

HRC48 SIDE EVENT
**THE RIGHT TO SCIENCE
IN THE CONTEXT
OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES**

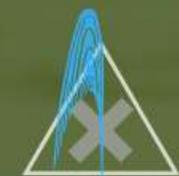
22 SEPTEMBER 2021 | 15:30 CEST

»»» <http://tiny.cc/HRC48Science>



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
SPECIAL PROCEDURES

SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS, INDEPENDENT EXPERTS & WORKING GROUPS



GENEVA TOXIC FREE TALKS



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22 SEPTEMBER 2021 | 15:30 CEST



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



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1972-2022



EARTHJUSTICE
BECAUSE THE EARTH NEEDS A GOOD LAWYER



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Opening Remarks

- H.E. Amb. Álvaro MOERZINGER | Permanent Representative of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to UN Geneva
- Felix WERTLI | Head, Global Affairs Section, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

Presentation of the Report to the Human Rights Council

- Marcos ORELLANA | UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights

Disinformation campaigns through distortion of scientific information and dissemination of fake science, silencing of scientists and means to combat such practices

- Laura N. VANDENBERG | Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs and Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Citizen science, practical application of the right to science to the benefit of communities

- Sarojeni RENGAM | Executive Director at Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific

Relevance to UNEA and ICCM5 process

- Monika GAIL MACDEVETTE | Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP

Discussion

Closing





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Felix WERTLI

Head, Global Affairs Section
Swiss Federal Office for the Environment



Marcos ORELLANA

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Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs
and Professor University of Massachusetts, Amherst



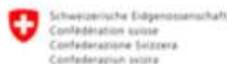
Sarojeni RENGAM

Executive Director
Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific



Monika GAIL MACDEVETTE

Chief
Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP





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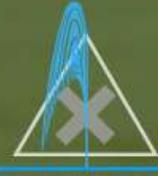
Head, Global Affairs Section, Swiss
Federal Office for the Environment





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Yves LADOR

Representative to the United Nations
in Geneva, Earthjustice



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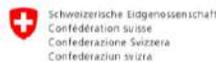
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Laura N. VANDENBERG

Associate Dean of Undergraduate
Academic Affairs and Professor
University of Massachusetts, Amherst



MANUFACTURED DOUBT

“... actions that deliberately alter and misrepresent knowable facts and empirical evidence to promote an agenda, often to benefit a broader industry, specific corporation, or group of individuals.”

Goldberg & Vandenberg

OUR APPROACH: MANUFACTURED DOUBT IN FIVE DISTINCT INDUSTRIES



Tobacco



Coal



Sugar



Atrazine

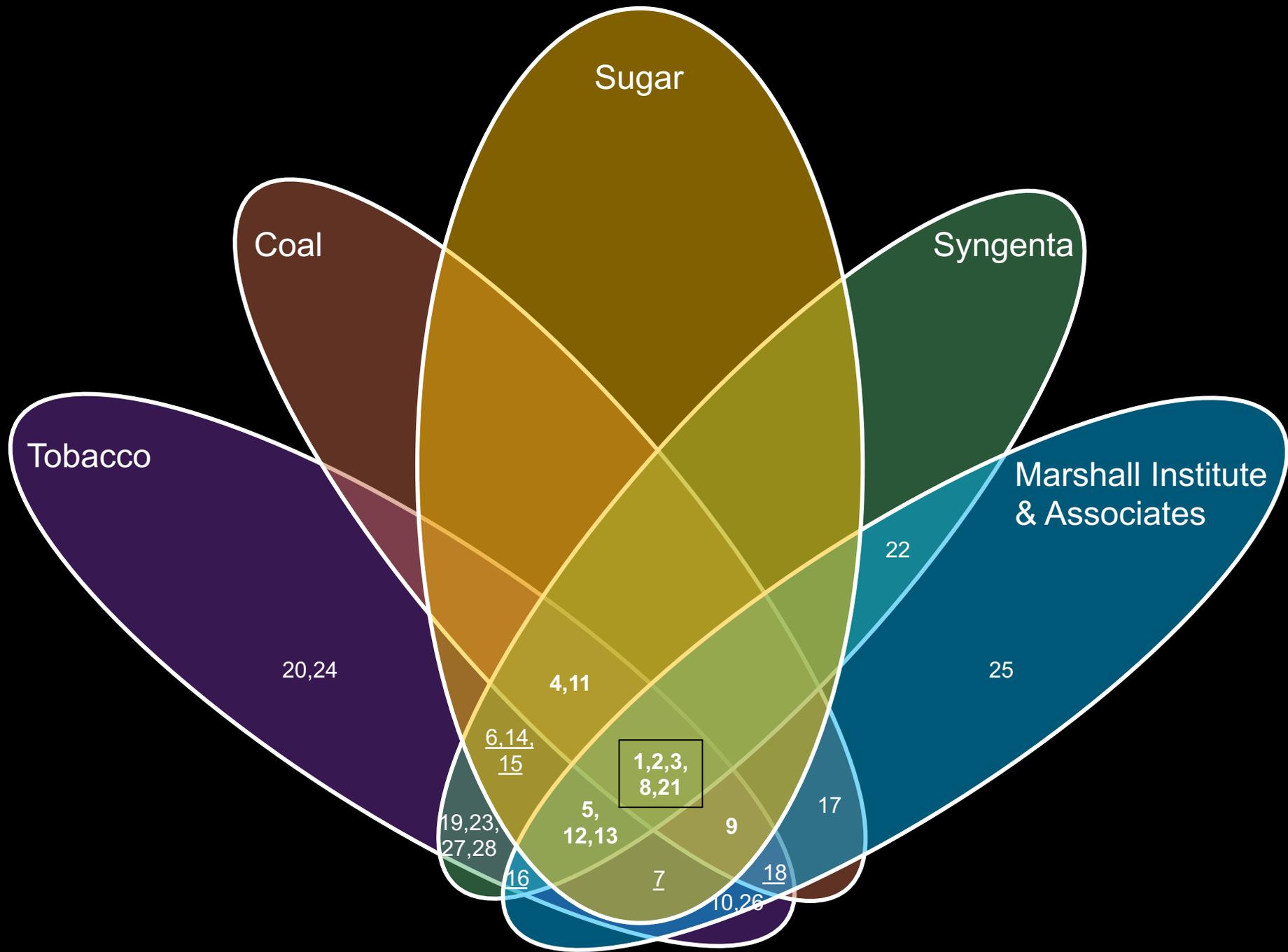


Climate
Change

28

TACTICS

- Attack study design
- Gain support from reputable individuals
- Misrepresent data
- Suppress incriminating information
- Contribute misleading literature
- Host conferences/seminars
- Avoid/Abuse peer review
- Employ hyperbolic language
- Blame other causes
- Invoke liberties/censorship/overregulation
- Define how to measure outcome/exposure
- Take advantage of scientific illiteracy
- Pose as defenders of health/truth
- Obscure involvement
- Develop a PR strategy
- Appeal to mass media
- Take advantage of a victim's lack of money/influence
- Normalization
- Impede government regulation
- Alter product to seem healthier
- Influence government/laws
- Attack opponents
- Appeal to emotion
- Inappropriately question causality
- Make strawman arguments
- Abuse credentials
- Abuse data access requests
- Make slippery slope arguments



5

ESSENTIAL

Tactic	Explanation
Attack study design	Emphasize study design flaws that have only minimal effects on outcomes. Flaws include issues related to bias, confounding, or sample size
Gain Support from reputable individuals	Recruit experts or influential people in certain fields (politicians, industry, journals, doctors, scientists, health officials) to defend the product to gain broader support
Misrepresent data	Cherry-pick data, design studies to fail, or conduct meta-analyses to dilute the work of research(ers) demonstrating harm.
Employ hyperbolic language	Discuss scientific findings in absolutist terms or with hyperbole, use buzzwords to differentiate between “strong” and “poor” science (i.e. sound science, junk science, etc.)
Influence government / laws	Gain inappropriate proximity to regulatory bodies and encourage policy that is pro-product/industry

6

EFFECTIVE



Suppress
incriminating
information



Define how
to measure
outcome /
exposure



Contribute
misleading
literature



Take
advantage
of scientific
illiteracy



Pose as
defender of
health or
truth



Blame other
causes



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LOGICAL FALLACIES

Use of false authority:
using an expert with
unrelated credentials to
promote the industry's
position

Appealing to emotion:
manipulating an
emotional response in
place of a valid, factual,
compelling argument

Ad hominem: by
attacking the arguer
instead of the argument,
the argument can be
dismissed

Righteousness Fallacy:
using evidence of good
intentions to support
other claims

Appeal to authority (*ad
vercundiam*): saying
that because an
“authority” believes
something, it must be
true



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Sarojeni RENGAM

Executive Director, Pesticide
Action Network Asia Pacific



Community Based Pesticide Action Monitoring (CPAM)



- +
 - UN human rights experts call Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs):

“a global human right concern”

because of the

“catastrophic impact”

**on the environment,
human health and
society as a whole.**

Why did PANAP start CPAM

- Concerned about the health and environmental impacts of pesticides
- Lack of information of the reality of pesticides use in communities and on the ground – the information gap
- Need for documentation as a tool of empowerment



Scientists from PAN Asia Pacific, PAN Germany and PAN North America estimated about 385 million cases of unintentional acute pesticide poisonings each year, mainly occupational, and including 11,000 deaths about 44% of all farmers and farmworkers

Community Empowerment through Community Based Pesticide Monitoring (CPAM)

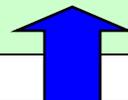
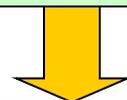
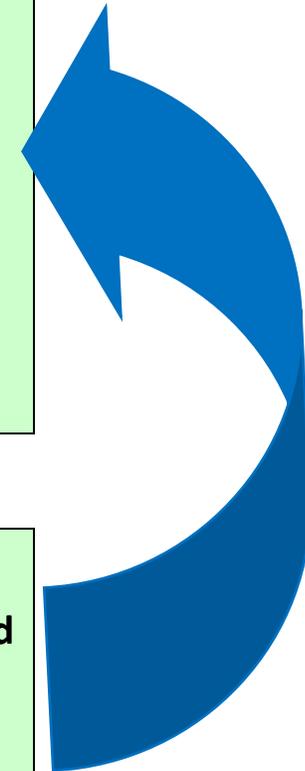
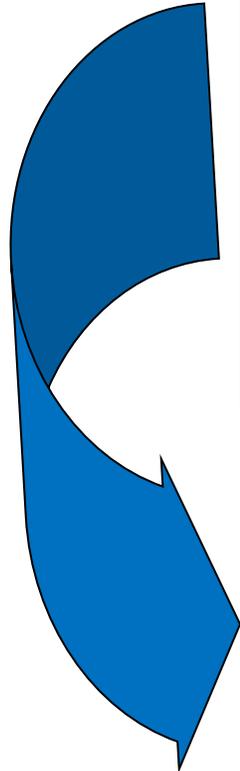
Community Monitoring to:

- Enhance Community empowerment
- Increase level of scientific and technical competence on pesticides at local level
- Train women and local leaders on pesticide issues
- Gather vital information on pesticide poisoning and conditions of use
- Enhance Collaboration – community & health groups, health workers, NGOs/ CSOs and “scientists”

Monitoring Activities and Collection of Data to:

- Assist in organising and mobilising farmers, agricultural workers, and communities facing threats from pesticides
- Feed into local/national interventions - campaigns, policy changes, and promotion of IPM, biodiversity based ecological agriculture, alternatives to hazardous pesticides

International Level Action and Policy Interventions



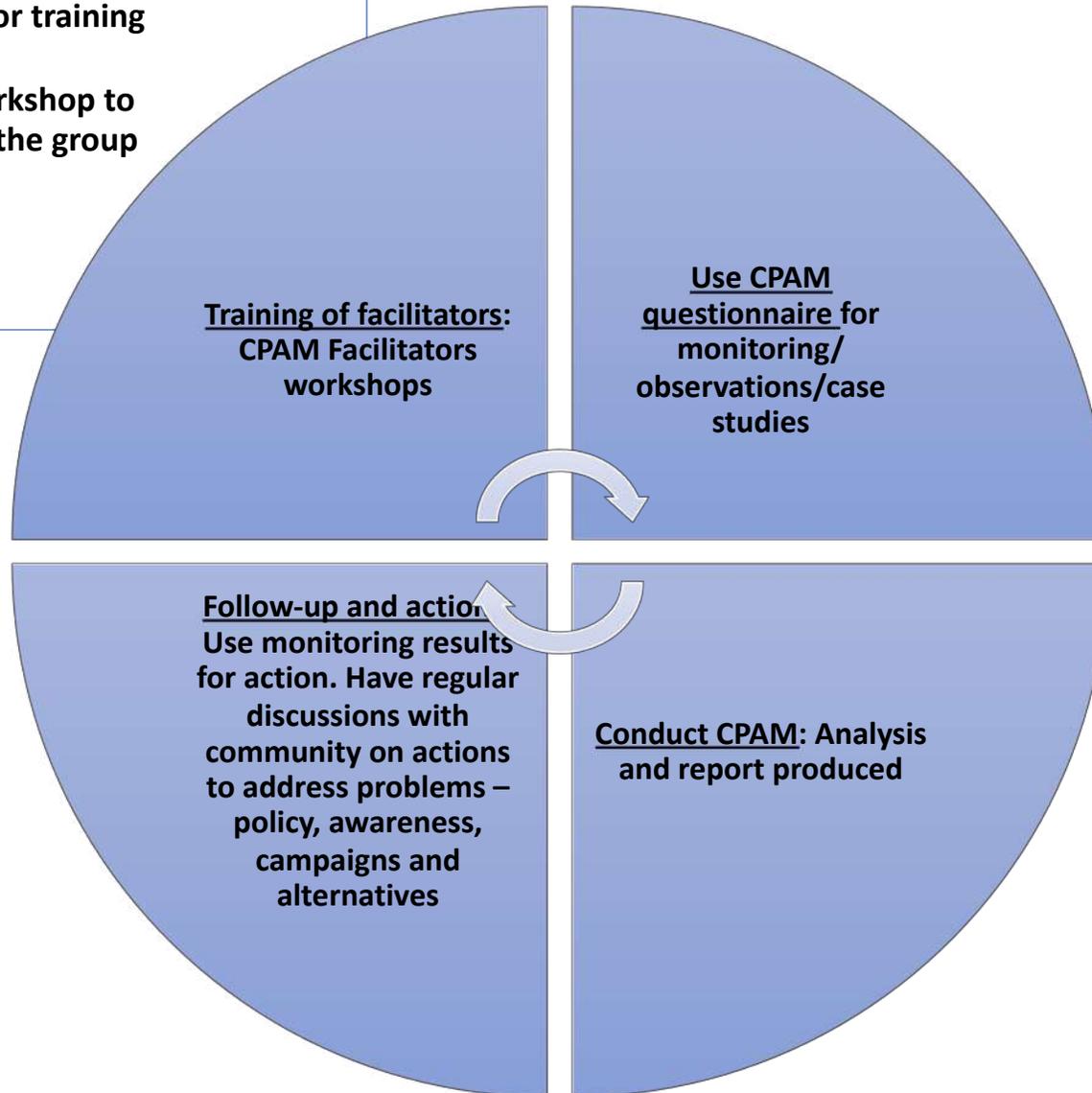
What is Community Monitoring?

- A systematic method of participatory action documentation on the impact of pesticides on health and the environment at the community level
- By farmers or agricultural workers or by communities
- For Action e.g. campaigning for pesticide bans or to switch to ecological agriculture

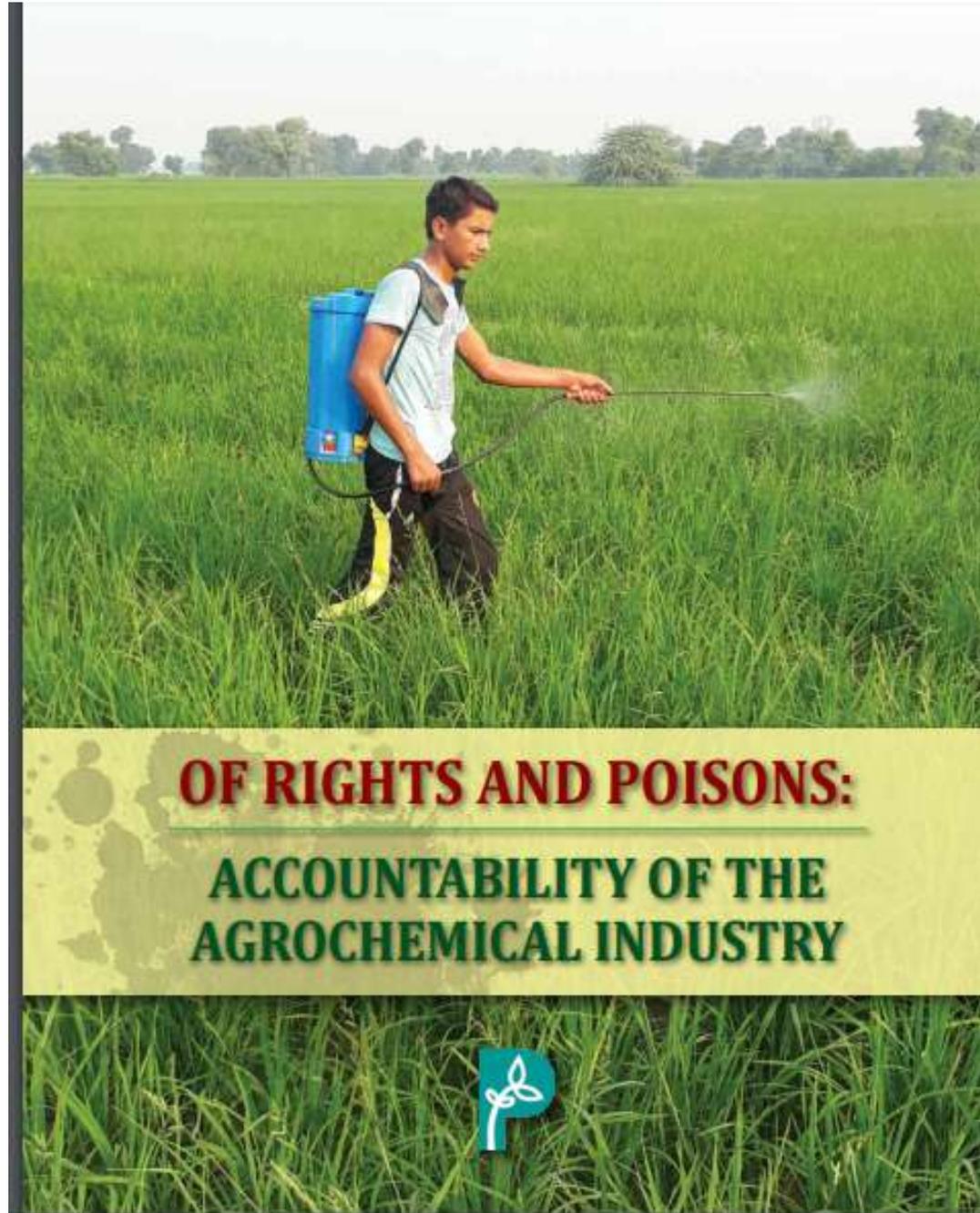


Steps in CPAM

- Undertake a needs assessment for training workshop
- Tailor the workshop to the needs of the group



RESULTS OF CPAM: WORKING WITH PARTNERS in 2016-2018



OF RIGHTS AND POISONS:

**ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE
AGROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY**



Table 2.2 Number of pesticides in use⁶⁵

	BG	IN	ID	MY	PAK	PHL	VNM
Total number of pesticides	32	53	6	27	17	19	39
Number of HHPs	19	27	5	13	6	11	19

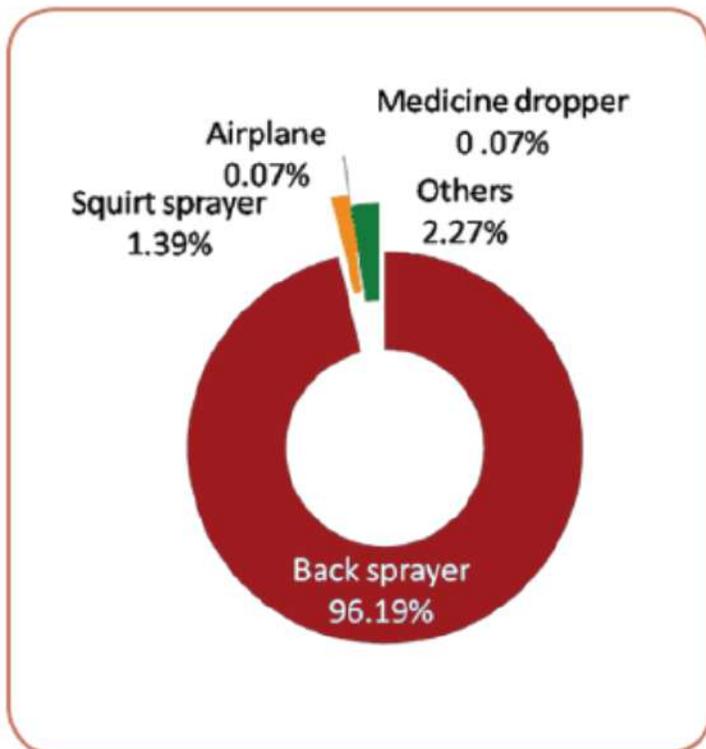


Figure 2.6 Pesticide applicators utilised by respondents



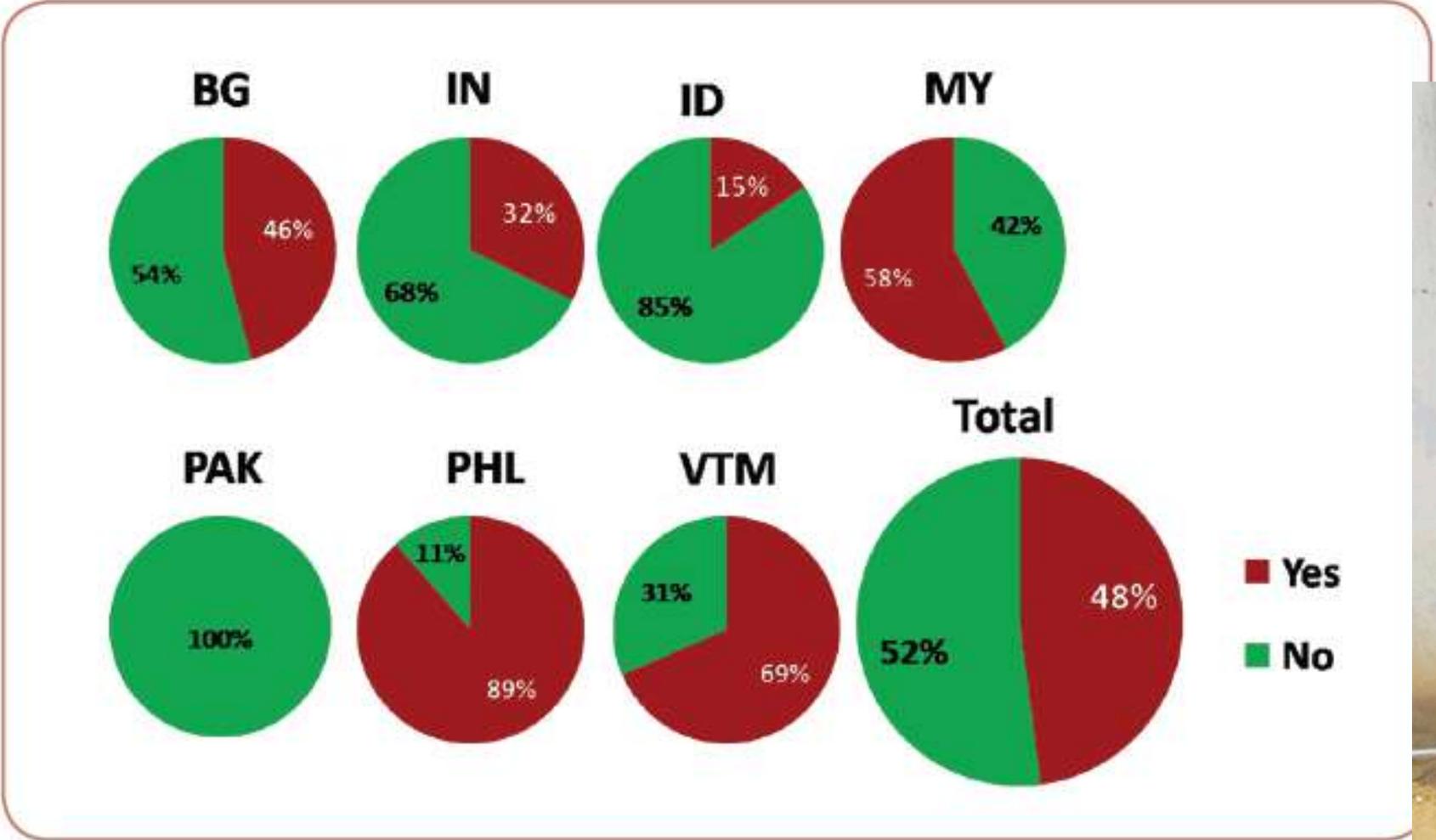


Figure 2.8 Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)



7 out of 10 interviewed suffered symptoms of pesticide poisoning

Table 2.6 Estimated incidence rate of affected people⁷⁸

COUNTRIES	N	WITH ILLNESS/ SYMPTOMS	%
Bangladesh	599	363	60.60
India	255	151	59.22
Indonesia	57	55	96.49
Malaysia	64	48	75.00
Pakistan	76	76	100.00
Philippines	168	109	64.88
Vietnam	534	450	84.27
Total	1753	1252	71.42



Community action

- Bans of pesticides in Vietnam, Malaysia, India and Sri Lanka
 - It's a long struggle and took years
 - CPAM documentation helped communities to identify the problems and the pesticides and take action
 - Community is organised as a result
 - Community actions – campaigns and policy advocacy and
- Advancing agroecology
- Awareness building with farmers, government officials, policy makers





SRI LANKA – VIKALPANI WOMEN'S FEDERATION

- A group of women in Sri Lanka got together when they realized through their community monitoring that men and women farmers were getting sick and suffering the adverse effects of pesticides and loss of biodiversity.
- They organized and mobilised women farmers to confront these pesticides and strengthening their perspective and exposing the corporate control of the trade of these chemicals.
- They launched Vikalpani as a national federation.
- After 3 decades, they have succeeded in a big way – women are practicing agroecology, Sri Lanka is progressive in terms of bans of pesticides compared with other countries in Asia and they have continued to advance their struggle for land for women farmers.



YAVATMAL, India

- In 2017, over 80 farmers and farm workers, had died of pesticide poisoning in Yavatmal. A government investigation showed 272 farmers have died due to pesticide poisoning in 4 years in that area. We found that POLO or diafenthiuron was used and some farmers linked it to their poisoning.
- PAN-India has also made a complaint before the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. 51 victims have identified suffering ill effects of Polo.
- Furthermore an additional three victims said that using Polo had led to the deaths and incapacitation and have filed legal suit against Syngenta
- PAN India has demanded Syngenta stop selling brands like Polo which is a diafenthiuron-based pesticide to farmers in India.
- Polo product is banned in Switzerland where the company is based.
- In addition, the community has organised themselves into the **Maharashtra Association of Pesticide Poisoned Persons (MAPPP)**



Conclusions:

1. Citizens Science or CPAM meets the needs of communities and contributes to relevance of science.
2. It provides the underpinning and supports the “right to science” at the community-level.
3. Helps to strengthen community organising around impacts of pesticides and chemicals on health and the environment.
4. Empowers farmers to make the shift from pesticides dependency to agroecology.
THOUSANDS OF FARMERS ARE SHOWING AGROECOLOGY WORKS AND IS ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE



Community Pesticides Action Monitoring WORKS!





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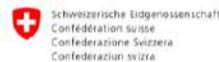
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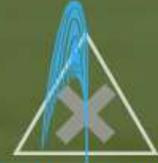
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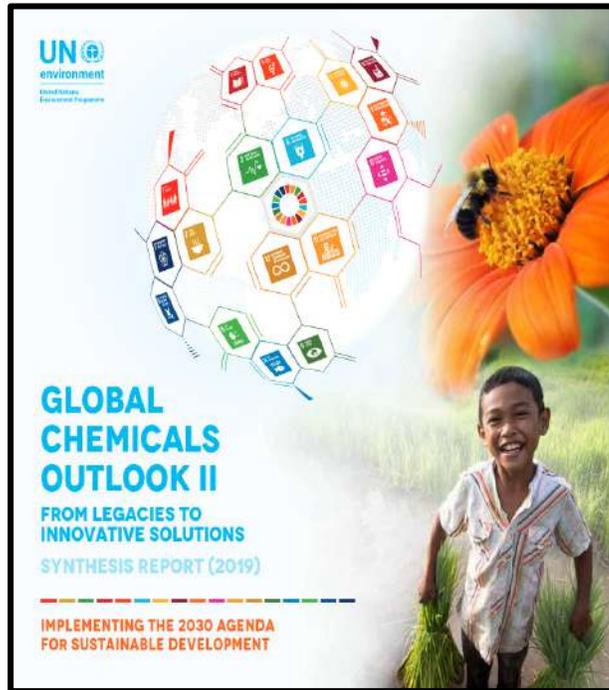
Strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste

HRC48 Side Event | The right to science in the context of toxic substances | September 21st, 2021
Monika Gail MacDevette | Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP

UNEA Resolution 4 / 8: Sound management of chemicals and waste



“The global goal to minimize adverse impacts of chemicals and waste will not be achieved by 2020”



“Solutions exist, but more ambitious worldwide action by all stakeholders is urgently required”

Key Action

Strengthen the Science Policy Interface

Resolution 4/8..

“Stressing the urgent need to strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels to support and promote science-based local, national, regional and global action on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020; the use of science in monitoring progress thereon; and priority setting and policymaking throughout the life cycle of chemicals and waste, taking into account the gaps and scientific information in developing countries,

“Prepare, by 30 April 2020, an assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste..”

Options for strengthening the Science-Policy Interface

- Features of the SPI
- The report seeks to facilitate and inform; and to provide elements for bringing agendas together
- SPI platforms can provide
 - a. Authoritative reports and scientific information in a policy relevant manner
 - b. Awareness-raising activities,
 - c. Capacity-building,
 - d. Access and development of policy tools,
 - e. and implementation of actions related to sound management of chemicals and waste.
- The report reviews a variety of existing Science policy interface platforms



UNEP Report - Assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste



Facilitate and inform discussions, provide elements for bringing agendas together

As desired qualities, a SPI should be able to...

Engage in horizon scanning

Identify emerging issues of concern

Monitor Trends,

Identify, assess and communicate the environmental and human health issues associated with chemicals and waste

Evaluate and refine response options (e.g., practices, policies and technologies)

Potentially stimulate the negotiation and enactment of new policy approaches

To be successful and in order to yield authoritative outputs a SPI should be...

Credible

- Transparent nomination process
- Rigorous peer-review of outputs

Relevant

- Meet the needs of decision makers
- Policy-relevant not policy prescriptive

Legitimate

- Representative of different worldviews

Transparent

- Understand by whom, on what basis and through what process all outputs are produced



Thank you for your attention

Contact:

science.chemicals@un.org

Personal contact:

Monika Gail MacDevette - Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch (monika.macdevette@un.org)



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OPEN DISCUSSION





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WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN GENEVA?



**HRC48 SIDE EVENT
PLASTICS AND
HUMAN RIGHTS**

23 SEPTEMBER 2021 | 13:30 CEST
>>> <http://tiny.cc/HRC48Plastics>

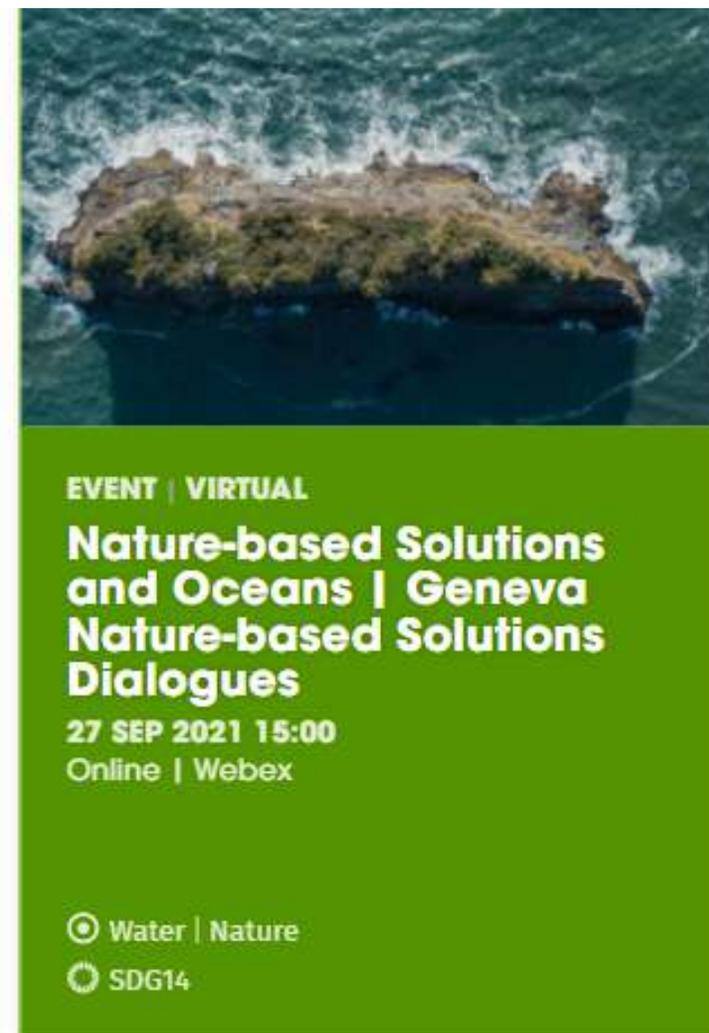
EVENT | VIRTUAL

**HRC48 Side Event |
Plastics and Human
Rights**

23 SEP 2021 13:30
Online | Webex

⊙ Human Rights and Environment |
Chemicals and Pollution

⊙ SDG3 | SDG12



**Nature-based Solutions
and Oceans | Geneva
Nature-based Solutions
Dialogues**

27 SEP 2021 15:00
Online | Webex

⊙ Water | Nature

⊙ SDG14



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THANKYOU

Speakers

By order of intervention.



H.E. Amb. Álvaro MOERZINGER

Permanent Representative of the
Eastern Republic of Uruguay to the
United Nations Office and other
international organizations in Geneva



Felix WERTLI

Head, Global Affairs Section, Swiss
Federal Office for the Environment



Marcos ORELLANA

UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and
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Associate Dean of Undergraduate
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