

## **APPPC Regional Training Workshop on Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management**

The APPPC regional training workshop was convened in Kathmandu, Nepal from 26-30 January 2015 and was attended by 28 participants from 12 Asian countries. The purpose of this workshop was to strengthen pesticide management capacities and to assist countries to address their obligations under the *Code of Conduct* and also the Rotterdam Convention. These workshop objectives were in line with FAO's Strategic Objective 2 insofar they support pesticide risk reduction, sustainable intensification and the implementation of international standards and guidelines. The workshop built capacity to implement these objectives.

The workshop provided training on all chapters of the Code and the associated technical guidelines. Fruitful exchanges among the delegates clarified issues and pointed to areas that need special attention. Participants became familiar with the new definitions, a comprehensive approach to pesticide management, the concept of life-cycle management, the new GHS labeling system, and the reporting obligations under the Code. Exchanges among the countries developed a clearer picture of the regional status of several important pesticide management issues such as registration decision making, information sharing, availability of local data for risk assessment, disposal of used pesticide containers, etc. The participants were provided with training materials and tools so that they could act as master trainers on the amended *Code on Conduct* in their respective countries.

In addition the workshop provided training on reporting obligations under the Rotterdam Convention such as import responses and notification of final regulatory action, as well as reporting health or environmental incidences with severely hazardous pesticide formulations (SHPF). Participants increased the understanding of the mechanism under the Rotterdam Convention and how countries could protect themselves from the import of unwanted pesticides. In addition, they learned how to report health and environmental incidences for SHPF and why it is important for developing countries to report these.

Furthermore, participants exercised filling a regular monitoring report on compliance of the Code and considered possible country actions for the implementation of the provisions of the Code in their respective countries and for training concerned parties in their countries on the new elements in the Code. As a result participants had an opportunity to assess the status of pesticide management in their country and identify gaps and areas of improvement. This helped them with identifying priority areas for possible actions for their country.

As a result, the capacity of participants have been improved with regard to:

- provide training on the new *Code of Conduct* to stakeholders in their respective countries;
- prepare regular and ad-hoc reports on the monitoring and observance of the Code;
- prepare reports on health and environmental incidents resulting from exposure to pesticides;
- prepare import responses and notifications under the Rotterdam Convention;
- follow up on work plans for the implementation of the *Code of Conduct*, international conventions and harmonization guidelines.

Delegates discussed and adopted the following recommendation to be considered by the participating countries:

- Translate the revised Code of Conduct and related training and reference materials into the local language;
- Inform all stakeholders about the provisions of the new Code of Conduct and the principles and ethics expressed in it;
- Collect information for a potential country pesticide management report following the outline of the Regular Monitoring Report and the information collected through the pre-workshop questionnaire;
- Bring to the attention of concerned parties the reference materials, technical guidelines and tools related to the Code of Conduct
- When amending pesticide legislation or regulations, explore possibilities of including the specific articles which have been addressed in the new code such as public health/vector pesticide management, information exchange, disposal, etc.
- Collect and compile information related to...
  - a. registered pesticides
  - b. pesticides of concern (severely restricted; banned; HHP; SHPF; as well as candidate chemicals for Annex III)
- Exchange among countries samples of official certificates (registration, export) and labels, and review import requirement;
- Review status of import responses for Annex III chemicals and submit/update them to the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, and implement at national level;
- Cooperate with selected countries on issues of common concern such as risk analysis, quality control, information exchange, registration of biopesticides, etc.





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