understand the synergies between the conventions

01:23:52 Sheila Willis: Croplife often talk about mitigation of risks at field level because this approach will not impact their sales. The hierarchy of controls and decades of experience tell us that this is the least effective approach to take

01:24:02 Sivapragasam Annamalai: Yes, they should - in the process work together with key stakeholders including key regulators.

01:24:03 Sounkoura Adetonah: Adetonah Sounkoura from GAPROFFA NGO Benin: SAICM IS THE HAND OF BRS. SAICM has the mandate to operationalize the issue of BRS

01:24:10 Kenneth Chipere: ye

01:24:15 Tatum Louw, South Africa (UCT): We will be sharing the factsheet later today. If you have not done so already, kindly sign up to the CoP to receive the announcement with the factsheet: Make sure you have signed up for the HHPs CoP:

<https://saicmknowledge.org/community>

01:24:16 Glory Boniventure: Hi All, Glory Boniventure, Occupational hygienist from OSHA Tanzania. MCRM student at UCT

01:25:17 Placido Silva: trabajar desde SAICM y BRS para detener la producción en Europa y las ventas a países de Asia, América Latina y África. work from SAICM and BRS to stop production in Europe and sales to countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

01:25:19 Christopher Kanema: With the experience in the last BRS COPs, listing of chemicals are resisted because some are under the considered view that when listed under Rotterdam some countries ban. Therefore, there is need for close collaboration and create awareness

01:25:27 Asmaa Qhtan: yes, I think

01:25:42 Placide Nshuti Kanyabujinja: Yes I think SAICM and BRS national focal points should play the active role in the removal of HHPs nationally to prevent health and environmental effect. They can be active in making sure that the policies in place provide a good environment in removing the HHPs. However, I find SAICM more positioned than BRS

01:26:02 Kenneth Chipere: yes these are key stakeholders who should be driving the process.

01:26:04 Jane Mdwegele: SAICM and BRS can play active role in collaboration with relevant stakeholder in removal of HHPs

- 01:26:05 Ahmad Mahdavi: It also should be noted that BRS fell short for successful regulations for developing countries and so we need more role from the SAICM.
- 01:26:11 Placido Silva: <https://www.ciel.org/killing-us-softly-from-farm-to-plate/>
- 01:26:26 Glory Boniventure: SAICM and BRS are best tool and I think this may work better if is regulated into national regulations
- 01:26:29 Andrew Ward: Hi Sheila, I want to promote risk mitigation because I am passionate about the livelihoods of poor farmers for whom pest damage can be devastating. Please don't jump to conclusions about my motives
- 01:26:50 Gamini Manuweera: This is Gamini from Sri Lanka currently working with CPSP: On Q2- SAICM and BRS national focal points should play a key role both at policy as well as technical discussion depending on where they are coming from. Also they can play an important role in networking the national agencies and key stakeholders towards implementing concrete actions in identifying HHP of national concern and help removing them from use/exposure.
- 01:27:03 Placido Silva: <https://www.ciel.org/advancing-the-global-strategy-towards-sound-chemicals-management-a-report-back-from-the-4th-international-conference-on-chemicals-management-iccm4/>
- 01:27:26 Andrew Beyak: Andrew Beyak, Health Canada - BRS Conventions are all mutually discrete, and legally binding. At present the BRS Conventions have no specified mandate in their text to HHPs. Therefore BRS national focal points have no specific mandate concerning HHPs. Care should be taken in not expanding the scope of BRS without due process, discussion, up to discussions on feasibility of amending the BRS conventions if widening mandate to HHPs is to be considered. My comment is not meant to oppose management of HHPs, but to point out that this should be done within the scope of defined mandates, and through the creation of new mandates. It is also important to note, that such expansion of scope is from intent/terms of the BRS is currently resulting in some negative, unintended consequences, such as difficulty getting consensus to list new chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention.
- 01:27:36 Anna Odur: Yes I believe they should play that role. However civil society and academia also have an important role in eliminating HHPs.
- 01:27:37 Glory Boniventure: Also focal person must build awareness to all key stakeholder especially policy makers
- 01:27:39 Kenneth Chipere: BRS and SAICM are key to a life cycle approach to sustainable chemicals management which includes HHPs
- 01:27:52 Suresh Amichand: Guyana. Yes. The overarching framework are similar and therefore the national focal points will share similar linkage and can work together in addressing HHPs. Together form policies and initiatives can be developed in a broader framework.

01:28:08 María Cárcamo: María Cárcamo from RAPAL Uruguay. Yes, there should be a collaboration among SAICM and the BRS, if we want to move towards on the elimination of the HHP

01:28:11 Steven Levine: Similarly in response to the last question, focal points should play an active role in helping to organize opportunities with governmental authorities working on HHPs on training and education on the HHP risk reduction process - identification, assessment and mitigation (i.e., which risk mitigation options are most appropriate, possible, and are informed by human and environmental risk assessment). The rationale for this approach is to support and better implement the existing three step process for risk reduction of HHPs.

01:28:18 Tatum Louw, South Africa (UCT): To answer the poll click here:
<https://www.menti.com/b626a7eq2z>

01:30:22 Sherika Whitelocke-Ballingsingh: Yes I think SAICM and BRS national focal point should play an active role in constantly reminding countries of their agreement in relation to Pesticides, when possible work with local stakeholders of interest to force change and constantly provide information from discussions like these so that information and ideas can be shared for use in countries.

01:30:46 Michael Musenga: CEHF Zambia Michael Musenga This is very correct if SAICM and BRS focal point play active role it will be very easy to convince the policy makers in the phasing out of HHP in each country. The Government can pay much attention to SAICM focal point in preference to NGOs. But working together with Focal point persons can bring good results f Governments

01:30:59 Asmaa Qhtan: 1-Governments
2-Industry 3-stakeholders

01:31:47 Anna Odur: 1. Govts 2. NGOs 3. Industry

01:31:59 Tatum Louw, South Africa (UCT): @all, we have 5 minutes left to discuss question 2

01:32:08 Andrew Beyak: From Andrew Beyak, Health Canada, Hans-Christian Stozenberg, I do agree with your comments on dialogue, cooperation, collaboration across BRS-SAICM NFPs, even if just in an informal capacity.

01:32:28 Anna Odur: 1. Govts 2. NGOs 3. Industry

01:32:40 Gohar Khojayan: NGO SAICM Focal Points can also be helpful in taking action on HHPs

01:33:17 Sounkoura Adetonah: yes

01:33:18 Tatum Louw, South Africa (UCT): To answer the poll click here:
<https://www.menti.com/b626a7eq2z>

01:33:49 Anna Odur: NGOs can be a voice for grassroots stakeholders particular farmers like in the case of Uganda

01:34:16 Anna Odur: **particularly

01:34:51 DINA RAKOTOARISOA: Government should involve the HHP in the priority of national document

01:35:57 Sheila Willis: Anna makes a good point. NGOs can help smallholder farmers in particular to have a voice as they may not be easy to reach in other ways

01:37:05 Baboucarr Mbye: Stay Green Gambia an NGO has been a voice for farmers since after the first Saicm Africa meeting in Mbour, Senegal

01:38:49 Andrew Beyak: Andrew Beyak, Health Canada - I do however believe that some or all of the BRS texts have provisions related to capacity building - this would be an approach that could facilitate management of HHP issues.

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

01:40:44 Union Mapxashike: Union Mapxashike, Environmental Management Agency, Zimbabwe

01:41:08 Asmaa Qhtan: Question 3: What challenges are national focal points currently facing and how can these be addressed? Be specific as to the problem and solution and list your country/organization.

Building the capacities of local focal points with the agreements that took place, such as the Basel and Stockholm Agreement, we also need an orderly and quick policy approach to inventory all chemicals inside the Republic of Yemen. Asmaa, Yemen

01:41:48 Suresh Amichand: Guyana. Lack of alternatives. The difficulty with buy in is that we do not have alternatives that farmers are willing to use for the HHPs.

01:42:33 Lolem Bosco: Apologies for coming in a bit late. My name is Lolem Lokolile Bosco, Ministry of Health, Kenya & DPRM student UCT

01:42:35 Suresh Amichand: Guyana. Research in alternatives and more promotion of these alternatives along with efficacy trials to have buy in,

01:42:35 Gohar Khojayan: Armenia, AWHHE NGO: challenge is to ban widely used HHPs in agriculture which are banned in many countries, such as chlorpyrifos and glyphosate, to find understanding/allies with importers, promote alternatives among big agricultural users

01:42:46 Michael Musenga: Michael Musenga of Children's Environmental Health Foundation (CEHF), Zambia. This is very good meeting for help in our advocacy campaign to policy makers

01:43:31 María Cárcamo: María Cárcamo from Uruguay. I believe that most of the focal points have too many issues to follow, and capacity is not enough to address all of them.

01:43:44 Asmaa Qhtan: -Building the capacities of local focal points with the agreements that took place, such as the Basel and Stockholm Agreement, we also need an orderly and quick policy approach to inventory all chemicals inside the Republic of Yemen. Asmaa, Yemen.

01:44:03 Ahmad Mahdavi: Iran- In developing countries, many challenges: lack of support by government agencies, lack of communication and relation with academia,...etc., in many developing countries nobody is aware about these focal points due to lack of coordination, etc. Solution: permanent control by SAICM, BRS, FAO, WHO, etc. to see how active and efficient are these focal points in developing countries...

01:44:23 Tatum Louw, UCT: To answer the poll click here:
<https://www.menti.com/b626a7eq2z>

01:44:48 Jane Mdwegele: Lack of fund in addressing removal of HHP. Insufficient research for efficiency of safer alternatives of pesticides and willingness of the politicians in support of removing HHP

01:45:24 Baboucarr Mbye: My name is Baboucarr Mbye the Executive Secretary of Stay Green Gambia (formally Stay Green Foundation).

01:45:25 Christian Küster: Q3: When following a risk-based approach, it's a challenge for local focal points to consider local agronomic reality in terms of product application aspects. Tools, knowledge on risk-based decisions and capacities within regulatory bodies is particularly lacking in LMICs. A trusted entity, like FAO, can serve as a facilitator to provide these tools to lower the hurdle for local regulators to make risk-based decisions.

01:45:28 Ilako A. Maurille ELEGBEDE: benin they didn't have a budget line specieic for actions.

01:45:52 Sheila Willis: Suresh's point highlights the importance of sharing good information on alternatives to HHPs for the particular uses and circumstances faced. Alternatives may not be registered yet, but they invariably exist, countries need information and possibly support to undertake local testing / adaptation and farmer training. It is important that non-chemical alternatives and practices are considered alongside other options.

01:46:29 Glory Boniventure: Tanzania_ Limited resources allocation, lack capacity ,lack supports from stakeholder(political issues),also most of focal person are in managerial position and they have a lot of issue to deal with.

01:46:55 Placido Silva: <https://www.ciel.org/news/fao-director-general-must-meet-with-civil-society-and-indigenous-peoples-and-respond-to-calls-to-stop-toxicalliance-with-croplife-international/>

01:48:04 Placido Silva: The 11 civil society and Indigenous peoples organizations that sent today's joint letter and meeting request co-sponsored the letter to FAO Director-General Qu sent in November 2020, in which over 350 civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations expressed their deep concerns with the FAO's plans to strengthen its official ties with CLI, a move the groups said would undermine the FAO's mandate as a UN institution and the principles set out in its Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. Subsequently, 250 scientists and academics wrote to the Director-General

expressing similar concerns. The Director-General's response dated 27 November 2020 did not satisfactorily address these concerns.

01:48:13 Sherika Whitelocke-Ballingsingh: To add to the line of discussion in the chat. There are some information we aware of and understand what is happening on the ground: 1. We know how HHP affects users and other. 2. We understand the economical value the use of pesticide has to the farmers income. 3. we know the business aspect of sales both on an industry level and amongst farmers themselves in getting pesticides that they think will help them to produce higher yield. 4. We have understanding of politics and how this impacts political will to drive enforcement both for policies and legislation within countries. What we need to do it make it very hard for the access of specific pesticides within the cycle and empower persons with information on the harm/adverse effects it has on their health and that of their family. Additional pressure government/politicians continuously to implement and enforce.

01:49:01 Tatum Louw, UCT: To answer the poll click here:
<https://www.menti.com/b626a7eq2z>

01:50:55 Tatum Louw, UCT: @all, we have five minutes left for the discussion

01:51:16 Placide Nshuti Kanyabujinja: Q3. In Rwanda, Focal points have the challenges of less influence at the time they need to influence the policies in place and they are also constrained by the lack of budget or Financial resources.

01:53:22 Tatum Louw, UCT: Make sure you have signed up for the HHPs CoP:
<https://saicmknowledge.org/community>

01:53:38 Asmaa Qhtan: Thank you, for this discussion . Asmaa

01:53:38 Placido Silva: Gracias

01:53:39 Tatum Louw, UCT: Join the HHPs CoP What's App Group to receive information:
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JFBuAOTRuRZONAqm8JHpp0>

01:53:55 Lennart Dock: Thanks to all. Important topic.

01:53:56 Gohar Khojayan: thank you

01:54:03 Sherika Whitelocke-Ballingsingh: Thank you for hosting a very engaging and informative session as usual

01:54:13 Ahmad Mahdavi: Thanks Dr. Stolzenberg for great discussions, thanks Maxine.

01:54:21 Andrew Beyak: Thanks to all.



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UNIBESITHI YAKAPPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAPSTAD



01:54:23 María Cárcamo: Thank you so much, good discussion!!!

01:54:52 Tatum Louw, UCT: Make sure you have signed up for the HHPs CoP:

<https://saicmknowledge.org/community>

01:55:05 Juan Facundo Domínguez: Thank you

01:55:36 Anna Odur: Thank you everyone! Great discussion

01:56:49 Maxine Brassell: To answer the poll click here:

<https://www.menti.com/b626a7eq2z>