

Progress report on pesticide management in the Asia and Pacific region by Chairperson of the APPPC Standing Committee on Pesticides

Source: Report of the twenty-seventh session of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (Item 11), 15-19 August 2011, Manila, Philippines

Since the 26th APPPC Meeting in New Delhi in 2009, there have been no major activities carried out based on the proposal made during the meeting. During the meeting in New Delhi the Standing Committee on Pesticide made a proposal to come up with a database on pesticide information to be shared among member countries. However, the cost of developing such a database was found to be too high, and the fund under the project, limited. The proposal has been put on hold.

Despite the above-mentioned development, member countries have been very active during the period in implementing various activities related to pesticides control and management aimed at ensuring pesticides management is consistent with international standards, and in line with International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides, Conventions and other International mechanisms on sound management of pesticides. At ASEAN level, FAO-TCP Project had assisted eight ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) in achieving pesticide regulatory harmonization in the region since June 2010. This would be achieved through:

- Preparation of guidelines by the consultants on harmonization of pesticide registration requirements, pesticide registration requirements for bio-pesticides, pesticide labeling requirements, bio-efficacy test protocols and monitoring and surveillance of pesticide residues in agriculture products.
- The strengthening of the existing Network for information exchange among Pesticide Regulatory Authorities in ASEAN countries;
- Training and upgrading the capabilities of pesticide regulatory officers in the field of pesticide data registration evaluation and risk assessment, pesticide residue analysis and pesticide formulation analysis.

The above guidelines and project outputs are currently being developed and will be finalized and adopted at the 3rd Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) in November 2011 in Kuala Lumpur.

At the regional and international level, the region was well represented in the international initiatives on pesticide management. The International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides, implemented jointly by FAO and WHO, is setting the international standards in activities related to pesticides. Member countries who are party to the Rotterdam, Stockholm, Basel Conventions and Montreal Protocol participated in various seminar/meeting/workshop organized by the Secretariat of the Convention. Under the framework of the Rotterdam Convention, Thailand, for example, received support by SAICM QSP to introduce severely hazardous pesticide formulation (SHPFs) reporting system, while Malaysia has submitted the request to the Rotterdam Convention for a SAICM QSP support for developing a National Action Program (NAP) for the implementation of Rotterdam Convention in Malaysia.