



FOR THE RIGHT TO A TOXIC-FREE FUTURE

CHEMICALS POLICY LUNCH & LEARN

Wednesday, June 7

Highly Hazardous Pesticides

International Action towards a global phase out
with Susan Haffmans, PAN Germany &
Tadesse Amera, PAN Ethiopia





PESTICIDE ACTION NEXUS
ASSOCIATION (PAN-Ethiopia)



Chemiepolitische Mittagstalks 2023 - lunchtime talks on chemical policy

TALK 1 | Wednesday, 7. June 2023 | 12:30 - 13:15 h CEST

Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) – International Action towards a global phase-out



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Pestizid Aktions-Netzwerk e.V. (PAN Germany)



- Non-profit association, since 1984
- Information, Awareness, Education & Advocacy work mainly on Pesticides & Biocides
- Involved in political and legislative processes
- Promoting alternatives to chemical plant protection and pest control

<https://pan-germany.org/>

Part of the international Pesticide Action Network (PAN International) with over 600 organisations in more than 90 countries.

www.pan-international.org



Background: three intersecting and global environmental crises

(Chemical) Pollution

Climate crisis

Biodiversity loss

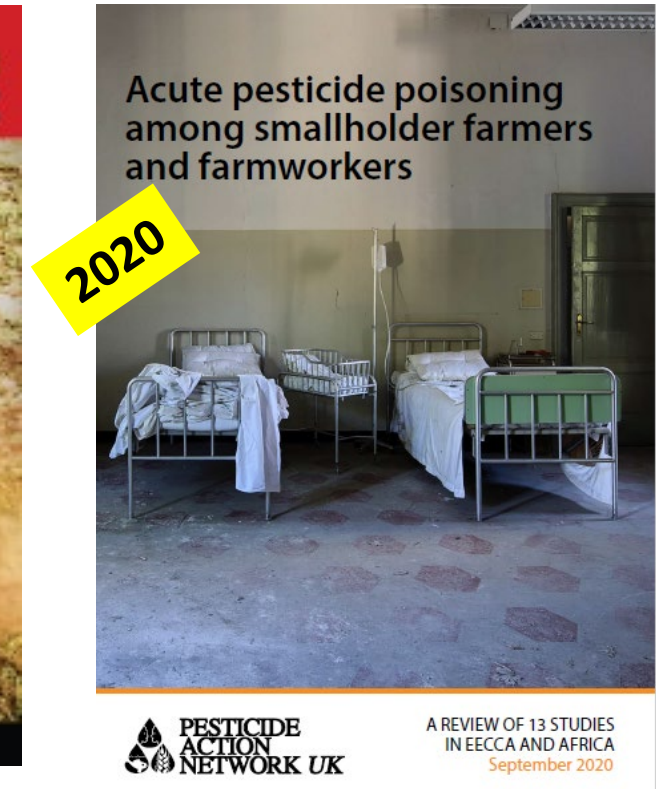
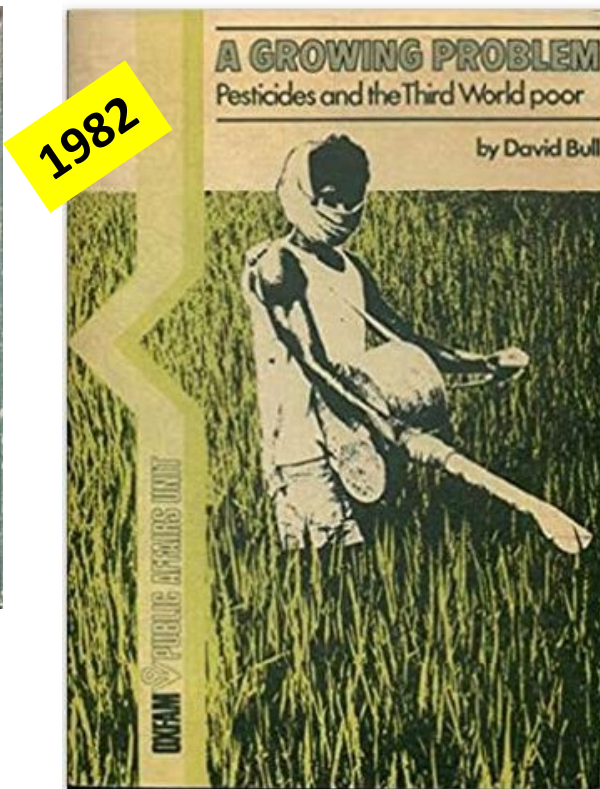
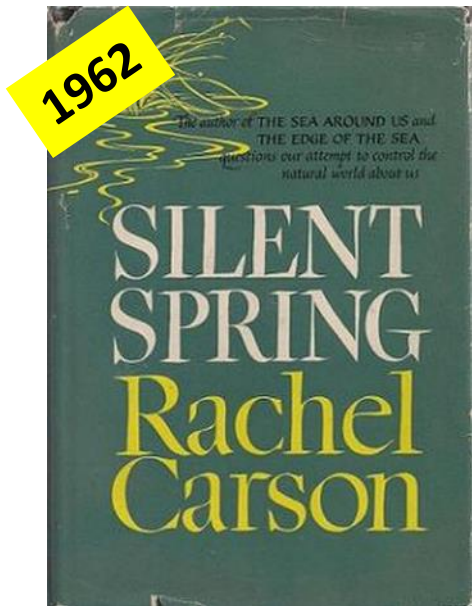
- **1.6 million people die from the effects of dangerous chemicals** worldwide every year
- Massive use of chemicals is **endangering people's health, exceed planetary boundaries and is undermining human rights.**
- By 2030, **chemical industry will double** its current annual turnover of 6 trillion dollars
- **Pesticides are contributing to this situation.**

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
-> Finding global solutions to the “Chemical threat”

SAICM: facing chemical pollution

- since 2006, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder process under UNEP
 - a non-legally binding framework
 - **stakeholder commit to foster sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, including pesticides with the goal [by 2020] to minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health**
 - We are in the “hot phase” of negotiations the new „Beyond 2020 framework“ that shall be agreed on this year at the World Chemical Conference (ICCM5) in Bonn
- **Our Goal: A strong framework that make a difference, with meaningful targets along with a mechanism and resources to achieve them. We need targets that are aiming at reducing pesticide poisoning and contamination, contributing to reduce harmful double standards in pesticide trade and supporting the phase-out of highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture.**

History of Pesticides – a history of health harm and environmental damages



- > negative impacts on the health of people and communities
- > contamination of natural resources
- > adverse economic effects

Small share BIG Role: Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)

HHPs - relatively small share - yet they cause the most harm.
Particular concern in LMICs, where they have the most impacts.



HHPs

All Pesticides

All pesticides can be dangerous.

FAO/SAICM: Recognition of the need to phase-out HHPs

2006: The FAO Council ‘suggested that the activities of FAO could include risk reduction, including **the progressive ban on highly hazardous pesticides**’, and do so ‘in view of the broad range of activities envisaged within SAICM

2006: The founding texts of SAICM (**Dubai Declaration and Global Plan of Action**):

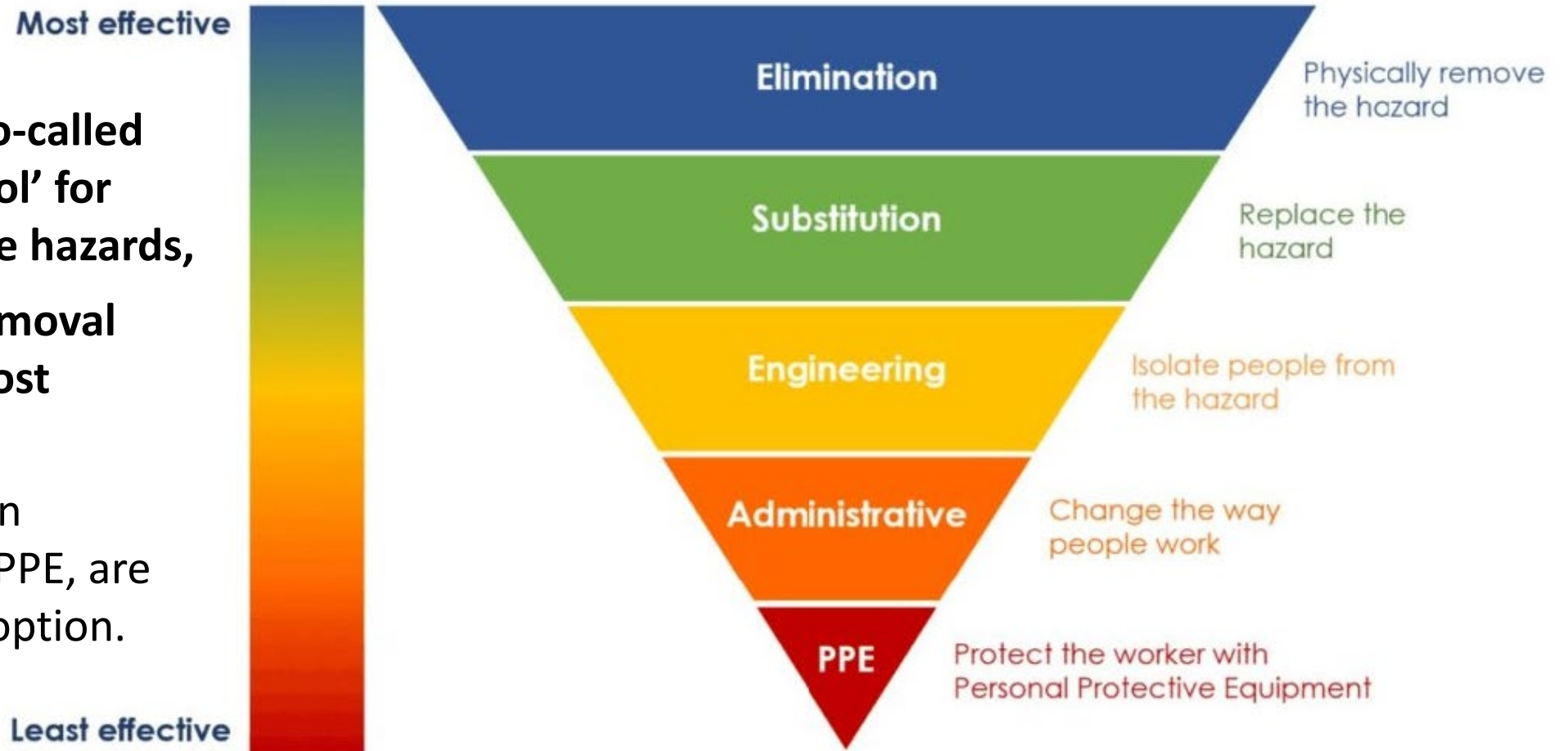
8. [...] “It is therefore critical for **all stakeholders to take appropriate action on global priorities**. These include, among others: [...]

h. Promoting alternatives in order to reduce and phase out highly toxic pesticides “

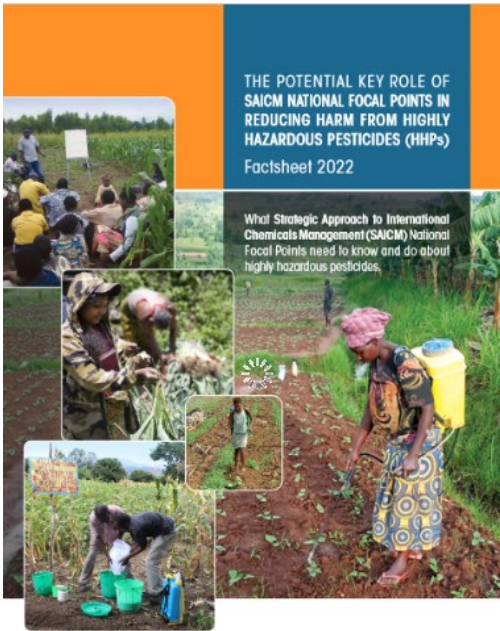
Why a phase-out / progressive ban ?

According to the so-called 'hierarchy of control' for reducing workplace hazards, **Elimination (i.e. removal from use) is the most effective**

while risk mitigation measures, such as PPE, are the least effective option.



Factsheet for SAICM National Focal Points in reducing harm from Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)

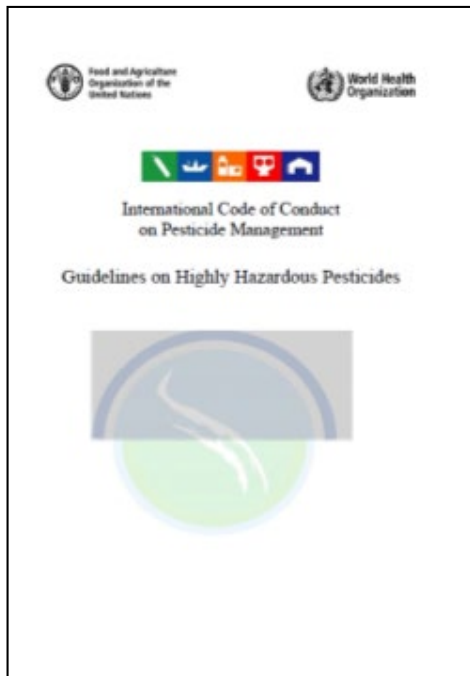


Pesticides are substances or mixtures used for the management of pests¹ to protect humans, plants, crops, animals or materials. **Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)** are a special group of pesticides that need to be handled differently than other pesticides because of their proven high toxicity or listing on an international convention. Risks from exposures to pesticides are usually managed with a series of risk reduction measures including policies, signage (e.g., in sprayed fields), labelling, product formulation and type of equipment, and the wearing of personal protective equipment. But HHPs are too dangerous for the usual risk reduction measures to work, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

SAICM UTC/UBA/FAO 2022. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc1806en/cc1806en.pdf>

Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)

2008: FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM) developed criteria to define highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)



Definition by FAO/WHO:

*'Pesticides that are acknowledged to present **particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or environment** according to internationally accepted classification systems such as [...] (WHO) or [...] (GHS) or their listing in relevant binding international agreements or conventions. In addition, pesticides that appear to **cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use** in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous.'*

Guidelines on Highly Hazardous pesticides, FAO and WHO 2016

'conditions of use' refers to common practice

FAO/WHO: 8 criteria to identify HHPs

1: Pesticide formulations that meet the criteria of classes

1a or 1b of the WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard; or

2, 3 and 4: Pesticide active ingredients and their formulations that meet the criteria of **carcinogenicity, mutagenicity or reproductive toxicity Categories 1A and 1B** of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS); or

5, 6 and 7: Pesticide active ingredients listed by the

Stockholm Convention (Annexes A and B; Annex D para 1 all criteria); or by the

Rotterdam Convention (Annex III); or under the

Montreal Protocol; or

8: Pesticide active ingredients and formulations that have shown **a high incidence of severe or irreversible adverse effects on human health or the environment**

SAICM and HHPs

In **2012 at ICCM3**, a resolution for “a progressive ban on HHPs and their substitution with safer alternatives” was supported by 65+ countries and organizations, but not adopted. **Since**, intercessional SAICM meetings reiterated concern about HHPs.

In **2015, ICCM4 recognised Highly Hazardous Pesticides as an issue of concern**, recognised that HHPs “cause adverse human health and environmental effects in many countries, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries”, and called for “concerted action to address Highly Hazardous Pesticides in the context of the Strategic Approach”.

- But: Progress in addressing HHPs under SAICM has been uneven and slow.
- To date, an agreed mechanism under SAICM how to coordinate concerted actions on HHPs and pave the way towards a phase-out of HHPs is still missing.
- FAO is working on an proposal for concerted action - Action Plan on HHPs.



Africa's Conference Room Paper (CRP9) at IP4.2

- Africa presented CRP9 at the SAICM IP4.2 in Nairobi
- The recommendation is the establishment of a global alliance to phase out HHPs
- The lesson is taken from the GALP that eliminates lead from paints
- GALP worked well because of the multi-stakeholder approach
 - US EPA
 - WHO
 - UNEP
 - IPEN



Africa's suggestion for a resolution at ICCM5

- To Establish a global alliance that may hold
 - A champion government(s)
 - FAO
 - WHO
 - UNEP
 - ILO
 - Public Interest Civil Society



Why Africa needs the Global Alliance to Phase out HHPs-CRP 9

- Africa is the net importer of pesticides, we do not produce them
- HHPs are produced by other countries that stopped using most of them but they export them to Africa for use by African farmers
- African farmers are the first victims of HHPs while applying them
- African consumers are affected by HHPs through the food system
- The general environment and biodiversity of Africa is affected by HHPs
- It is feasible to replace HHPs with agro-ecological solutions



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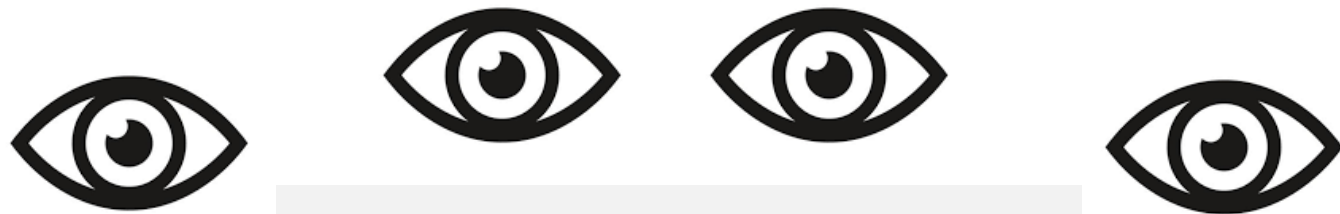
Take home message

- Let us support the African position
- One of the expectations from the Bonn Resolution is the Establishment of the Global Alliance and the commitment of at least one champion government



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World Chemical Conference – ICCM5 – in BONN Germany



Fifth session of the International Conference for Chemicals
Management (ICCM5) - Bonn, Germany, 25 - 29 September 2023

ICCM5

Thank you.



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Please visit:

www.pan-international.org

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