



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United
Nations

**Capacity Building related to Multilateral
Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean
and Pacific (ACP) countries - Clean-up of obsolete
pesticides, pesticides management and
sustainable pest management project -
GCP /INT/o63/EC**

Management response to the final evaluation report

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Office of Evaluation (OED)

This report is available in electronic format at: <http://www.fao.org/evaluation>

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

© FAO 2013

FAO encourages the use, reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product. Except where otherwise indicated, material may be copied, downloaded and printed for private study, research and teaching purposes, or for use in non-commercial products or services, provided that appropriate acknowledgement of FAO as the source and copyright holder is given and that FAO's endorsement of users' views, products or services is not implied in any way.

All requests for translation and adaptation rights, and for resale and other commercial use rights should be made via www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request or addressed to copyright@fao.org.

For further information on this report, please contact:

Director, OED
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 1, 00153
Rome, Italy
Email: evaluation@fao.org

Management Response to the Evaluation Report of the project

“Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries” - GCP /INT/063/EC

1. Overall response to the evaluation:

1. The Management Team appreciates the difficulties in evaluating a complex project in three regions with different backgrounds and histories on pesticide management and pesticide obsolete stocks and wish to congratulate the consultants on their evaluation. The final evaluation report is comprehensive, well-structured and informative. It provides some practical recommendations which are of particular interest to enhance the implementation of the second phase of the project in the three regions.

2. The Management Team is also pleased that the evaluation recognized the importance of a second phase of the project to consolidate the achievements and to expand the results to other countries. The five recommendations are accepted or partially accepted (#2). The need highlighted by the evaluation to strengthen certain specific areas of the project management and implementation is acknowledged and specific actions to address these issues have been or will be taken as detailed in the matrix below.

3. Finally, the Management Team believes that the evaluation would have benefited from a more extensive interaction between the FAO project technical team and the consultants. The evaluation report makes very limited reference to the extensive work that FAO has carried out over the years on obsolete stocks in Africa, including the African Stockpiles Programme, prior to this project. The Management Team believes that a more in-depth appreciation of the history, the background and the challenges associated with obsolete stock management in African countries would have strengthened the analysis of the specific regional component and the recommendations derived from such an analysis.

2. Response by recommendation:

Management response to the Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries - GCP /INT/063/EC					
Evaluation Recommendation	Management response Accepted, partially accepted or rejected and comment on the Recommendation	Management plan			
		Action to be taken	Responsible unit	Timeframe	Further funding required (Y or N)
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>Given the satisfactory results achieved during its first phase, the project deserves to be supported for its second phase in order to consolidate the achievements and to expand the results to other countries. The second phase should continue along similar aims and objectives, but should address highlighted deficiencies. This is necessary to ensure that the elimination of obsolete pesticides, pesticides management and sustainable pest management will be competently executed. In particular improved monitoring and clearer reporting line should be introduced.</p> <p>For Africa - with reference to alternatives to conventional hazardous pesticides, Phase 2 of the project should develop an action plan providing a clear vision and the way forward for scaling up IPM alternatives in the region.</p> <p>For Pacific - Work on the regional registration system and regional institutionalization of the PSMS is considered very important for the Pacific region, but is inherently slow. This work should be continued under Phase II of the project, and the progress actively managed by FAO in close consultation with SPC.</p> <p><i>For the Caribbean</i> - Satisfactory progress has been made by increasing public awareness on the issue of obsolete pesticides in the context of the environment and public health risks. These activities need to be continued and targeted at all stakeholders including the farming household levels where women can play important roles to alleviate the use of pesticides and their containers. Work on: (i) creation of a functional harmonized pesticides legislation and registration system using PSMS and (ii) pesticide residue monitoring and the elimination of obsolete pesticides are also deemed important</p>	Accepted	<p>A second phase of the programme (MEAs II) has begun in May 2013 and will continue till 2017. MEAs II builds on the previous phase with an expanded scope to include the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Minamata Convention on mercury. MEAs II has an enhanced focus on preventing the build-up of obsolete stocks and building countries' capacity to soundly manage pesticides.</p> <p>Overall, the concerned FAO sub-regional and country offices are progressively more involved in the management of the project. The HQ team is in direct and regular communication with SAP, SLC and African country offices, the plant production and protection officers located in the three subregions are fully engaged in the implementation of the project's activities. Project reports and relevant information are regularly shared with key stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Africa</i> - MEAs II will primarily assist countries in East and Southern Africa where pesticide management is a confirmed priority. In September 2013, a multi-stakeholder workshop was held in Rwanda which led to the identification of the regional priorities. These include the scaling up of</p>	AGP SAP SLC SFE SFS	Ongoing	N

to the region and should be continued in Phase 2 of the project.		<p>IPM alternatives in the region.</p> <p><i>Pacific</i> –Under MEAs II, FAO is working very closely with regional the center SPC and SPREP and their member countries to develop a legal and technical framework to deploy an harmonized registration system. This system includes the use of PSMS at regional and country levels. FAO is making significant efforts to accelerate the process which remain “inherently” slow. As part of these efforts, a full-time regional coordinator for the Pacific has been recruited in October 2014. This measure has also strengthened the management of this regional component, including aspects of communication, monitoring and reporting.</p> <p><i>Caribbean</i> – In the Caribbean, MEAs II continues to work with the Coordinating Group of Pesticides Control Boards of the Caribbean (CGPC) on the harmonization of legislation and registration of pesticides to ensure the involvement of all islands. The benefits of the adoption of a regional harmonized pesticide registration system have been already recognized, the region is however yet to come to an agreement for the adoption of such a system. MEAs II are providing assistance in the design of the legislation to meet requirements for pesticide management as well the obligations emanating from related international agreements to which most of the countries are signatories.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>FAO should ensure that governments include management of obsolete pesticides in the national policies and strategies. There is an urgent need to continue updating the legislative, policy and institutional/social frameworks for sound pesticides management and</p>	partially accepted	The FAO Pesticide Risk Reduction Group (AGPMC) assists countries through normative and field work on pesticide management. This includes the revision and updating of national pesticide legislations	AGP	2014-2017	Y

pest reduction to address “counterproductive” policies such as subsidies to pesticides and centralized purchase at both the national and regional levels. All stakeholders, including the farming households, should be involved in these efforts in a transparent, effective, participatory and consensual manner if the re-occurrence of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides is to be drastically eliminated.		and regulations to align them with the international conventions on chemicals. In 2013, the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management was revised through a broad consultative process which involved stakeholders from the private and public relevant sectors. The Code is the main reference document globally recognised to promote a sound management of pesticides. Nevertheless, FAO has only an advisory role, not a decision making authority on national policy matters.			
Recommendation 3 FAO should further explore and test adoption of IPM, good agricultural practices with less reliance on pesticides, other alternate pest management strategies and soil cleaning-up/remediation methods in ACP countries.	Accepted	FAO Strategic Objective 2 focuses on the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices including minimising resilience on chemical use and promotion of IPM. MEAs II will support the testing and promotion of alternatives to chemical management within its project scope and available resources. Technical workshops are planned on ecological management of weeds, bio pesticides and other low-risk alternatives.	AGP SAP SLC SFE SFS	2014-2017	Y
Recommendation 4 TCPs were developed in the Pacific with the aim of financing additional key activities. These were not funded as the FAO Sub-regional Office advised that they are inconsistent with the priorities included in the FAO CPF for the Pacific region, and developed without sufficient regional consultation. It is recommended that in the future AGPM staff working on TCP Facility proposals consult closely with the FAO Sub-regional office as well as the CPF ensuring that clear references are made to country priorities. TCP Facility projects are decided on the sub-regional level, and funds are limited, so regional buy-in to plan activities is essential to them being funded.	Accepted	The recommendation is well noted. Collaborations and communication with the FAO sub-regional offices have been strengthened to ensure that project activities are better integrated within the regional workplans and reflect CPS priorities. Alternative sources of funding to co-finance outstanding activities in the region have been identified. As a result, AGPMC has leveraged sizable funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to finance pest and pesticide management in the three regions	AGP SAP LRC Representations in Cameroon, Morocco, and Benin	2014	Y