

Environmental and Health impacts of Pesticides and Fertilizers and ways of minimizing them

A report request by UN Environment Assembly

June 2021, Geneva, Switzerland

Background

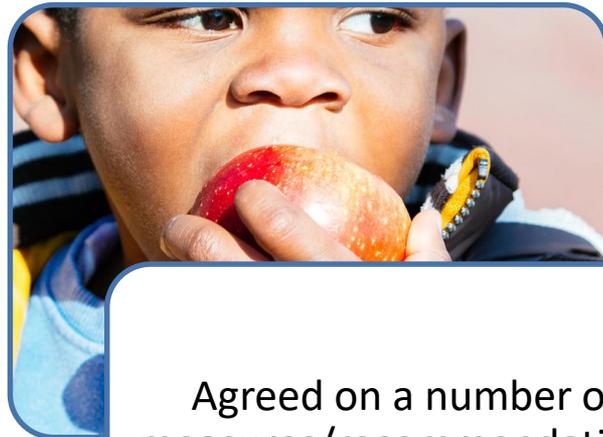


The 3rd session of the UN Environment Assembly

held in 2017



Underlining the importance for human and environmental health, including biodiversity, of avoiding and minimizing the risks posed by harmful chemicals



Agreed on a number of measures/recommendations to address them including

Report Background

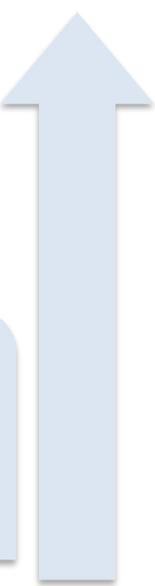
Requested Executive Director/ UNEP to present a report on

Environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers and ways of minimizing them

Given the lack of data in that regard

In collaboration with WHO, FAO and other organizations

... Also encouraged research institutions to **widely share** the results of **epidemiological and other relevant studies**, including environmental monitoring and assessment



Report outline

PART I – INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

- ✓ Key findings and options for action
- ✓ Global drivers, actors and policies affecting pesticides and fertilizer use

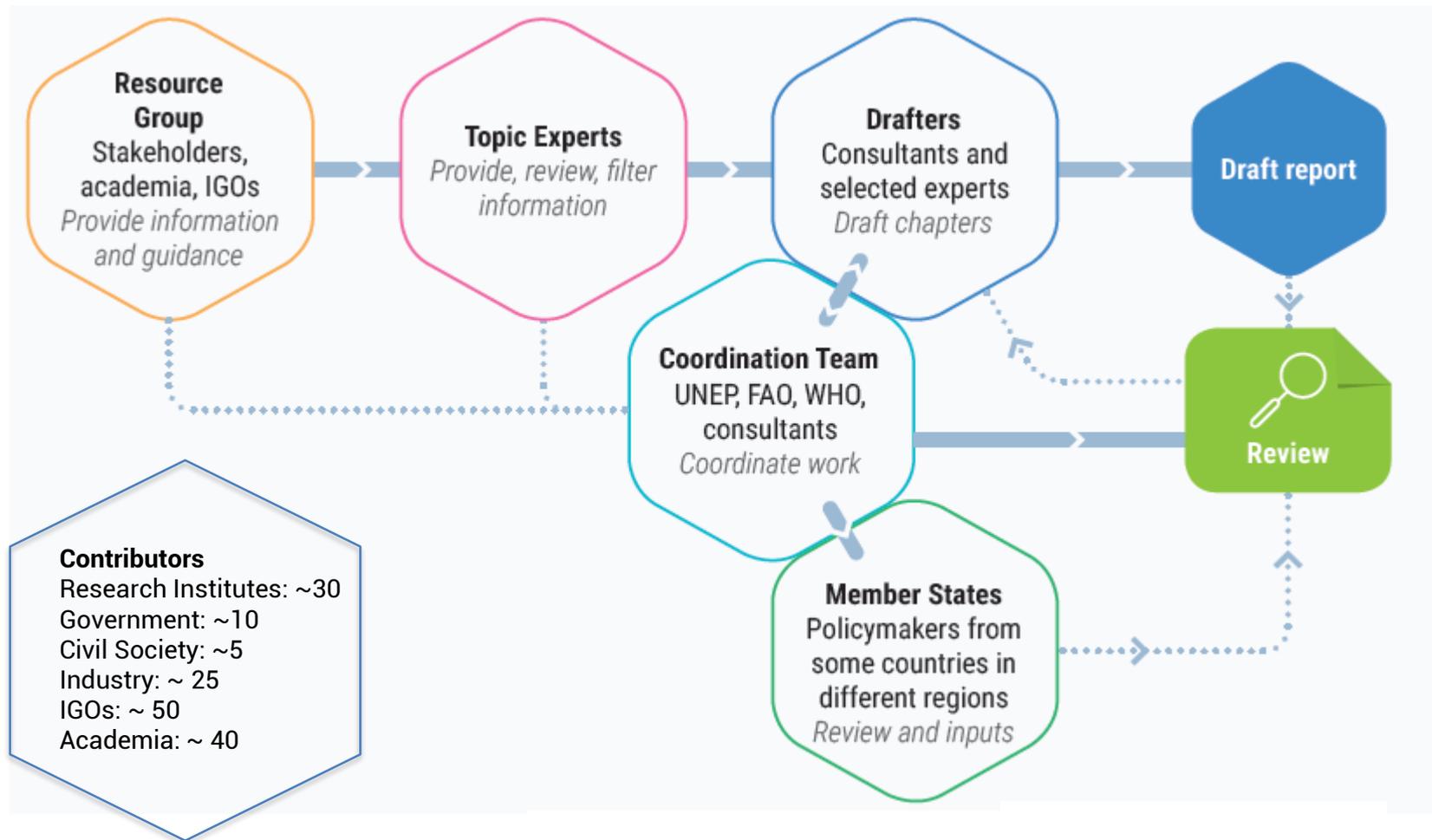
PART II – PESTICIDES/PART III – FERTILIZERS

- ✓ Status and trends
- ✓ The regulatory and policy environment
- ✓ Environmental and health effects
- ✓ Impacts of use
- ✓ Risk reduction and risk management

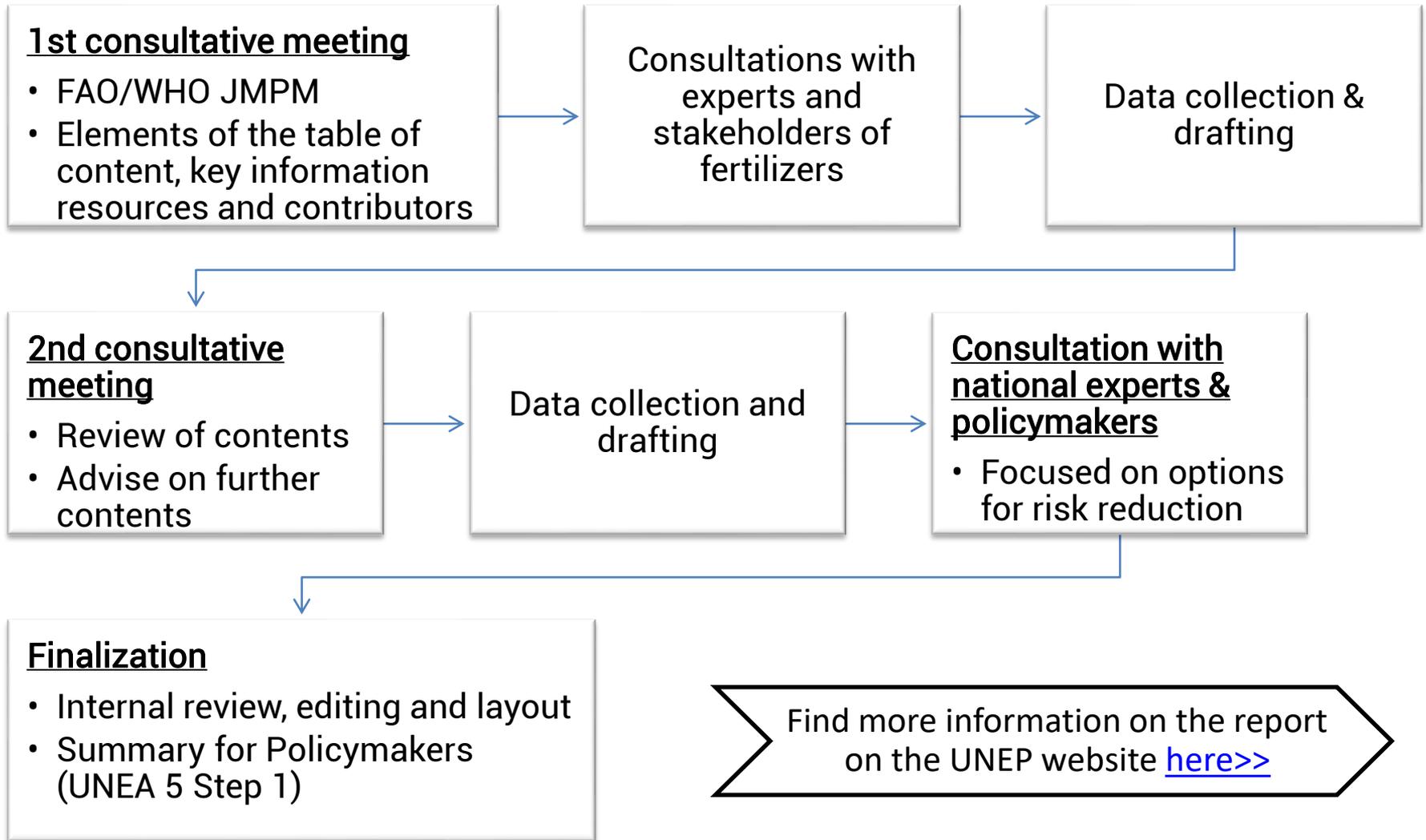
PART IV. OPPORTUNITIES AND WAYS FORWARD

- ✓ Transformative actions to minimize the adverse impacts of pesticides and fertilizers

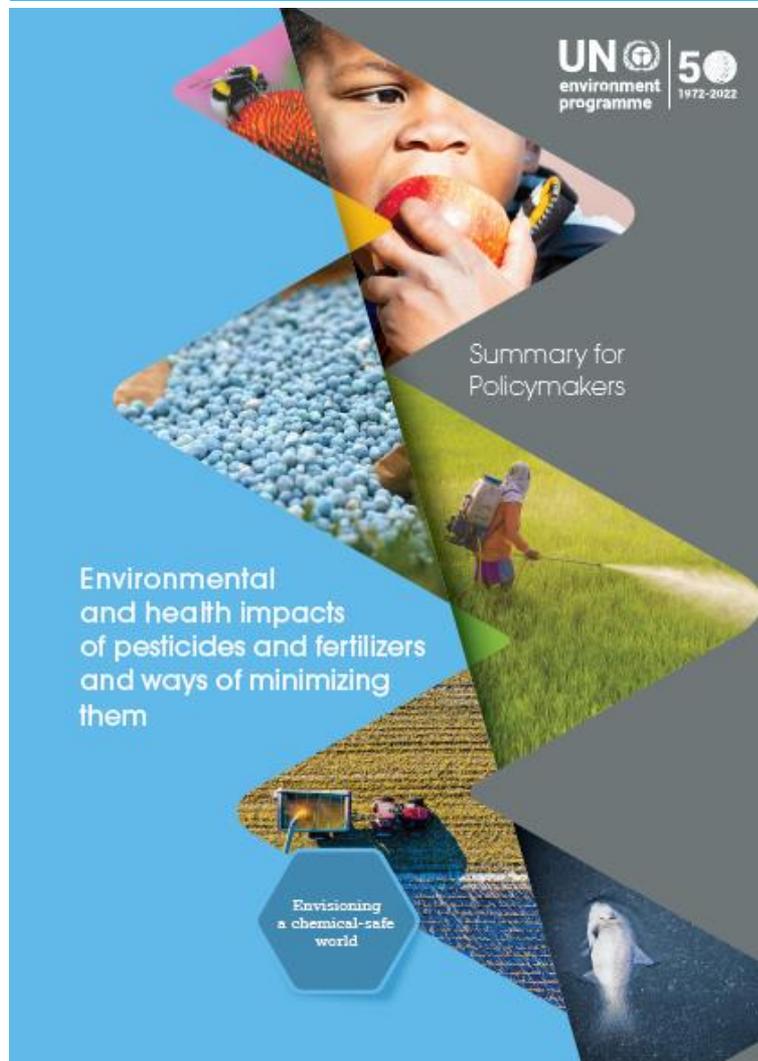
Report Development: Approach



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Summary for policy makers



Diverse drivers, actors and policies are shaping the use of pesticides and fertilizers



Current and projected patterns of pesticide and fertilizer use are not sustainable

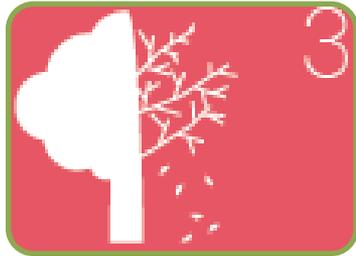


Minimizing adverse impacts of pesticides and fertilizers: business-as-usual is not an option

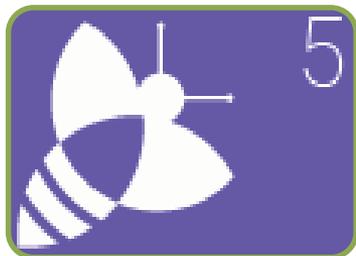


Ambitious collaborative action by all stakeholders is needed

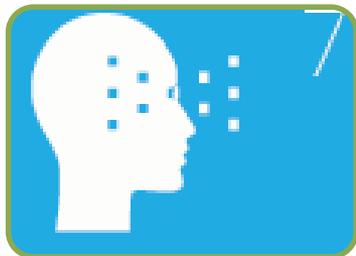
Few key highlights



While **pesticides and fertilizers provide a range of benefits**, current and projected production and use, and **the lack of effective management, come at the cost of a range of adverse impacts on the environment.**

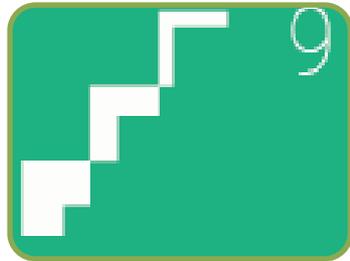


Pesticides and their degraded products are ubiquitous in the environment, including soils and surface and groundwater. They are frequently detected at levels exceeding legal or environmental standards.



Knowledge gaps still exist that hamper a full understanding of some adverse impacts of pesticides and fertilizers, including effectiveness of some control measures. **Yet available evidence provides sufficient justification for additional public and private actions.**

Few key highlights



To achieve a chemical-safe future with minimal adverse impacts from pesticides and fertilizers, **both incremental and transformative actions are required.**



While stakeholders in the value chain and agri-food system are contributing to minimize adverse effects of pesticides and fertilizers, **there is further need to scale up their commitment through targets and road maps.**

Options for priority action

Priority Transformative actions

- Incentivize healthy and sustainable consumer choices and consumption
- Fundamentally change crop management and adopt ecosystem-based approaches
- Use economic instruments to create a level playing field for greener products and approaches
- Promote the use of direct finance to encourage sustainable agriculture
- Adopt integrated and life cycle approaches for sound pesticide and fertilizer management
- Strengthen standards and adopt corporate policies for sustainable supply chain management

Priority actions to strengthen pesticide management

Priority actions to strengthen fertilizer and nutrient management

Together we can achieve a world without adverse impacts from pesticides and fertilizers by taking ambitious and urgent action

ambitious and urgent action

Thank you



Gamini Manuweera
Knowledge and Risks unit / Economy Division
UN Environment
1219, Geneva, Switzerland
gamini.manuweera@un.org

www.unenvironment.org