Launch of the International Network on Soil Pollution (INSOP)

Strategy to manage HCH contaminated sites EU-wide

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Content of the presentation

Strategy to manage HCH contaminated sites EU-wide

- What do we know so far
- Lessons learned
- Strategy to remediate HCH contaminated sites EU-wide
- Co-funding options to manage HCH/Lindane contaminates sites
- Closing remarks
- This is what our generation has left behind
What do we know so far

• There are 299 sites where HCH is handled and therefore are potentially HCH contaminated
• That Lindane is used in more products and therefore the number sites might be higher
• Polluters no longer exist and there is an absence of liability
• There are huge volumes of Lindane production waste, HCH contaminated soils and sediments and therefore cleaning has very high costs
• Multicomponent, that are persistent organic pollutants have impacted these sites
• The soil remediation community in the EU is strong enough to deal with it technically
Lessons learned

Contaminated sites were remediated from the 1980s onwards

• To remediate soil, sediments and groundwater you need:
  - Specific soil and groundwater legislation and enforcement
  - Financial instruments
  - Decades instead of years
  - A programmed manner /strategy to be cost effective
  - Risk based site prioritization on regional/country level
  - Risk based implementation on site level
Lessons learned

Country wide remediation programs in the EU

- Collaboration of government, industry and branch
- Small fees on sale combined with the large volumes
- Regional developing associations for rehabilitation of contaminated land
- Exemption of the liability of contaminated sites caused by state owned industries
- Covenant between the central government, provinces, municipalities, and stakeholders
- Sets time limits to reach to sustainable manage the HCH contaminated sites
- Prioritizing contaminated sites regional to start with the high-risk sites
EU-wide strategy to eliminate the legacy of Lindane production

Implementation on three levels

• **EU level**
  - Propose legislation for eliminating the legacy of Lindane production
  - Extend and expand LINDANET

• **Country and/or regional level**
  - Make covenants between agrochemical sector and government authorities
  - Make covenants between stakeholders and government authorities
  - Connect to EU funding programmes to facilitate HCH clean-up
  - LINDANET chapter in affected countries
  - Set up regional associations for land recycling and remediation of contaminated sites
  - Prioritize HCH-contaminated sites
EU-wide strategy to eliminate the legacy of Lindane production

Implementation on three levels

Site and/or site level

- Create added value for a site by combining site remediation with site development
- Use the guidance to sustainably manage HCH-contaminated sites of the Stockholm Convention
- Reveal issues that obstruct sustainable management
- Phased and risk-based approach on site level
EU-wide strategy to eliminate the legacy of Lindane production

Summary

EU Level
Initiate, Motivate & Facilitate

Region & Country Level
Agree, Enable, Prioritize, Co-fund, Legalise, Enforce & Monitor

Site & City Level
Investigate, Prioritize, Invest, Contract, Remediate, Sustain, Monitor & Aftercare

Soil strategy, EU funding program, LINDANET

Covenants with stakeholder, Legislation, Risk based approach, Financial instruments, LINDANET

Guidelines, QC & QA, Urban development, Phase & Risk based approach
Closing remarks

Strategy to manage HCH contaminated sites EU-wide

- Responsibility for generational pollutants
- Green economic recovery
- Combine force
- Win-win, remediation & urban development
- Short-term thinking is a long-term problem………….. Period of 25 years
- Aragon: Strategic Plan with 25 years Political commitment of all Parties
Don’t leave this contamination to future generations

Old contaminated land after Cheminova and Grindstedværk shall finally be cleaned-up
7 November 2021
Announcement and Invitation: 14th International HCH & Pesticides Forum, 21-24 February 2023 in Zaragoza, Aragon, Spain

The Government of Aragon welcomes all of you in the beautiful CAJA RURAL DE ARAGÓN in the heart of Zaragoza.

Planned Field trip to Sabinanigo HCH site on February 24, 2023