

News

APPPC regional workshop on practical aspects of pesticide risk assessment and phasing out of highly hazardous pesticides

19-22 May 2014, Nanjing, China

The phasing out HHPs is one of important areas of FAO work. The new code of conduct includes definition and recommendations on what countries can do to mitigate risks from HHPs. The HHP criteria agreed by JMPM (FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management) provides guidance on what might be a HHP. A number of countries in this region have taken various approaches and initiatives to phasing out HHPs. China is one of countries achieved significant progress on phasing out HHPs, pesticide registrations, quality control as well as in import and export management.

Over the past years, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has organized a number of regional workshops aimed at enhancing harmonization among countries' regulatory framework for the control of pesticides. The APPPC Regional workshop on practical aspects of pesticide risk assessment and phasing out of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) was proposed in the same context and aimed specifically on a number of practical aspects of pesticide management that the earlier workshops identified as areas for further attention. In collaboration with FAO regional project on pesticide risk reduction, funded by Swedish Government, and collaboration with the Government of People's Republic of China through the Chinese Institute for Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of Agriculture (ICAMA), the regional workshop on practical aspects of pesticide risk assessment and phasing out of highly hazardous pesticides is organized in Nanjing, China from 19-22 May 2014, which was participated by delegates from 15 countries from Asia region.

This workshop aimed to provide an opportunity to exchange experience and to discuss risk assessment for pesticide registration and phasing out of highly hazardous pesticides. It explored the scope for closer collaboration among countries regarding these and other aspects of pesticide management. It is expected that the workshop would provide the platform for participants to review how to use of registration data from countries with advanced risk assessment procedures, to exchange practical experiences in phasing out HHPs, and to explore scope for further collaboration.

More specifically, the purpose of the workshop was to...

- review to what extent use can be made of registration data from countries with advanced risk assessment procedures;
- exchange experiences related to the phasing out of highly hazardous pesticides, with emphasis on practical aspects of such phasing out;
- explore scope for collaboration in the review of new chemicals and current highly hazardous products;

- discuss mechanisms for collaboration among countries in addressing the problem of fake and substandard products;
- provide updates on new developments, such as the revision of the International Code of Conduct and the reforms of China's labeling and Japan's registration system.

The workshop was divided into three parts: Pesticide registration and risk assessment; phasing out of highly hazardous pesticides (HHP); and cracking down on fake and substandard pesticides. The sessions focused on practical aspects such as checking the registration status in other countries, obtaining risk assessment information and justifications on regulatory actions, sharing lists of HHPs and alternatives, sharing reports on health and environmental incidences, as well as on discoveries of fake or substandard pesticides. To facilitate information exchange in Asia, an electronic working group on pesticide risk assessment was formed. It established a platform for information exchange as well as address related issues. Countries were encouraged to take appropriate actions since experience has shown that the phasing out of HHPs would not only reduce the risks to human health and the environment, but would also make the pesticide industry and agricultural production more competitive and sustainable.