



Legal Office

Pesticides management

Pesticides can contribute to food production, but can also pose serious threats to the health of users and food consumers, the environment and to commercial trade in agricultural produce. The International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides provides a broad package of tools, guidelines and methodologies to assist countries in the reduction of risks from pesticides, including pesticides quality, registration and management throughout the entire pesticide life cycle. FAO hosts the Rotterdam Convention that helps countries to make informed decisions about the import of particularly hazardous pesticides and other chemicals.

The Legal Office provides assistance to FAO member countries and regional organizations to implement the Code of Conduct, the technical Guidelines and other international standards and recommendations on pesticides management in their national or regional legislation. This work includes the revision of legal frameworks to ensure the comprehensive management of pesticides in accordance with the 'cradle-to-grave' regulatory approach, accounting for each stage in the life-cycle of pesticides. Through direct work with national lawyers, the Legal Office also contributes to strengthening national legal capacities and facilitates an understanding of pesticides management among national stakeholders. The work of the Legal Office is buttressed by in-house FAO technical experts on pesticides management and therefore contributes to the FAO strategic objectives of sustainable crop production, increased food safety and sustainable land management.

Risk reduction and informed decision making



The Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP) is a regional initiative with a number of partners such as the World Bank and GEF implemented in Africa. The objective of the Africa Stockpiles Programme is to clean up and safely dispose of all obsolete pesticide stocks from Africa and establish preventive measures to avoid future accumulation. The Legal Office has supported the strengthening of legislative frameworks through the revision of pesticides legislation in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Swaziland.

Organizational Result A03
Risks from pesticides
are sustainably reduced
at national, regional
and global levels