

# PESTICIDE MONITOR

For Distribution to PAN AP Participants

PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK (PAN) ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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The Pesticide Monitor (PM) is a regular 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."**

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## *News from Around*

### **Mosquito control success in Vietnam**

Scientists in Vietnam have eradicated the mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, in several villages by inoculating water storage tanks with *Mesocyclops* spp crustaceans that feed on mosquito larvae. This low-technology strategy could be used in rural areas in South-East Asia, they say.

Source : AGROW No 466 February 18<sup>th</sup> 2005 p 20

### **U.S. EPA Sweet on Atrazine?**

More calls are being heard to limit atrazine, including in the U.S. where it is the most widely used agricultural chemical and a nearly ubiquitous contaminant of surface and ground water. Legislation to ban the herbicide was introduced in Minnesota for the second year in a row, and regulators in Australia are reconsidering approval of the herbicide. Meanwhile, on February 17, 2005 the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for holding upwards of 40 private meetings with atrazine's manufacturer, Syngenta, while the agency was conducting a special review of the herbicide to consider its impacts on amphibians and links to cancer in humans. That review resulted in EPA approving continued use of the herbicide in 2003. Instead of addressing the water contamination issues, EPA developed an agreement with Syngenta to conduct a monitoring program in 40 watersheds, fewer than 4 percent of the 1,000 streams identified by the EPA as being at highest risk for atrazine contamination. Under this deal, Syngenta would then determine the effects and mitigation needed for the herbicide's continued use.

The European Union has banned atrazine due to ground water contamination, and Syngenta has made alternative products available in some nations. In 2002 the herbicide was listed by the UN Environmental Programme as a globally important persistent toxic substance with the potential for regional transport.

Atrazine is registered for use in many countries around the world, including the Philippines, India, Australia and New Zealand.

Source: PAN North America, PANUPs:

[http://www.panna.org/resources/panups/panup\\_20050331.dv.html](http://www.panna.org/resources/panups/panup_20050331.dv.html)

### **WHO Promoting Tool to Assess Unsafe Chemicals in Food**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is promoting a tool called total diet studies (TDS) to measure consumer exposure to a range of chemical contaminants, from acrylamide to mercury. The TDS consists of buying common consumer retail foods, processing them as for consumption, often combining the foods into food composites or aggregates, homogenising them, and analysing the compound for toxic chemicals and certain nutrients.

Source: Heal Toxics. See:

[http://www.healtoxics.org/5news\\_hm/news42.htm](http://www.healtoxics.org/5news_hm/news42.htm)

### **Roundup Harmful to Tadpoles**

The herbicide Roundup is lethal to some tadpole species, says a University of Pittsburgh researcher who tested the compound in experimental tanks. The surfactant used in the formulation appears to be the culprit. Roundup, manufactured by Monsanto, is the second most commonly applied herbicide in the U.S. and has been considered relatively nontoxic to animals.

Source: Information received from Steve Tvedten, April 11, 2005.

See:

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/83/i15/8315notw8.html>

### **Eggs as indicators of industrial pollution**

Launched in April 2005, a study of free-range chicken eggs collected near waste incinerators, cement kilns, the metallurgical industry, waste dumps, and chemical production facilities involving chlorine found evidence of high levels of dioxin and PCB contamination. Seventy percent of the samples exceeded the European Union (EU) limit for dioxins in eggs. Sixty percent of them also exceeded proposed EU limits for PCBs in eggs. Three egg samples reported in this study contain some of the highest dioxin levels ever measured in chicken eggs. The study represents the first data about these

substances in chicken eggs for Belarus, Bulgaria, Egypt, India, Mexico, Kenya, Mozambique, Philippines Senegal, Tanzania, Turkey, and Uruguay.

In India for example, chicken eggs samples collected from the industrial areas of Eloor and Kuzhikandam Creek in Kochi have proved to be warnings of alarming rates of pollution there. The study has shown that eggs collected from the neighbouring households of a hazardous waste incinerator and Hindustan Insecticides Limited, the only centre in India to have technical grade production of DDT, contain dioxins and DDT at four and three times the European Union (E.U.) norms. The level of Hexachlorobenzene (HCB), used as a fungicide, in the sample has been found to be seven times higher than the E.U. norms. Four organisations, Dioxins, PCBs and Waste Working Group of International POPs Elimination Network Secretariat; Periyar Malineekarana Virudha Samiti (PMVS); Thanal and Arnika Association (Czech Republic) have studied the samples collected from these areas.

The study was conducted as part of a global campaign by public interest groups to pressurise respective governments to implement the Stockholm Convention to eliminate Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Chicken eggs from 20 countries in five continents were tested for dioxins, furans, Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and HCB.

Source: "The Egg Report", Downloadable at IPEN Website: <http://ipen.ecn.cz/>

Additional Information on Indian findings: The Hindu, Thursday, Apr 21, 2005.

See:

<http://www.hindu.com/2005/04/21/stories/2005042113420400.htm>

### **Thousands Call for Lindane Ban in the U.S. and Worldwide**

Activists across the U.S. marked Earth Day by placing a call to Bayer CropScience, urging them to stop selling agricultural products containing lindane. PAN North America organized a national call-in day to Bayer's North American headquarters on April 21 as part of a series of international events linking this year's Earth Day theme - children's health - to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs Treaty). Bayer CropScience became the primary distributor of lindane seed treatment products in 2004,

when it acquired a seed treatment company called Gustafson LLC.

Lindane is an organochlorine insecticide, and has been banned for all uses in more than 50 countries. The U.S. is now the only country in North America (and one of the only industrialized countries worldwide) that continues to allow agricultural use. Canada phased out agricultural uses at the end of 2004, and Mexico has agreed to phase out all uses of lindane by the end of 2005.

Unfortunately the pesticide is still used in many other regions of the world, especially in the South in treating headlice problems, and it is used on cocoa crops used for chocolate production.

Source: PANNA Alert: Tell Bayer Lindane Ban Is Overdue, April 21, 2005 . See also PANNA, <http://www.panna.org/campaigns/lindane.html>, International POPs Elimination Network, <http://www.ipen.org>

### **Students at 60 Schools Vow to Fight Dow**

On May 5, students and organisations from more than 60 colleges, high schools and universities worldwide released a Student Declaration to Dow, vowing to press their schools to divest and refuse donations from the company until it resolves its legal and moral responsibilities for the Bhopal Disaster. The Declaration, coordinated by Students for Bhopal (<http://www.studentsforbhopal.org/>) and released in advance of the Dow Shareholder Meeting the following week, signifies the largest student movement facing Dow since the end of the Vietnam War.

Source: [http://www.ems.org/nws/2005/05/05/students\\_at\\_60\\_s](http://www.ems.org/nws/2005/05/05/students_at_60_s)

### ***Updates on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) COP1***

#### **Summary of the First Conference of the Parties to POPs Convention**

The first Conference of the Parties (COP-1) to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was held from 2-6 May 2005, in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Over 650 participants, representing more than 132 governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and UN agencies,

attended the session. Despite a full agenda, POPs COP-1 succeeded in adopting a broad range of decisions required to set the Convention's implementation in motion. These decisions relate to: providing for the evaluation of the continued need for DDT use for disease vector control; establishing a review process for entries in the register of specific exemptions; adopting guidance for the financial mechanism; establishing a schedule for reporting; establishing arrangements for monitoring data on POPs; adopting rules of procedure and financial rules; adopting the budget for the Secretariat; and establishing the POPs Review Committee. Other matters scheduled for discussion included: the format for the DDT Register and the Register of specific exemptions; the process for developing guidelines to assist Parties in preventing the formation and release of unintentionally produced POPs; and guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices. Documents for the Stockholm Convention COP-1 are available at [www.pops.int](http://www.pops.int).

Source: <http://www.iisd.ca/vol15/enb15117e.html>

### **UN May Add New Chemicals to 'Dirty Dozen' Ban**

In a related development, countries at the POPs/COP 1 meeting in Uruguay agreed to consider adding four new chemicals to the "dirty dozen" list of banned pesticides and industrial chemicals, a UN official said.

Source: <http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/30716/story.htm>

### **Stockholm Convention to get OK in India**

India is preparing to phase out 12 industrial chemicals and hazardous pesticides under the Stockholm Convention. News released on May 6 stated that the environment ministry is soon going to send the issue of ratifying the Stockholm Convention treaty to the Cabinet for final approval. The ministry has received feedback from all the concerned ministries and is in the process of sending it to the Cabinet for approval.

Source: [http://www.indianexpress.com/full\\_story.php?content\\_id=69949](http://www.indianexpress.com/full_story.php?content_id=69949)

## Industry Roundup

### Bayer achieves No.1 position in 2004

Bayer CropScience “fulfilled its ambition of becoming the global leader in its industry” in 2004 with full-year sales up 3 percent to €5,946 million, according to Werner Wenning, Bayer’s chief executive. The company benefited from favourable market and currency effects with sales up by 8 percent when adjusted for currency and portfolio effects. In local currencies, growth amounted to 7 percent. Crop protection sales were up by 3 percent to €4,957 million with all business units contributing to growth, he says.

**Bayer’s crop protection sales by category (€ million)**

Business Area	2003	% change	2004
Crop protection	1,848	+0.4	1,855
Insecticides	1,376	+0.1	1,378
Fungicides	1,168	+9.3	1,277
Seed treatments	409	+9.3	447
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,801</b>	<b>+3.2</b>	<b>4,957</b>

Fungicides had the largest sales increase in 2004, with a 9 percent rise being boosted largely by the outbreak of Asian soybean rust (*Phakopsora pachyrhizi*) in Brazil. Fungicide sales were up by 13 percent in local currencies. Folicur (tebuconazole) sales leaped by 30 percent in 2004 to €411 million due to the control of *Fusarium* spp on cereals.

Bayer’s herbicide sales remained stable in 2004. Products for use in cereals, sugar beet, rice and genetically modified herbicide-tolerant crop markets contributed to growth of 0.4 percent despite a difficult market environment, the company says. Sales of the glufosinate-ammonium herbicides, Basta and Liberty, were up by 24 percent. Bayer’s recently launched cereal graminicide, Atlantis (mesosulfuron-methyl + iodosulfuron-methyl-sodium + mefenpyr-diethyl safener), had good sales and is “an important element in rejuvenating” its portfolio, the company says.

Bayer launched its Proline fungicide range in Germany and in the UK in 2004 (Agrow no 453, p21). It gained its first global approvals for the insecticide, Oberon (spiromesifen), in Indonesia and the UK at the end of 2003 (Agrow No 440, p20). The product is intended for global use for whitefly control in vegetables, fruit, cotton, maize, beans, tea and ornamentals. The company also worked on a combination fungicide with prithioconazole and fluoxastrobin last year, which is due to be launched as Fandango in the UK (Agrow No 464, p22) and as the seed treatments, Bariton and Scenic.

The imidacloprid-based insecticides, Confidor, Gaucho, Admire and Merit, remained Bayer’s most important product group, with sales almost a third more than the company’s next largest selling range at €603 million. Sales benefited from increased use in the US and Brazil of cotton, vegetables and soybeans. Bayer’s Envidor (spirodiclofen), which was introduced in 2003 (Agrow No 432, p 21), continued to perform well in its second year of sales, the company says.

Source: Agrow No 469 April 8<sup>th</sup> 2005 p 6.

### Syngenta looks to further growth

According to AGROW, Syngenta is well positioned to further profitable growth after posting an 11 percent increase in 2004 crop protection sales to \$6,030 million. At constant exchange rates (CER), sales were up by 7 percent, due mainly to volume growth. Agrochemical sales increased across all product lines and in all regions with “notably high” growth in Latin America. In Europe, “excellent local marketing drove sales expansion”, Syngenta’s chief executive, Michael Pragnell, noted at the company’s annual results presentation. Furthermore, increased disease pressure, in particular from Asian soybean rust (*Phakopsora pachyrhizi*) and *Septoria* spp resistance in European cereals, contributed to a double-digit increase in fungicide sales.

In Asia Pacific, sales rose by 6 percent. Underlying demand in Japan was good, while sales in China grew strongly, with gramoxone (paraquat) recovering well. Inventory levels in China have now

returned to normal levels, Syngenta notes. India showed growth and sales in Australia increased in the second half of the year.

**Syngenta's agrochemical sales by region (\$ million)**

<b>Region</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>% change</b>	<b>2004</b>
Europe, Africa & Middle East	1,978	+13.8	2,251
NAFTA	1,848	+1.1	1,869
Latin America	748	+36.0	1,017
Asia Pacific	847	+5.4	893
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,421</b>	<b>+11.2</b>	<b>6,030</b>

Syngenta's largest product sector in sales terms, selective herbicides, recorded growth of 9 percent. Non-selective herbicide sales increased by 5 percent, with gramoxone sales up in China following planned channel inventory reduction in 2003, but down in Australia due to drought. A strong recovery in Touchdown (glyphosate) sales in the second half, with volume increases in the NAFTA and Latin America regions, was partly offset by pricing pressure in the US. Glyphosate prices are likely to remain competitive and unpredictable during 2005, Mr. Pragnell told Agrow.

Insecticide sales benefited from the increased market penetration of Actara (thiamethoxam), while Karate (lambda-cyhalothrin) sales benefited from the strength of the Latin American market and high pest pressure in Europe.

Overall sales at Syngenta grew by 11 percent to USD\$ 7,269 million in 2004. The sales growth was in spite of "consumption alignment" whereby sales traditionally made in the fourth quarter are being moved into the first half of the next year, Syngenta pointed out. The trend is occurring because sales are moving into the distribution channel nearer to the time of use.

**Syngenta's agrochemical sales by product (\$ million)**

<b>Product category</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>% change</b>	<b>2004</b>
Selective herbicides	1,717	+8.7	1,867
Non-selective herbicide	616	+4.7	645
Fungicides	1,438	+18.4	1,702
Insecticides	960	+9.3	1,049
Professional products	642	+10.3	708
Others	48	+22.9	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,421</b>	<b>+11.2</b>	<b>6,030</b>

Syngenta is also looking at consumer-led markets and new markets, such as fresh produce, animal feed, biofuels and biopharma, where it will use its expertise in biotechnology for future growth.

In the crop protection sector, Syngenta sees future growth by existing ais for new applications. The company is also very excited about prospects for new combinations of existing ais.

Meanwhile, Syngenta has received US approval for its seed treatment, Avicta (abamectin), for use against nematodes in cotton. This is the first time there has been a seed treatment to control nematodes, the company says. Avicta will be available for the 2006 planting season. The product will be sold in the US as Avicta Complete Pak, which includes the fungicidal seed treatment, Dynasty CST (azoxystrobin + fudioxonil + metalaxyl-M), and the insecticidal seed treatment, Cruiser (thiamethoxam).

Avicta protects crops during the early stages of development against a difficult pest, the company points out. "This is a breakthrough innovation and a milestone in the development of convenient seed treatment products," says John Atkin, chief operating officer of Syngenta Crop Protection. The annual cost of nematode damage to cotton in the US is estimated at \$400 million. Syngenta views this as a new opportunity for abamectin, which is sold as the well-established acaricide, Vertimec.

The company is developing Avicta for cotton markets in other countries, as well as for use on other crops. It is investigating a range of crops in Asian, EU and Middle Eastern markets, including sugar beet, lettuce, maize, soybeans, cabbages, peanuts, rice and other vegetables and fruits.

Sources: AGROW No 466 February 18<sup>th</sup> 2005 p 10; AGROW No 468 March 18<sup>th</sup> 2005 p 22

### **Revitalised DuPont targets sales of \$3 billion**

DuPont is targeting annual agrochemical sales of more than \$3,000 million within the next five years, the company's new vice-president and general manager of its crop protection business, James Collins, told analysts recently. DuPont expects to achieve growth through expanded uses of existing products and through the launch of new active ingredients from a revitalised research and development pipeline. The company is particularly excited about the prospects for a new family of insecticides, which are expected to generate peak annual sales of some \$500 million.

DuPont's crop protection sales rose by 10 percent to \$2,221 million in 2004, with pre-tax operating income up 44 percent on the previous year. A good performance across the crop protection, seed and business nutrition businesses resulted in DuPont's agricultural products segment posting a 14.2 percent increase in sales to \$6,247 million, with earnings up by 32.2 percent to \$800 million (Agrow No 465, p 4).

The 10 percent increase in crop protection sales was due mainly to strong volume growth and price increases, with currency effects accounting for just 4 percent of the rise.

In geographic terms, India was DuPont's "star performer" in 2004, with sales growth of 55 percent to break through the \$80 million level. Latin America, eastern Europe and the Asia/Pacific region also showed strong growth last year. DuPont achieved growth of 3 percent in the mature North American market, which remained flat or declined slightly overall.

DuPont's combined agrochemical and seed sales of \$4,829 million in 2004 make it the world's fourth largest player behind Syngenta, Bayer and Monsanto. However, as the sixth largest agrochemical company, with a 7.3 percent global market share, Mr. Collins described DuPont as a "tier two player" along with Monsanto, BASF and Dow AgroSciences. In this position, DuPont is able to co-operate with the other multinationals through product licensing arrangements and can also work with "third tier" companies in markets where they lack access, Mr. Collins pointed out.

The DuPont product range is dominated by herbicides, which account for over 60 percent of its agrochemical revenues, compared with 47 percent for the industry as a whole. This year makes the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of DuPont's sulfonylurea herbicides. These products still account for 39 percent of DuPont's sales, but it has diversified into other types of herbicides.

The introduction of the insecticide, indoxacarb, and the fungicides, famoxadone and flusilazole, have doubled the proportion of insecticide and fungicide sales in DuPont's portfolio over the last five years. These categories are expected to expand by another third in the coming years due to additional uses of indoxacarb and opportunities for the use of flusilazole to control Asian soybean rust (*Phakopsora pachyrhizi*). The company also has several fungicides and insecticides in its R&D pipeline.

The company's sulfonylurea are contributing to continued growth in maize, while it is regaining some of its lost market share in soybeans due to the need for residual herbicide, as well as glyphosate, applications. The need to control volunteer maize in glyphosate-tolerant soybean crops is creating new demand for Assure II (quizalifop-P-ethyl).

The introduction of indoxacarb has been an important factor in DuPont's expansion in specialty crop markets. Sales of indoxacarb amounted to \$130 million in 2004 and are set to reach \$150 million this year. The company is also seeing growth in specialty crop markets from established products, such as the insecticide, Lannate (methomyl), and through the expansion of labels to include minor crops.

Over the next two years, DuPont is targeting growth mainly from expanded uses of existing products. It expects to introduce 12 new sulfonylurea herbicide formulations this year. The company sees good opportunities for its fungicide, flusilazole, against Asian soybean rust.

In the medium term, DuPont plans to introduce a new family of insecticides with a peak annual sales potential of \$500 million. Two products, code named E2Y and HGW, are currently in development. DuPont is testing the insecticides on a wide range of crops before submitting approval applications so that it can launch them widely and minimise the time take to achieve peak revenues.

Another new revenue stream in the 2007-2010 timeframe is expected to come from the introduction of maize and soybeans with tolerance to glyphosate and sulfonylurea herbicides. DuPont's seed subsidiary, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, is developing stacked versions of these crops employing proprietary glyphosate tolerance technology acquired through its purchase of the genomics company, Verdia last year.

In the longer term, Dupont's R&D pipeline includes: a new broad spectrum nematicide; a broad spectrum herbicide for maize, rice, wheat and citrus; a specialty fungicide; and crops with disease resistance and improved yield and quality traits. These products are due for launch in 2010-2014.

Emerging pests and diseases could be important drivers of growth, DuPont believes. The use of insecticides against soybean aphids has added \$200 million to global pesticide sales and the expansion of Asian soybean rust could generate an additional \$1,000 million. DuPont hopes that its fungicide, flusilazole, will secure a 10 percent share of this potential market.

Source: AGROW No 466 February 18<sup>th</sup> 2005 p6

## ***Updates from India***

In terms of industry development, Indian company Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers (RCF – Mumbai) has agreed to a marketing deal for the Finit range of organophosphate-based insecticides manufactured by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation. The insecticide will be supplied through RCF's dealership network in rural and semi-urban areas in India. Meanwhile, Rallis India recorded pesticide sales of Rs 4,371.2 million (\$96 million) in the nine months to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2004, up by 36.3 percent on the previous year. Pesticide segment pre-tax profit surged from Rs 188.9 million to Rs 639.9 million. Pesticides now account for 94 percent of the company's total sales, which include fertilisers, fine chemicals and seed. Last year, Rallis agreed to an insecticide co-marketing deal with DuPont's Indian subsidiary, El DuPont India, covering indoxacarb products from DuPont and acetamiprid products from Rallis (Agrow No 446, p 6). Rallis also expanded its overall pesticide range during the 2004/2005 season, with the launch of seven products. These comprised : the wheat herbicide, Sartaj (clodinafop-propargyl); the rice herbicide, Preet (pretilachlor); the cotton insecticides, Daksh (indoxacarb) and Prabal (profenofos); the rice insecticide, Anant (thiamethoxam); the termiticide, Termex (imidacloprid); and the public health and household insecticide, Sentry (lambda-cyhalothrin). Additionally, the Indo-Asian News Service reported that India's knowledge-based industries are seeing an increasing number of multinationals using the services of pesticides companies for outsourcing production and new molecule research.

On the regulatory front, the Indian Ministry of Food Processing Industries has issued proposals for a new food safety and standards law that will include provisions for setting maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides. The legislation is designed to replace nine existing laws dealing with food quality. The law will establish a new Food and Safety Standards Authority that will be responsible for setting standards and guidelines, and developing an enforcement system. These activities will include work on MRLs and genetically modified organisms. The Authority

will be advised by a scientific committee composed of seven panels, including one on pesticides and one on GMOs.

In addition, the Authority will provide advice and technical support to the government in developing food safety policy. It will also monitor pesticide residues and establish procedures for the accreditation of testing laboratories. The Indian Health Ministry already has a programme under way to establish MRLs for all active pesticide ingredients registered in the country, but has commented that progress is hampered by a shortage of accredited laboratories (Agrow No 465, p 21).

In a separate development, a committee of Indian state finance ministers is considering calls for pesticides, fertilisers and seeds to be exempt from VAT. The proposal was put forward by trade representatives at a meeting between the committee, industry and political parties in Tamil Nadu in January, reports the Hindu Business Line. A new VAT system is due to come into force in India on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2005.

There is increasing recognition that significant adverse effects resulting from chemical production and use are unacceptable in the interest of public health. India based NGO, Toxics Link, also reported that Indian Government's representative surprised many delegates by arguing against new financial sources to boost chemical safety measures at the Asia-Pacific regional consultation underway in Bangkok, Thailand, 4-7 April 2005, as part of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) process.

Significantly, ACI reported that villagers in the Punjab are becoming victims of cancer due to excess use of pesticides. Incidence of cancer and related death rate has risen steeply in the district due to uncontrolled use of pesticides in farming. More than 100 people have died in the district due to cancer in the last one-and-a-half years.

Source: AGROW No 466 February 18<sup>th</sup> 2005 pages 10 and 20

Story on Indian MNCs Outsourcing Pesticides production:

[http://healtoxics.org/5news\\_hm/news24.htm](http://healtoxics.org/5news_hm/news24.htm)



Story on Indian Government Inputs at SAICM:  
[http://www.healtoxics.org/5news\\_hm/news15.htm](http://www.healtoxics.org/5news_hm/news15.htm)

Story on Cancers in Punjab:  
[http://www.healtoxics.org/5news\\_hm/news18.htm](http://www.healtoxics.org/5news_hm/news18.htm)

### ***Updates from China***

The Chinese authorities have issued implementing measures for new rules related to the production of agrochemicals. These follow the Ministry of Agriculture's decision last year to amend its regulations covering applications to produce agrochemical active ingredients (Agrow No 453, p19). The new rules impose stricter requirements on manufacturers to meet environmental protection and product quality standards, and also set timetables for the evaluation of applications by regulators.

The evaluation of applications have been standardised under the new rules. Standards have been set for approval procedures, timetables and the documents required for applications from: company alliances to set up agrochemical production plants; existing producers to establish new facilities; and non-pesticide manufacturers to set up agrochemical production plants. The evaluation of these applications must be completed in 20 days, compared with 45 days previously.

Subsequent inspection and monitoring of these pesticide plants has been intensified under the new rules. Manufacturers have to keep records of product quality and submit these to the authorities. Production approval certificates will be withdrawn if companies fail two consecutive inspections or are found to produce or sell sub-standard products.

The new rules also place more emphasis on the environmental aspects of pesticide production. Manufacturing plants must have facilities and practices that comply with government requirements on pollution prevention and effluent disposal and treatment. All applications to produce ais should be accompanied by an environmental risk assessment. The government's Environmental Protection Department drafted a policy on pesticide pollution prevention in late 2004.

The Chinese government has also launched a programme to develop a GLP evaluation and approval system for chemical manufacturers and importers. The move is in response to the EU's proposed rules for the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH – Agrow No 465, p 7), which will require manufacturers and importers to provide risk assessment data to GLP standards for their products.

Earlier, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture's officials reported that new food quality and safety system is expected to be in place this year, say officials. The programme was initiated in 2003 after several cases of excessive pesticide residues in vegetables threatened China's export trade (Agrow No 407, p 21). The aim is to develop national standards and analytical methods for pesticide residues and other chemicals in food products. Most of the standards should be in place this year, says He Yibing of the Ministry's Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals. These will include 21 maximum residue limits (MRLs) for new pesticide/crop combinations. Prior to the latest programme, China has already established 197 MRLs for 79 active ingredients in 32 crops.

The China View also reports that the Chinese government has established a national work group to coordinate the country's efforts to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to phase out chemicals.

Meanwhile, the latest round of pesticide quality monitoring by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture has resulted in the revocation of approvals for 36 agrochemical products produced by 30 companies. These products were identified in the Ministry's national survey in 2003 as either substandard, counterfeit or containing unapproved additives, reports the Xinhua state news agency.

Sources: AGROW No 468 March 18<sup>th</sup> p 22 & No 466 February 18<sup>th</sup> 2005 p 20.

Story on China POPS implementation:  
[http://www.healtoxics.org/5news\\_hm/news48.htm](http://www.healtoxics.org/5news_hm/news48.htm)

## ***Updates from PAN AP***

### **PAN AP launches worldwide appeal to the Malaysian Government to Maintain Paraquat Ban**

#### ***Paraquat Kills! There is no antidote for it! Don't lift the ban on Paraquat!***

These were the urgent calls made by a group of Malaysian plantation workers at the Malaysian Parliament House on April 20, 2005. Accompanied by PAN AP's executive director Sarojeni V. Rengam and PAN's local partner, Tenaganita director Dr. Irene Fernandez, the women workers' armed themselves with courage and related how Paraquat has badly affected their lives, at a press conference held at the Parliament lobby.

For the complete article and more on PAN AP's efforts to reinforce the ban on paraquat ban, please go to :

<http://www.panap.net/index.cfm>

### **PAN AP Pesticide Task Force Meeting, 12-14 April, Penang, Malaysia**

The second task force on pesticides took place in Penang with 15 network partners of PAN AP coming together to outline and discuss the directions of PAN AP's pesticide program. Areas of work covered included the CPAM (Community Pesticide Action Monitoring) activities, campaigns on specific pesticides, regulatory interventions, information outreach, and strategies to strengthen communities on resisting the pesticide onslaught. The first day of the meeting was allocated for the sharing on national developments and activities as well as assessment and evaluation of pesticide work. Each participant gave a thorough review of the issues, work and achievements from the perspective of their respective countries. Some of the issues highlighted by the participants included TNC aggressions, challenges faced in each country with respect to the global developments vis-a-vis corporatisation of agriculture and trade liberalisation, and ongoing work on alternatives to pesticides. Many positive outcomes were also shared and it was evident that there was an increase in women's participation throughout the network. The issues of paraquat and endosulfan were prominently discussed in the sharing sessions.

The second day focused more on the feedback and sharing sessions on CPAM and international instruments for global action. During the session on CPAM, challenges and needs were discussed with regards to documentation and monitoring methodology. It was agreed that CPAM tools prove to be very useful for community monitoring. Another suggestion that came out predominantly was the use of available information in order to strengthen action at the community, national, international level and development of new links with other networks. In terms of global action, international campaigns on paraquat, endosulfan and endocrine disrupters were shared. There were also presentations on international advocacy tools such as PIC, POPs, IFCS, SAICM and the FAO Code.

For the action planning, participants were divided into two groups representing agriculture workers and farmers. Some suggestions integrated the aspects of capacity building, monitoring and documentation, development of modules and new links. All participants requested PAN AP to support and facilitate the activities suggested and committed to assist with the mobilisation of the suggestions and the plan of action.

### **Agricultural Workers' Meeting 20-22 May, Penang**

In May 2005, PAN AP along with network partners and agricultural workers groups from the Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Tanzania, United States and Malaysia collectively endeavored to address the reality of agricultural workers oppression as well as the sector's distinct struggle with regards to the various political, economic and socio-cultural contexts throughout the region. The three day meeting, aimed at deepening this understanding in the context of the prevailing corporatisation of agriculture, and the current play of international instruments and policies such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), and its Agreement on Agriculture as these impact national economies and the agricultural workers' situation.

Seventeen participants of agricultural workers and their support groups from the eight countries shared their experiences at the local level, as well as their efforts toward defending their rights. A common thread during the discussions was the continuing oppression

faced by agricultural workers brought about by low wages, unsafe and inhumane working conditions, and landlessness. From the orange orchards of Florida, to the tea and palm oil plantations in Sri Lanka and Malaysia, to the banana and sugar plantations in the Philippines, workers were suffering the terrible effects of a myriad of extremely hazardous pesticides used in the production of these cash crops. The issues such as migration, child labour, discrimination due to gender, caste and race; and other human rights violations rendered to them were but a few of the factors that contribute to agricultural workers' further marginalisation.

Given these present realities faced by the sector, a strong resolve to assert their rights to life and livelihood, and to challenge the prevailing system of oppression and chemical poisoning through sustained organising work and consolidation among agricultural workers of various countries were drawn out from the exchanges. Through the meeting, possible areas of cooperation were also identified and incorporated in strengthening collective actions among agricultural workers.

At the end of the 3-day activity, everyone was happy to be given a venue to exchange experiences and learn from each other. The opportunity also provided a better grasp of the issues and concerns and appreciating both the similarities and uniqueness of struggles and strategies of various country situations. Participants also hope to strengthen the resistance against corporate globalisation through the newly established alliance, the Coalition of Agricultural Workers' International (CAWI). With this mechanism in place and a clearly defined program of action, the group is optimistic of continued support and vigilance in fighting for agricultural workers' rights alongside struggles of peasants and other oppressed sectors of society.

Similar endeavors are being planned out in the future, coupled with expansion and consolidation of membership with the CAWI's formation. Consequently, CAWI is planning to hold a Forum on Agricultural Workers and the WTO in December coinciding with the Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong.

### **€1.3 Million to Involve African Farmers and Poisoning Victims in International Agreements**

The high cost of unregulated pesticide use on farmers' health and the global environment has finally reached international attention. The Pesticide Action Network (PAN), an international alliance of over 600 civil society, environment, and farmers' organisations worldwide, launched a 1.3 million euro project to involve farmers and victims of pesticide poisoning in the implementation of crucial international agreements designed to reduce the hazards of pesticides on humans and the environment. Funded by the EU, the project will run for three years.

In 2004, two international conventions came into force, banning the production of, and controlling international trade in, the most deadly pesticides. Along with extensive existing legislation and codes of conduct on chemical management, wildlife and habitat protection, labour rights and health and safety, tools now exist to stop the deaths and pollution caused by pesticides, particularly in developing countries.

*"It's essential that African farmers know about these tools, to protect themselves and raise their working and living conditions to those enjoyed by farmers in developed countries"* says Barbara Dinham, Director of PAN UK. The number and range of international agreements can be confusing, even for experts, so PAN are collaborating with law firm EcoSphere in Brussels to create a user-friendly, succinct guide to the different conventions.

*"But it's a mutual relationship"* says Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director of partner organisation PAN Asia Pacific. *"The conventions need the farmers too, to collect specific information needed, and to monitor violations of the codes"*. The WHO estimates that 3 million people are victims of pesticide poisoning every year – and that 200,000 of them die. But, adds Saro, *"too often developing countries don't have the resources to monitor these poisonings, so can't prove that the pesticides cause them"*.

PAN Asia Pacific trains farming communities and plantation workers to monitor the health impacts of pesticide spraying themselves, and will draw on that experience to train African farmers to do the same. At the same time,

PAN Africa will create collaboration between government authorities and community organisations. This will ensure that the results of community health monitoring can be used at an international level to support strong action by governments and regulators in controlling dangerous pesticides.

*"These conventions are intended to help the poor farmers who suffer the most from pesticide 'collateral damage'" says Abou Thiam, Director of PAN Africa. "Yet they often don't know not about international activities, and are not engaged by them. This project is a fantastic opportunity for farmers and international regulators to join forces over a problem that causes them both headaches".*

Source :

<http://www.panuk.org/press/PRESSRELEASEE LOISE30thMarch.htm>

### ***Special Announcement***

#### **Congratulations Dr Romeo Quijano!**

PAN AP extends our heartfelt Congratulations to Dr Romeo Quijano on winning the Jenifer Altman Award for 2005!

The Jenifer Altman Foundation's colleague fund, the 'Upstream Fund', presented Dr Quijano this award along with 4 other scientists. The award was bestowed to each of the scientists for their commitment to science in the public interest. PAN AP also extended our appreciation and congratulations to the other recipients: Tyrone Hayes, PhD; Ignacio Chapela, PhD; Frederick vom Saal, PhD; and Shanna Swan, PhD.

Dr Romeo Quijano MD is a pharmacologist and toxicologist. He is Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of the Philippines, and a frequent consultant to the Philippine Department of Health. He is an activist devoted to improving the life of the rural and urban poor, and serves as President of the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Philippines; is a Steering Council member of PAN Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP); and is co-convenor of PAN AP's Task Force on Pesticides. He is also Southern Co-Chair of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN). For the past four years, Dr. Quijano has served as the worldwide representative of public interest NGOs on the Standing

Committee of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS).

As noted by the Foundation: *"In a 1997 study conducted by Quijano at the request of the villagers in Kamukhaan, he found that the chemicals used on the neighbouring banana plantation (LADECO) were adversely affecting the human and ecological health of that community. One of the owners of the plantation was the head of the Philippines Department of Agriculture. Publication and wide dissemination of his findings resulted in a libel suit, and then in 2003 in Dr. Quijano's arrest. Now released from jail, a civil case against Dr. Quijano continues, he has faced death threats as a result of his speaking out in defense of the health of Kamukhaan villagers, and the villagers are being pressured to remain silent about LADECO activities".*

For more information on this case, and the Fact Finding Mission that was conducted in 2003, please go to: <http://www.panap.net/docs/campaign/Kemukhaan.pdf>

This year, the Jenifer Altman Awards of the Upstream Fund honours the pursuit of science in the public interest, and has highlight five scientists, *"who have -- often at great personal costs -- held true to their belief in the scientific process, and in the public's right to full information. In some cases, the publication of their research brought these scientists international attention, not only for the importance of their research, but also for the firestorm that followed".*

Questioning and debate is a critical part of the scientific process. But each of these scientists faced more than a healthy debate among colleagues. As they remained committed to bringing the best available science to the public, private interests threatened their research, reputations, and livelihoods. *"We honor these scientists for holding fast to their belief in scientific freedom and dissent, even as these principles, and they themselves, are under fierce attack",* states the Foundation.

For more information on the Foundation and the Award, contact: Jenifer Altman Foundation, P.O. Box 29209, San Francisco, CA 94129. Tel: 415-561-2188 Fax: 415-561-6480. Web: [www.jaf.org](http://www.jaf.org)

## **Bhopal Survivors Break Dow/Union carbide and IOC Deal!**

Survivors in Bhopal have been celebrating in the streets the news that Dow's deal with Indian Oil is dead. Alarmed by the intensity of protests against its proposed purchase of expensive refinery technology from Dow Chemical, Indian Oil Corporation has called off the deal. The International Campaign for Justice (ICJB) discovered that the METEOR process was a Union Carbide technology. In India, Union Carbide Corporation is a rogue company, officially designated a fugitive from justice after failing for 13 years to obey a summons to answer criminal charges relating to the 1984 gas disaster in Bhopal.

Source: <http://bhopal.net>

## ***Campaigns***

### **The Dow Chemical Consumer Campaign**

It's true, there are a lot of companies that are producing toxic pesticide products that harm human health and the environment. So why target the Dow Chemical Company?

- Dow is a leader in the chemical industry in producing poisons that contaminate our bodies and the environment through a variety of exposure routes. As a major player in the industry, we need to focus on Dow to stop producing these poisons and move to safer alternatives;
- Dow has been a leader in obscuring the science and weakening the regulation of these and other deadly chemicals;
- Dow purchased Union Carbide in 2001, thereby acquiring its assets and liabilities. Union Carbide was responsible for the 1984 gas leak in Bhopal, India, which remains the worst industrial disaster in human history. Dow refuses to clean up the site, provide safe drinking water, compensate the victims, or disclose chemical information to physicians.

Protect your family from toxic hazards and help the families of Bhopal receive justice by boycotting the Dow products listed in Beyond Pesticides' [Dow consumer brochure](#). Or for detailed information, visit the [In-Depth Consumer Info](#) page.

Contact Dow CEO Andrew Liveris (2030 Dow Center, Midland, MI 48674 or 989-636-1000) and demand that Dow Chemical clean up its

act. For additional information on Dow's responsibilities in Bhopal, visit the [International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal](#).

### **Agent Orange victims fight back, with help from friends**

The lawsuit by Vietnamese Agent Orange victims against US chemical companies hit a wall in March 10, 2005 when the Brooklyn Federal Court in New York City dismissed the lawsuit filed by Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange. Many foreigners and locals are working to make sure the issue gets the attention it deserves. Please help them by signing this petition.

#### **Justice for Victims of Agent Orange**

To: The U.S. President and others

AGENT ORANGE THE CHEMICAL, has killed, is still killing, and causing great suffering to over three million people in Vietnam.

We welcome and support the Civil Action brought by the Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin, and three Vietnamese victims.

The documents have been submitted to a court in New York, on behalf of all affected by the chemicals used by the American Forces in their War on Vietnam. This will be the first ever such action by Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange in any court of law.

We call upon the U.S. President, Government and the Chemical Companies named as defendants in the documents, to accept their responsibilities for the damage caused by their actions and products, and to pay full compensation to the victims.

Sincerely,  
[The Undersigned](#)

Source :  
<http://www.petitiononline.com/AOVN/petition-sign.html>

## ***Resources***

### **Chiquita's Children**

By Nicolas Bérubé and Benoit Aquin In These Times, May 10 2005

Jose Alberto Paniagua, 24, was born disabled and voiceless with a gaze permanently haunted by a look of terror. Jose's father and

mother both worked at a plantation which used Nemagon. In the '70s and '80s, the banana companies Dole, Del Monte and Chiquita used a carcinogenic pesticide, Nemagon, to protect their crops in Nicaragua. Today, the men and women who worked on those plantations suffer from incurable illnesses. Their children are deformed. The companies feign innocence.

Source :

<http://www.inthesetimes.com/site/main/article/2096/>

### **No pesticides, higher crop yields**

By Devinder Sharma

*Villagers have demonstrated that pesticides are not only harmful but also unnecessary.*

It was in 1999 that a tiny village in Andhra Pradesh's Khammam district successfully

began experimenting with non-pesticidal management practices. In the next few years it charted an easy escape route from the multiple rings of harmful pesticides. The contaminated environment began to change. Soil and plant health looked revitalised, and the pests began to disappear. Restoring the ecological balance brought back the natural pest control systems. The crop yields were still higher.

Pinikula is not the only village to have escaped from the vicious cycle of poison. Thousands of villages in the country have clearly demonstrated that pesticides are not only harmful but also unnecessary.

For the rest of the article, please visit:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2005/06/14/stories/2005061407011100.html>