

## Report

### **Inception Workshop of GCP/RER/042/GFF *Lifecycle management of pesticides and disposal of POPs pesticides in Central Asian countries and Turkey***

**19-21 February 2014  
Ankara, Turkey**

The inception workshop of GCP/RER/042/GFF was conducted by the Sub-regional Office for Central Asia of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO-SEC) of the United Nations at the International Agricultural Training Center in Ankara, Turkey on 19-21 February 2014.

The objective of the workshop was to launch the project, present the components and outputs to stakeholders, define roles and responsibilities and discuss and develop a work plan in order to produce a full-size project document. The workshop was attended by 26 participants: the representatives from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and experts from Milieukontakt International and FAO.

The first day was devoted to the review of the status of obsolete pesticide (OP) and pesticide management in the region. FAO and other organizations' activities on the subject were presented, gap analysis and overall project expectations were discussed.

Mr. Mustapha Sinaceur, Sub-regional Coordinator for Central Asia and Turkey, welcomed the participants. In his opening speech, he stressed the significant threat of pesticide and OP in the region to human and environment. He also stated that FAO has a perspective and a comparative advantage in managing pesticide and OP around the world.

Khatuna Akhalaia, Regional Project Coordinator of GCP/RER/035/TUR, presented the outputs and results of GCP/RER/035/TUR and underlined that the OP inventory had been completed in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and South Kazakhstan. The inventory was acknowledged to be a base for further pesticides disposal and management projects. In addition, it was stated that further projects should put special emphasis on the priorities of the countries on OP defined during the project.

Kevin Helps, Expert (FAO-AGP), summarized in his presentation the background information, outputs and progress made by the ongoing project GCP/RER/040/EC, *Improving capacities to eliminate and prevent recurrence of obsolete pesticides as a model for tackling unused hazardous chemicals in the former Soviet Union*. He presented the management of obsolete and new pesticides and regional capacity development components. Moreover, he highlighted that the project had not been endorsed by some countries and stressed the importance of national support to implement the project successfully and achieve the expected results. The roles of FAO's partner organisations in this project were also defined by Wouter Pronk, Expert from Milieukontakt International.

The participants were divided into two groups in order to discuss gap analysis of new pesticides and OP issues and overall project expectations. Five common issues of the countries for the two titles were identified and presented by group members. The identified common issues are listed below.

Common issues on OP:

- Need to renew the database on OP (No guarantee that the facts are 100% true. Alongside the situation changes constantly);
- Lack of resources (financial and technical) to clean up soil polluted by OP;
- Destruction of OP stocks is a problem. There are no technologies available in the region (excluding Turkey);
- Need to do a research and monitor the influence of OP on human health and environment;
- Need to make an inventory of OP polygons and mini burial sites;
- Transportation and storage of OP in unsustainable ways;
- Need to raise awareness of the general public and decision makers of the possible risks for human health and environment.

#### Common issues on new pesticides:

- Need to improve the legislative framework on pesticide management;
- Lack of equipment for toxicological monitoring and research;
- Limited knowledge about the full-life cycle of pesticides, mechanisms for monitoring are not in place;
- Limited knowledge among farmers about sustainable use of pesticides;
- Limited knowledge about sustainable container management;
- Need to study and monitor the negative effects of pesticides for human health and environment;
- Lack of coordination among the competent authorities;
- Weakness in undertaking preliminary needs assessment for new pesticides;
- Illegal transboundary movement of pesticides

After discussion, the Project Identification Form (PIF) and the project design details were presented by Kevin Helps, FAO. Components and expected outputs of PIF document were presented and discussed. In line with the PIF document, a table on components and activities was introduced and filled by country representatives. Every country representative described the situation in his/her country on each issue and gave indication of whether it should be covered by a new project for their country. The table was considered as a good base for identifying the needs of the countries. It was stated that according to this table, the necessary consultancies should be recruited.

Mr. Ekrem Yazici, GEF Focal point FAO-SEC, gave information on the procedures, FAO and GEF project formats on full-size GEF project development. It was stated that this project output would be a full-size project document which would be financed by GEF, and funds had already been allocated for the expected new project. It was also stated that national level activities and the contribution of the countries should be defined and co-funding possibilities should be explored.

On the second day, the table of the previous day was reviewed and discussed. In addition to the discussed table components, Tajikistan stressed its need of establishing a toxicology laboratory. Other countries addressed the need of strengthening their laboratories. FAO highlighted at this point that the laboratories should be accredited in order to be recognized internationally. Besides, the cement factory facilities on disposal of OP was discussed. Kevin Helps emphasized the possibility of using the cement factories on elimination of OP. It was stated that the only disposal facility in the region was in Turkey and other countries need disposal facilities internally. This was considered to be logical way due to some restrictions on transportation of OP to outside of the countries and impact on human health and environment. Kevin Helps stated that the legal basis for this purpose was under study and the process of preparing terms of references (ToR) for consultancies on assessment of cement factories for elimination of OP purposes is in progress. The countries' requests for the issue were received and noted. It was stated that the work would be done on possibility of using the cement factories, but the decision on using these facilities was in governments hand. Turkey also raised the issue of empty pesticide containers, reclamation of

containers, disposal and their management. FAO indicated the importance of assessing risk and prioritizing the contaminated sites and stocks.

According to the filled table, it was stated that the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders would be defined: who does which part of the table, and the workplan for each activity to be defined. According to that, FAO would produce TORs for consultancies to receive required information and service, and define which consultancy for each country is needed.

The participants were divided into two groups to discuss and define the management scheme of each country for a new project to be developed. It was stated that a steering committee for the a project would be established and every country would be represented in it.

Third day was devoted to studying risk and mitigations table to be indicated in the new project document, workplan of the present project and the recommendations part for the progress of the project. The risks and mitigations were studied in two groups, and each group came up with ten risks and their mitigation actions. It was stated that risks and mitigations table is important and would be put into the project document, which means that all risks were foreseen and taken into consideration. Later, workplan of the present project was studied, and finalization of technical parts by the beginning of May was underlined. Lastly, in order to proceed properly and timely, the following recommendations were produced:

- FAO letter to ministries of agriculture notifying the government on the project and requesting to appoint a lead agency and also setting time line for completing preparation and need for GEF focal point endorsement plus co-finance commitment letters;
- Scope of cement kiln review to be widened to include all countries (excluding Turkey) – to be completed in KYR and TAJ as part of PPG, in other countries as part of the project,
- EA and EMP draft documents to be prepared as part of PPG and approved post signature of project to allow for country approval processes;
- National coordinators to be appointed for each component to facilitate inter-agency cooperation and implementation of actions in the countries;
- Promotion of alternatives to Highly Hazardous Pesticides to be a main emphasis of work in Kazakhstan and Turkey with a focus on health monitoring among vulnerable groups;
- Harmonisation of registration processes to be moved to main project activities to allow for regional consultation;
- Legal agreement to be sent to ministries of agriculture as soon as possible to ensure countries awareness of the need to sign agreements and reach agreement on text;
- Outcome 2 work planning exercise to be completed in the next week to set up time line for completion of inputs by the end of April,
- We agree to apply the draft work plan and review progress the first week of May 2014 in order to identify whether we are able to finalise the project document in the time allowed.

Consequently, the inception workshop was considered very informative and effective by the participants. During the workshop, the representatives actively participated in formulating and planning stages of the new project, identifying needs, defining details and studying the work plan. The participants thanked organizers for providing comprehensive information and successful organization of the workshop.