

# PESTICIDE MONITOR

For Distribution to PAN AP Participants

PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK (PAN) ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Volume 1, No. 1, March 2005

The Pesticide Monitor (PM) is a bi-monthly awareness service of Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific.

PAN is an international coalition of citizen's groups and individuals who oppose the misuse of pesticides and supports the reliance on safe, sustainable pest control methods. Established in 1982, PAN currently links over 300 organisations in some 50 countries and is coordinated by 5 Regional Centres. PAN is a network and no individual can direct or represent the entire coalition. Participants are free to pursue their own projects to further PAN's objectives, and benefit from their access to the collective resources of the network.

The **Vision Statement** of PAN Asia and the Pacific, as adopted at the April 1996 Steering Council Meeting says :

*"We believe in people-centred, pro-women development through sustainable agriculture and sustainable lifestyles;*

*We are committed to protect the safety and health of people and the environment from pesticide use and Genetic Engineering in food and agriculture;*

*We will achieve these goals by empowering people within effective networks at the Asia Pacific, and global levels."*

Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the position of PAN Asia and the Pacific nor PAN International. Permission is granted to reproduce articles from the PM, provided that the source is acknowledged.

Editor : Jennifer Mourin

Writing and Editorial Assistance : V.Rudhrapathy

Production & Layout : V.Rudhrapathy

Editorial Board & Steering Council : Sarojeni V. Rengam (Malaysia), Anwar Fazal (Malaysia), Irene Fernandez (Malaysia), Bishan Singh (Malaysia), Meriel Watts (New Zealand), Romeo Quijano (Philippines), Daisy Dharmaraj (India), Kim Jai Ok (Korea), Nasira Habib (Pakistan), and Mika Iba (Japan).

## News from Around

### Glyphosate Toxic & Roundup Worse

Dr. Mae-Wan Ho and Prof. Joe Cummins called for urgent regulatory review of the most widely used herbicide in the light of new scientific evidence

New research findings are raising serious concerns over the safety of the most commonly used herbicide, glyphosate and should be sending shockwaves through proponents of genetically modified (GM) crops made tolerant to the herbicide, which now account for 75 percent of all GM crops in the world.

Worse yet, the most common formulation of the herbicide, Roundup is even more toxic than the herbicide by itself, and is made by the same biotech giant that created the herbicide tolerant GM crops.

Broad-spectrum herbicide glyphosate (N(phosphonomethyl)glycine), commonly sold in the commercial formulation Roundup (Monsanto company, St. Louis, Missouri USA) has been frequently used both on crops and non-crops areas world wide since it was introduced in the 1970s. Roundup is a combination of glyphosate with other chemicals including a surfactant (detergent) polyoxyethyleneamine that enhance the spreading of the spray droplets on the leaves of plants. The use of Roundup has gone up especially in countries growing Roundup-tolerant GM crops created by Monsanto.

There is now a wealth of evidence that glyphosate requires worldwide health warnings and new regulatory review. Meanwhile, its use should be reduced to a minimum as a matter of prudent precaution.

Press Release by ISIS (The Institute of Science in Society), March 7, 2005

The full article can be found on the I-SIS website :

<http://www.isis.org.uk/GTARW.php>

### **Pesticide, not cyanide, killed 27 pupils in Bohol, DoH rules**

The Department of Health (DoH) on March 14, officially ruled out cyanide as the poison behind the deaths of 27 children in Mabini town in Bohol province, in the Philippines the previous week.

Authorities earlier said the victims might have suffered cyanide poisoning, which occurs if starchy cassava roots are not properly cooked.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the culprit was a pesticide, most likely carbamate, a deadly chemical commonly found in household and agricultural pesticides.

Cyanide was ruled out because the 49 children examined registered a cyanide level of not more than 0.2 mg per liter. Dayrit said a 0.5 mg per liter level was needed to show significant effects on a victim.

Inquirer News Service - March 15, 2005, by Christian Esguerra, PDI Visayas Bureau. This story was taken from : [www.ing7.net](http://www.ing7.net) ([http://news.ing7.net/nation/index.php?index=1&story\\_id=30559](http://news.ing7.net/nation/index.php?index=1&story_id=30559))

### **Demand for pyrocatechol rises in China**

Chinese demand for pyrocatechol, which is used as an agrochemical intermediate, is outstripping production, despite a rise in domestic capacity in recent years. The Chinese pesticide industry uses around 6,500 tonnes of pyrocatechol each year, according to official statistics quoted by Asia Pulse. China started building domestic production plants in 2000, with a total capacity of 3,700 tonnes per year. Annual output reached some 2,500 tonnes by 2003, but imports increased by 42 percent over the 1999 to 2003 period. Prices are also rising, leading some industry experts to call

for the construction of 5,000-tonne capacity facilities for pyrocatechol in China.

Source : AGROW No 461 December 3 2004 p.21

### **Philippines increases supply of generic agrochemicals**

The Philippines Department of Agriculture is to allow generic agrochemicals to enter the country via government trading facilities over the next three months. As a result, pesticide costs for farmers are expected to drop "dramatically", the Ministry says. The move is part of the Ministry's new "eight-point agenda" for the first few months of the second term under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Source : AGROW No 461 December 3 2004 p.20

### **Toxins may play a role in Parkinson's disease**

Recent studies show environmental toxins are one likely cause of Parkinson's disease. Those toxins include household pesticides like the weed killer paraquat.

"There are specific pesticides such as paraquat that have been widely used in the environment that have been shown to induce some of the changes in the brain of experimental animals that are similar to Parkinson's. Another one called rotenone reproduces many of the aspects of Parkinson's disease in laboratory animals," said Dr. William Langston of The Parkinson's Institute.

For more information please visit [http://www.king5.com/health/stories/NW\\_1\\_22904HE\\_KING\\_parkinsonenviroSW.5a4381ff.html](http://www.king5.com/health/stories/NW_1_22904HE_KING_parkinsonenviroSW.5a4381ff.html)

### **Lawsuit Targets Pesticide Air Pollution (by PANNA)**

In January, PANNA and a number of environmental health and community groups sued California's Department of Pesticide

Regulation (DPR) for failing to uphold the Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC) law.

### **[30 banned pesticides still used in Davao farms, says UP doctor \(by Philippine Daily Inquirer\)](#)**

At least 30 chemical pesticides, already banned in their countries of origin, are still being used in agriculture plantations here, according to Dr. Romeo Quijano, president of PAN Philippines.

### **[No way out of pesticides' spiral of death? \(by Indo-Asian News Service\)](#)**

Pesticide consumption in India has grown to a total market size of over \$1 billion. India produces 90,000 tonnes of pesticide a year. India's pesticide industry is the largest in Asia and the 12th largest in the world.

For the above stories, please go to : <http://www.healtoxics.org/>

### **Birth Defect Research for Children** (Birth Defect News - December 2004)

#### **[Fresh fears over pesticides in food.](#)**

Pesticides have been found in food at up to three-and-a-half times the safe level for children.

[Edinburgh Scotsman](#), Scotland. [[related stories](#)]  
<http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=3844601>

### **BASF/Nihon Nohyaku Insecticide deal**

BASF has entered into an agreement with Nihon Nohyaku to develop and commercialise a new insecticide, BAS3201 (metaflumizone), which was discovered by the Japanese company. BASF has yet to disclose a trade name for the insecticide. However, Nihon Nohyaku, which has designated the insecticide, R-135/NNI-0250, will use the name, Accel, for crop uses and

Colony Buster for termite control. BASF has applied for US approvals of BAS3201 on tuberous, leafy and fruiting vegetables, including potatoes and brassicas.

According to a BASF spokesperson, the insecticide is supposed to be "safe" to beneficial insects, including pollinators, and is an "ideal" candidate for IPM and insect resistance management programmes.

Source : AGROW No 460 November 19 2004 p.3

### **China foresees problems with POPs phase-out**

China has begun to implement the phase-out of POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) under the 2001 Stockholm Convention, but the country faces problems of high costs, a lack of public awareness and inadequate infrastructure and technology, says the Chinese EPA. Four pesticides in the POPs list, chlordane, DDT, hexachlorobenzene and mirex, are still produced and used in China, reports the state news agency, Xinhua. While alternatives are available, farmers are reluctant to use them because of higher costs, the EPA says. In addition, identifying stores of POPs in the country will be difficult and could cost at least \$400 million, officials estimate. The EPA has called for international support in the form of funding and technical assistance.

Source : AGROW No 460 November 19th 2004 p25

### **DuPont ahead at 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter**

Increased sales of insecticides in Latin America and the Asia/Pacific region resulted in DuPont's crop protection revenues growing "significantly" in the third quarter of 2004. Sales were also boosted by the acquisition of DuPont's share in other product portfolio changes. The business recorded reduced seasonal losses during the quarter. Variable margins were higher mainly to sales of the insecticide, indoxacarb, and price increases in some

segments. Sales and earnings were not disclosed.

Third quarter sales of DuPont's agriculture and nutrition business rose by 21 percent to \$969 million. This was due to an 11 percent increase in volumes, 7 percent higher prices and a 3 percent gain from portfolio changes. Agrochemicals account for about 40 percent of agriculture and nutrition segment revenues.

Source : AGROW No 460 November 19th 2004 p4

### **Pesticide Industry Launches Series of Attack Ads**

On November 30, 2004, The pesticide industry began a series of attack ads that hit the trade press in the US, calling environmentalists and health advocates "extremists" and "misinformed." The pesticide industry is worried that the public is finding out that the most commonly used lawn pesticides are linked to cancer, birth defects, other health problems and environmental damage. Rather than adopting the latest technologies and strategies for least-toxic lawn care, the industry is fighting to protect an outdated, toxic system.

Source :

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/photostories/index.htm>

### **Agro-Kanesho/Donbu Hannong deal**

Japanese company Agro-Kanesho and South Korean company Donbu Hannong have signed a distribution agreement for Agro-Kanesho's soil fumigant, Basamid (dazomet), in South Korea. Basamid is used only on ginseng in South Korea, but is also registered for use on melons, tomatoes, garlic, lettuces, cacti and chrysanthemums.

The companies plan to extend its use to Chinese cabbages, peppers and other greenhouse vegetables. Dongbu Hannong intends to start official trials for these new crops in 2005 and expects to gain

registrations in 2008. Agro-Kanesho sold 75 tonnes of Basamid in South Korea in 2004 and has set a sales target of 100 tonnes in 2005. The company acquired Basamid in 2003 as part of its purchase of BASF's global soil fumigant business.

Source : AGROW No 461 December 3 2004 p.6

### **Focus now on compensation for victims**

Responding to the demand of the Endosulfan Virudha Samiti for compensation and rehabilitation of the victims of the pesticide, the Chief Minister, Oommen Chandy announced in December 2004, that he would begin his new programme of visiting sensitive and problem areas with the Endosulfan-affected areas in the district.

The aerial spraying of the pesticide by the Plantation Corporation, Kerala (PCK), in its cashew plantations at Padre, Swarga, Periya, Vani Nagar and other places was reported to have caused serious illness including skin diseases among the people living around the estates. The people had complained of health problems such as cerebral palsy, mental and physical retardation and congenital abnormalities. Though the PCK had, in principle, imposed a ban on the aerial spraying of the pesticide in its plantations more than a year ago, the people of Kasaragod had been demanding a total ban on it.

"The people are now anxiously awaiting a possible compensation package for the Endosulfan-affected during his visit," an activist of the samiti said.

Source : The Hindu, December 10, 2004, by K.P. Pushparaj

### **Toxic wildlife threatens health of Russian Inuit**

*"Children are affected in the most critical points of their development"*

If you eat seal or walrus, boil the meat and avoid eating the liver or fat. Better yet, eat

arctic char or caribou. That's the advice from a new report on persistent organic pollutants, toxic substances which are in the northern food chain and, at high levels, can cause severe damage to human health.

The report tabled last November at the Arctic Council meeting in Iceland is called Persistent Toxic Substances, Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North. It shows Russia's Arctic regions are heavily toxic and high levels of persistent organic pollutants or POPs threaten human health.

"Children are affected in the most critical points of their development - as a fetus and while breastfeeding," said Vitaly Kimstach, one of the authors of the report.

Source : Nunatsiaq News, December 3, 2004, by Jane George ([http://www.nunatsiaq.com/news/nunavut/41203\\_10.html](http://www.nunatsiaq.com/news/nunavut/41203_10.html)). The entire report, which is well-written and illustrated, can be consulted at the AMAP site at [www.amap.no](http://www.amap.no).

### **Dow Chemical told to curtail pesticide sales**

The Environment Protection Agency told Dow Chemical Co. in late December, 2004 it can no longer sell a controversial pesticide (chlorpyrifos) used to protect new homes from termites, ending speculation that the administration might extend a phase-out deadline the two parties negotiated four years ago.

In late December, senior officials said they were reviewing new information Dow had supplied indicating that chlorpyrifos, sold under the trade name Dursban, meets federal exposure standards when used in home building. Some recent studies have linked Dursban to neurological and developmental damage in animals and young children, but Dow officials say these experiments are flawed. The company contends that children are protected from exposure to the pesticide by the layers of plastic and concrete that cover the ground beneath a new home.

### **Job Exposure to Pesticide Linked to Lung Cancer**

Prior to the EPA's decision, the U.S. government researchers reported that chlorpyrifos may have an elevated risk of lung cancer.

Scientists at the National Cancer Institute found that among the more than 54,000 farmers and insecticide applicators they followed for six years, those with the highest chlorpyrifos exposure had twice the risk of developing lung cancer as did those who did not work with the pesticide.

Sources : The Washington Post Company, December 29, 2004, by Juliet Eilperin

(<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A32287-2004Dec28.html>) and Reuters, November 30, 2004, by Amy Norton ([http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=571&ncid=751&e=5&u=/nm/20041130/hl\\_nm/pesticides\\_cancer\\_dc](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=571&ncid=751&e=5&u=/nm/20041130/hl_nm/pesticides_cancer_dc))

### **Cancer, Chemicals and History**

Twenty of the biggest chemical companies in the US have launched a campaign to discredit two historians who have studied the industry's efforts to conceal links between their products and cancer. In an unprecedented move, attorneys for Dow, Monsanto, Goodrich, Goodyear, Union Carbide and others have subpoenaed and deposed five academics who recommended that the University of California Press publish the book Deceit and Denial: The Deadly Politics of Industrial Pollution, by Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner. The companies have also recruited their own historian to argue that Markowitz and Rosner have engaged in unethical conduct. Markowitz is a professor of history at the CUNY Grad Center; Rosner is a professor of history and public health at Columbia University and director of the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health at Columbia's School of Public Health.

The reasons for the companies' actions are not hard to find: They face potentially massive liability claims on the order of the

tobacco litigation if cancer is linked to vinyl chloride-based consumer products such as hairspray. The stakes are high also for publishers of controversial books, and for historians who write them, because when authors are charged with ethical violations and manuscript readers are subpoenaed, that has a chilling effect. The stakes are highest for the public, because this dispute centers on access to information about cancer-causing chemicals in consumer products.

The Nation January 20, 2005. By Jon Wiener.

Source :

<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20050207&s=wiener>

Also visit <http://www.thenation.com/>

### The Paris Appeal

The International Declaration on Diseases due to Chemical Pollution, known as the Paris Appeal, was launched at the Paris Conference on Cancer, Environment and Society on 7 May 2004. To date it has been signed by over 50,000 people, including Nobel Prize winners, hundreds of scientists and individuals. It calls for political action on seven separate points because of the development of numerous current diseases as a result of the deterioration of the environment. These include the application of the precautionary principle to all chemicals, the adoption of toxicological standards to protect the most vulnerable people, based on the assessments of risks, and the adoption of the EU 2001 REACH (**R**egistration, **E**valuation, and **A**uthorisation of **C**hemicals) initiative which details unprecedented, and overdue legislative proposals for the regulation of industrial chemicals, based on the Precautionary Principle.

The International Declaration on Diseases due to Chemical Pollution invites organisations to sign up via the ARTAC website : <http://appel.artac.info/anglais.htm>

Source : Pesticide News No 606 (The Journal of Pesticide Action Network UK), December 2004 p. 19

## Special Report

### December 3 – International No Pesticides Use Day

December 3, 2004 was the 20th Anniversary of the tragedy at Bhopal, PAN AP called on our regional partners to join in support of the Global Day of Action called for by the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal. PAN AP took this opportunity to assert our support for the Bhopal survivors, by dedicating the planned 'No Pesticides Use Day' actions to commemorate the event. We also took this opportunity to raise support for the Bhopal survivors call for justice, and call for corporate accountability on the part of DOW Chemical. Dow Chemical has refused to make its new subsidiary, Union carbide, appear before the Bhopal District Court to face the criminal charges pending against it.

PAN AP expressed solidarity with the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal, and joined in their demand that Dow Chemical Company take the following actions:

- Clean up the poisoned groundwater and contaminated areas within and outside the factory;
- Release medical information about toxicity of methyl isocyanine (MIC) and poison gases, and arrange for long-term medical treatment and rehabilitation for survivors;
- Arrange for long-term economic rehabilitation of survivors whose livelihoods have suffered as a consequence of the disaster; and
- Produce Union Carbide to face trial in the ongoing criminal proceedings in India.

## **ASIA**

Aside from issuing a Press Release and mobilising media attention on the Anniversary, PAN AP provided support to various groups for activities on December 3 to commemorate Bhopal. Once again, there was tremendous response from partners in Malaysia, the Philippines, China, Bangladesh, South India, and Sri Lanka.

The groups made plans for a range of activities (see brief report below) and undertook media outreach to highlight the Bhopal Tragedy, the Calls for Accountability from Dow, the overall threats and problems faced from pesticides use, exposure, and poisonings.

## **BANGLADESH**

The twentieth anniversary of Bhopal tragedy was observed in Bangladesh both in Dhaka and at the district level, in Chapai Nababganj. More than five hundred people attended the two events.

In Dhaka a meeting was organised by UBINIG and Narigrantha Prabartana on December 3, and was attended by students, women's rights activists, environmental activists and many more. Farida Akhter of UBINIG began proceedings by providing a background and details of the Bhopal disaster. During the meeting many students expressed their regret at the Bhopal tragedy, and their opposition against genetically modified food and food substances grown using pesticides. They expressed their resentment at consuming harmful poisonous chemical food substances. The students discussed their opinions and awareness on the problems, and made suggestions on actions and what could be done with the help of the government.

In terms of the tragedy itself, many of the NGO workers and other people present expressed that they had merely heard of the great tragedy of Bhopal. They expressed their sadness at how the company involved continues its business, and how other pesticide companies are

continuing to produce their poisons and profit hugely from the sales. At the end of the meeting, the participants stood for one hour in front of Narigrantha Prabartana (Cultural Centre for Women) from 5 to 6 pm for a Candle-lit Vigil against the crimes of Union Carbide, and to share the hardship faced by the survivors of the Bhopal tragedy. More than 200 people joined the candle light protest.

In observation of No Pesticide Use Day, a protest meeting was held in Chapai Nababganj. In fact a rally was held the previous day, attended by over 300 people. It was attended by women and men farmers, teachers of schools, colleges and universities, professors, journalists, researchers, leaders, NGO representatives, doctors along with many other professionals. They raised different slogans. Of these were 'Using Poisons as Fertilizer will destroy your lives!', 'We want Laws to Stop Pesticides Use!', 'Stop Using Poisons!', and 'Save the Environment!' and etc.

A member of the farmer's New Agriculture Movement, Nayakrishi Andolon, Abdul Jabber related how chemical fertilizers in reality 'invite' pests for which we use poisonous insecticides, which poison the soil and microbial life on the farmland. "We have been suffering from different unknown diseases because of eating poisonous products" he noted. Fatema Khatun, a teacher of the University of Rajshahi stated, "We should stop hybrid and genetically engineered seeds from coming in, and keep on using our indigenous seeds. This will bring twofold benefits, such as, no use of chemical fertilizer and getting healthier environment.

At the end of this meeting Mohammad Shamsul Huq, researcher and coordinator with UBINIG, shared his condolences for the people who lost their lives in Bhopal in 1984, for whom the company is being sued but no compensation has been forthcoming to them. "We are here to protest against the criminals!". He also pointed out that according to UN sources, about 25 million people are affected and poisoned by pesticides every year, which equate to about 4 persons in every minute! One other

research information he found stated that only 0.5 to 1.5% out of 10 million types of insects are harmful, and no pesticide is needed to destroy them. "Mixed crop production efforts are enough to manage them. Indigenous seeds, which do not need pesticides, can easily fulfill our target of food production" he stressed. He also pointed out that in Chapai Nababganj a lot of pesticides, such as endosulfan, are brought from India through smuggling and being used recklessly by the farmers for mango and for other crops. Although known as prohibited items, farmers still use clordane, dieldrin, heptachlor, paraquat and many other Dirty Dozen pesticides in their fields through out the world. This happens because of international companies' conspiracy and false propaganda. Pesticides which have been prohibited in developed countries are used by our farmers and by farmers in other developing countries'. Unfortunately, there are also many farmers, policy makers, researchers and scientists who are not concerned about this.

A series of demands were discussed to be put to the policy makers on this auspicious day, they included the following:

- a. a policy should be framed on the production and the use of pesticide in Bangladesh, and by similar countries at governmental level,
- b. steps should be taken to make farmers conscious, encouraged and motivated about the way these poisons can kill—through radio, television and other print media.
- c. for any chemical pesticide company's registration for pesticide production should be stopped in Bangladesh
- d. along with many other chemical pesticides, the Dirty Dozen pesticides must also be stopped from being used, and a guideline should be framed urgently for this.

They asserted that, "Our pledge is to make our country self sufficient in various types of food production by not using chemical pesticide at all."

## CHINA

The Yunnan based **Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center, PAN China (PEAC)** began their yearly activities in memory of the Bhopal tragedy on the morning of December 3, in the field, with a view to forge greater understanding and build leadership among PEAC student 'fellows' of pesticide issue. These activities usually take place at PEAC' office in Kunming city, via training sessions and in-house seminars involving various partners. This year PEAC organised leaders of the students' organisations (mostly undergraduate students) in various Kunming universities—whose mission is environmental conservation—to undertake a visit to Xiaodong village in Yuxi. PEAC chose Yuxi because pesticides are extensively used and farmers often suffer from pesticide poisoning, but now farmers have begun to turn to biological control to manage their pest problems.

Ms. Dou Hong, PEAC's fellow and graduate student, who has studied pesticide impacts on biodiversity, introduced the Bhopal tragedy to participants, and also explained pesticide's side effect to biodiversity. Ms. Chai Zhengqun, PEAC fellow and graduate student working on biological control studies, give a brief introduction of the bio-control technology extended to local farmers and concerning biological knowledge to the participants.

Mr. Gary Shook, Professor from College of Environmental Science & Engineering, gave a presentation on the findings of the Rachel Carson book 'Silent Spring' and the movement for Environment Conservation: to introduce why Rachel Carson cared about pesticide contamination and how the pesticide issue became the start of environment conservation campaign. Mr. Kuang Rongping, professor of Southwest Forestry College and Yunnan University gave a brief introduction on pesticide issues in China and how pesticide problems have become obstacles to sustainable development there. He also made suggestions to student's organisations on how to view pesticide pollution issues when caring about environmental conservation.

PEAC has noted that these student volunteers do have a passion for environmental conservation, however studying on campus and living in the city makes them distant from the daily realities of the grassroots. By involving students in events such as the No Pesticides Use Day Event, PEAC aimed to mobilize them with practical activities and helping the community for sustainable development, and to contribute to environmental conservation by raising the pesticides issue. In communications to PAN AP, PEAC noted that the outcome of getting students involved in the December 3 activities have helped to form the backbone of future conservation campaign towards PEAC's overall goal of pesticide reduction in China.

## INDIA

The No Pesticides Use day, **"Remembering Bhopal - 20 Years of Struggle"**, was held in Thiruvananthapuram on December 3, 2004. Thanal and SEWA (Self Employed Womens Association) organised "No Pesticide Use" day, and declared solidarity and continuing support to the struggle in Bhopal against the corporate criminals who have destroyed life with their chemicals and profits. The meeting was an awareness building as well as sharing session, and was attended by 25 women from the Zero Waste Kovalam programme, and 40 women from the Vilappilsala, Sustainable Settlement Patterns programme.

The meeting was held at SEWA's Rural Centre at Vilappilsala, a village which saw the worst struggle by the local community against the setting up of a Garbage plant. The public uprising was beaten down in 2001 and the plant had come up, destroying water sources and affecting the health of the people living around the plant. The Zero Waste Kovalam programme looks at sustainable ways of materials use and avoiding waste from happening. This holistic programme has in its emphasis, jobs from discards and wealth from waste but without polluting and through ecologically sensitive materials use. The Sustainable Settlement Patterns programme at Vilappilsala is run by

SEWA and supported by Thanal. This programme looks at strengthening local self governance and developing local norms through capacity building in water conservation, healthy farming, sustainable and local energy, and Sustainable livelihoods.

The "No Pesticides Use" day remembrance started with Rajasree V from Thanal introducing the women to the importance of the day and why people are remembering Bhopal. After this, the women saw a film on Bhopal, and they were visibly affected by the statements of Ms. Rasheeda Bi and Ms. Champa Devi, which they made while receiving the 'Goldman Prize' in Washington. The two women are from the effected community, and were being acknowledged for their leadership and tireless struggle for justice for the people of Bhopal. Ms. Usha S from Thanal then spoke about the relevance of the Bhopal day as a "No Pesticide Use" day. This was important as both the areas were going through Sustainable farming programmes and were moving towards stopping pesticide use. A Malayalam translation of the experience of Azeeza Sulthan of Sambhavana Trust was distributed to all the participants. A campaign card on "Ban Endosulfan" was also distributed.

The subsequent group discussion by the women centered on the significance of the Bhopal tragedy and resulted in several resolutions. Some of these focused on the need for the community to mobilize itself against the injustices perpetrated against them by the garbage plant operators. The need for awareness was highlighted as well as the need for action in addressing their predicament. They also declared that this struggle is making them all the more hopeful, and strong to fight for their rights. The women also declared support to all the demands of the Bhopal Gas victims and prayed to God for giving the victims and the crusaders more strength to fight and succeed in the struggle.

## PHILIPPINES

"No Pesticide Day" activities were organised by PAN Philippines and HEAL Toxics, and began as early as October 25-28. At this time, consultation meetings and site visits were undertaken in the town of Digos, in Davao del Sur (South Davao) in Mindanao island, with CAUSE-DS (Citizens Alliance Unified for Sectoral Empowerment of Davao Del Sur) and NAMADDS (Unified Farmers Association in Davao del Sur) to discuss activities to be undertaken for commemorating Bhopal Day on December 3.

On December 3 itself, a Public forum entitled, "Pesticide Poisoning and Corporate Accountability", was organised at the Bayan Muna Training Center, in Barangay Aplaya (Aplaya village) in Digos, Davao del Sur.

Mr. Renato Pacaide, chairperson of NAMADDS, gave the opening remarks and background information on the Bhopal incident and the international "No Pesticide Day" campaign. He emphasised the importance of unity of grassroots communities against transnational agrochemical corporations that continue to inflict harm on people's health and the environment. He also took to task the negligence and connivance of governments with the corporate aggressors, allowing them to evade accountability for their corporate crimes. Dr. Romeo Quijano, President of PAN Philippines, then discussed the health and environmental effects of pesticides, highlighting the severe dangers associated with the manufacture and use of pesticides, such as what happened in Bhopal, India in 1984. Aside from the acute toxic effects of pesticides, Dr. Quijano also discussed the seldom recognised chronic effects, including cancer, endocrine disrupting effects, reproductive toxicity, immunotoxicity and many other long-term adverse effects. A former worker at the banana plantation shared his experiences in handling pesticides at the plantation and its adverse effects on his own health and his co-workers health. At the open forum, questions were asked regarding legal accountabilities and specific remediation measures. Responding, Mr. Pacaide and Dr.

Quijano emphasized that solid organizing and continuous vigilance of people in communities are the only effective options.

Additionally, streamers, posters and flyers were made and distributed on December 3 as part of the No Pesticides Day activities. Streamers were hung, and T-shirts were printed with "No to Agrochemicals" slogan. Information materials sent by PAN AP, with information on the worldwide No Pesticide Day activities were also printed and distributed. A photo exhibit on the Bhopal incident and the Kamukhaan poisoning from banana plantation pesticide use was held simultaneously with the public forum. Pictures and information on Bhopal as well as photo documentation of health and environmental effects of pesticides (spread via activities of the nearby banana plantations) in Kamukhaan were included in the photo exhibit. The issues discussed at the public forum were summarized in the question and answer format of a radio interview, which lasted for about one hour. A press statement was released to different media outlets and on the internet on December 3.

Meanwhile, in Davao City, the Youth Advocates for the Watersheds also held public information activities related to the No Pesticides Day campaign in coordination with PAN Philippines. Members gathered the youth, held a dialogue with various sectors and arranged a discussion on local radio to air the concerns about pesticides adverse effects on health and the environment, especially on the watersheds and the youth. Dr. Quijano held a short seminar-discussion with their members regarding the issue of pesticides. They also issued their own press statement to the media.

On December 4, another public forum and photo exhibit was held in Nabunturan, Davao del Norte (North Davao), in collaboration with the Nabunturan Balik Kinaiyahan Foundation, a local environmental advocacy group in the area who had invited Dr. Quijano to be a resource speaker in their scheduled activity in relation to the No Pesticide Day campaign. Similar issues as in the previous day's forum in Digos were discussed,

specially in relation to the dangers of banana plantation expansion in the area—this was because the local groups had observed similar adverse effects on people's health and the environment occur as a result of pesticide used in the existing banana plantations in their area. The forum was attended by local officials including some municipal councilors, village heads and the Vice Mayor. The local officials pledged to oppose the expansion of the banana plantations in their area and promised to provide support to non-pesticides alternatives in food and cash crop production.

Meanwhile, on the island of Luzon, the Resistance and Solidarity against Agrochemical TNCs (RESIST) coalition, involving groups such as the Peasants Movements of the Philippines (KMP), SIBAT, SEARICE, MASIPAG and others, launched a project entitled **“Forum-Workshop and Photo Exhibit - The Politics of Pesticides: Changing the World's Agriculture and People's Resistance”**, that took place from December 3 to December 9, 2004.

On December 3, KMP issued a press release and distributed it to the tri-media (print, television and radio) people. They noted that the Ngayon na Bayan aired the press release on the same day giving a 10-minute airtime that started at 3:45 p.m. The Ngayon na Bayan, is a daily alternative radio-program sponsored by the Kodao Philippines and aired through DZRJ.

The same day, the photo-exhibit kicked-off at the University of the Caloocan (UCC) in Camarin campus in cooperation with the UCC Faculty and Employees Association and its Student Council. The exhibit, with the same theme, focused on the historical background of pesticides, health; environment and socio-economic effects brought by the pesticides, and the people's resistance and alternatives to the pesticides. More than 3,000 students viewed the photo-exhibit.

Instead of a forum at the UCC that was postponed due to a typhoon, KMP held a Focus Group Discussion on the same day,

with more than 20 participants from representatives of PAMALAKAYA (National Federation of Fisherfolk Organizations in the Philippines), AMIHAN (National Federation of Peasant Women), SENTRA (Center for Genuine Agrarian Reform), NNARA-Youth (National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates) and NFSW (National Federation of Sugar Workers—mostly consisting of leaders and staff members. The discussion was held at the Conference Room of KMP office. Ms. Rhoda Gueta, together with Ms. Ikuko Ueba, members of the RESIST Secretariat, led the discussion group about the Bhopal Tragedy and the Effects of Pesticides on People. This also aimed to unify them with the on-going campaigns about pesticides.

Subsequently, on December 8, the forum at UCC was held with Dr. Romeo Quijano (PAN Philippines) and Ms. Ma. Veronica Prementilla (Advocacy Officer of MASIPAG or Farmers and Scientists' Partnership for the Development of Agriculture) as resource persons. Dr. Quijano talked on the “Politics and Health Effects of Pesticides”. Ms. Prementilla shared about the “Sustainable Agriculture: Farmers' Alternative against the Pesticides”. Ms. Eloyz Bosito (Public Information Officer of MASIPAG) summarised the result of the forum-workshop. Professor Rene Resurrecion served as emcee of the forum-workshop. Three hundred and twenty people—316 students and 4 faculties—attended the forum-workshop. And upon the request of the President of the Student Council, the organisers left them the photo-exhibit that was later placed at the UCC Bulletin Board until the end of January to continuously remind the students of the harmful effects that the chemicals could brought to human beings and the environment.

KMP also joined the SIBAT (Wellspring of Science and Technology) **“Visayas-wide Conference on Genetic Conservation”** held from December 6-9, 2004 at St. Scholastica's College in Cebu City. More than 80 participants attended the conference from different peasant organizations, the church sector, and some professionals. During the conference, the photo-exhibit on

Bhopal was displayed at the lobby of the school, where more than 5,000 students (elementary, high school and college) viewed the display. On December 9, an hour of discussion among the same number of participants was allotted at the conference to commemorate the tragic event and draw lessons from it. Ms. Imelda Lacandazo, KMP National Vice-chairperson served as the resource person.

Post the activities, the RESIST coalition evaluated that the objectives of the project were successfully achieved. The event at the UCC Camarin campus is a first such cooperation of its kind for RESIST with the school. KMP stated that the coalition will take this opportunity to forge a continuing partnership with the university, since the first-ever partnership with the UCC Main Campus took place last September 10, 2004 when they got involved in the People's Caravan 2004 activities. Having more than 7,000 students and faculty members viewing the photo-exhibit was quite an important achievement. The activity also served as an entry to organized the students and faculty not only on the pesticide issues but also on a broader aspect of the peasant struggle.

## **SRI LANKA**

The No Pesticides Day event was held at the Auditorium of Society for Advancement of Science, in Colombo on December 3 itself. Organised by the Community Education Centre (CEC) and Vikalpani Women's Collective, the event involved the participation of about 300 people including representatives from the printed and electronic media, political parties, women's and environmentalist groups, farmers' organizations, public officials, intellectuals and activists of community based organizations from many parts of islands.

All present were welcomed by Chandra Hewagallage, CEC Director of behalf of both CEC and Vikalpani, and she explained the objective of the event and shared information on the origin of this day, the Bhopal Tragedy and the calls for justice by the victims and survivors. The chief guest to

the event was Professor Tissa Vitharana, the Cabinet Minister for Science and Technology and also the president of the commission appointed by the President of Sri Lanka to look in to the harmful effects of pesticides on health as well as a member of WHO Global Forum on Health Research.

CEC and Vikalpani focused on paraquat, and in the build up to the December 3 event they undertook a petition and signature gathering initiative to pressure the government to take action on paraquat

The petition addressed to the President demanded the ban of Paraquat and was accompanied with supporting documents. These were handed to the Honorable Minister. Copies of the petition have also been posted with supporting documents to the Honorable Prime Minister, Honorable Leader of the Opposition, the Honorable Ministers for Health, Agriculture, Environment and Constitutional Affairs. CEC and Vikalpani reported that the Honorable Prime Minister had already acknowledged it via a letter promising to take action. The Petition was also sent to media personnel and major political parties.

Mr. Gamini Manuweera, the Registrar of Pesticides spoke on the country's Regulations on Pesticides and in his speech expressed his appreciation of the good work done by the groups. Dr. Lionel Weerakone, Senior Lecturer of Ruhunu University spoke on Sustainable Agriculture and Mr. Thilak Kariyawasam, an Environmentalist spoke on the global protest against chemical pesticides. At the Media conference held later in the afternoon, a book titled "Poison in the Poor Man's Meal" (in Sinhalese language) written by a local journalist, was distributed along with a dossier containing all available material on paraquat and other pesticides.

The event was a great success with the participation of about 300 people from many sectors and parts of the island with responses from the participants that were very encouraging at the seminar. Many voiced the urgent need for all like-minded organisations to network and continue the protest against pesticides in general and

Paraquat in particular and were united in their support to "No More Bhopals".

The other PAN regional centers also held events to commemorate the Day :

### **PAN UK**

On December 3rd PAN UK held its Rachel Carson Memorial Lecture, "Force Fed: How our newly industrialized food system leads to environmental and human degradation" by Felicity Lawrence, consumer affairs reporter correspondent for the "Guardian." Lawrence is author of "Not on the Label" which exposes how industrialized ways of producing food has ravaged European farmland, increase incidence of cancer and obesity, delivered adulterated foods and concentrated corporate power.

### **PAN North America**

PANNA screened the Bhopal Express, a feature film exploring the human cost of the Bhopal disaster, at the Berkeley Ecology Center, co-sponsored by the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal and the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives. The December 2004 issue of Global Pesticide Campaigner featured multiple articles related to the Bhopal 20th Anniversary, including an editorial by Bhopal survivor and leader Rashida Bee, and is available on the PANNA web site at <http://www.panna.org>.

### **PAN Latin America**

In Peru, Red de Accion en Alternativas al Uso de Agroquimicos (RAAA) co-organized a Congressional Hearing and press event to highlight the responsibility of the agrochemical company Bayer for the poisoning deaths of 24 children in the remote Andean village of Taucamarca in October 1999. The children were stricken after eating a school breakfast contaminated with the organophosphate pesticide methyl parathion, which Bayer markets in Peru in the form of a white powder with no strong chemical odor, in small plastic bags, labeled

in Spanish and displaying a picture of vegetables (the majority of people in the Andean region speak Quechua and are not literate). The parents of the children sued Bayer in 2001, and Peruvian congressional committee found evidence of criminal responsibility on the part of Bayer in 2002. The case is still in the courts. The PAN Latin America Regional Center in Chile created a commemorative poster focusing on pesticide health hazards, and PAN El Salvador observed the day with a press conference and fair featuring organic products.

### **Silent Night, Deadly Night**

Twenty years later, the Dow/Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal continues to wreak havoc on the lives of thousands. And yet corporate officials have never answered for their actions.

By Mark Hertsgaard, Dragonfly Media.  
Posted December 1, 2004.

See full article at  
<http://alternet.org/envirohealth/20627/>

Also visit [www.bhopal.net](http://www.bhopal.net) for more information.

## **Resources**

**"Why paraquat should be banned"**  
by Barbara Dinham, PAN UK

"Why paraquat should be banned" Barbara Dinham of PAN UK, on behalf of the Pesticide Action Network explains why the risks associated with the continued use of paraquat are too high and cannot be justified. Reproduced from Outlooks on Pest Management (Volume 15/No.6, 2004) with permission from Research Information Ltd., it can also be downloaded at the PAN AP website:

<http://www.panap.net/docs/campaign/paraquatdinham.pdf>

The latest version of *The e-Pesticide Manual* is now available from the BCPC. Version 3.1 updates the printed 13<sup>th</sup> edition

of the Pesticides Manual (Nov 2003) and version 3.0 of the CD. The new CD contains information on over 8,200 products, including 1,600 discontinued products.

For information on pricing or to order, contact :

BCPC Publication Sales, 7 Omni Business Centre, Omega Park, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2QD, UK.

Tel : +44 1420 593 200. Fax : +44 1420 593 209

Email : [publications@bcpc.org](mailto:publications@bcpc.org)

Internet : <http://www.bcpc.org/bookshop>

Source : AGROW No 460 November 19<sup>th</sup> 2004 p 14

### **New information available on pesticide use**

If you have ever wanted to know how many hectares of set-aside are treated with

glyphosate, or how often strawberry crops are sprayed chlorpyrifos, this is the database for you.

PUSG (Central Science Laboratory's Pesticide Usage Survey Group) has launched an electronic version of the meticulous reports they produce, based on representative sample surveys of up to 2000 farms in UK. The data, from 1990 to 2003, can be viewed in three different formats : tables, graphs and times treated. It is very simple to use and the outputs provide at-a-glance information trends of usage.

Central Science Laboratory's Pesticide Usage Survey Group : <http://pusstats.csl.gov.uk/>

All the recent PUSG survey reports are available as pdf documents at : <http://www.csl.gov.uk/science/organ/pvm/puskm/pusg.cfm>

Source : Pesticides News 66 December 2004 p.23 *East Asia Rice Conference in Cambodia, November 2004*