



Implementation of the Appeal against highly hazardous pesticides: News on Action in fourteen countries

Many of the organisations who signed the Appeal Against Highly Hazardous Pesticides already started activities to support the implementation of the Appeal. The short reports below might encourage you to also start action or to strengthen your activities towards a ban of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs).

Read about activities in:

Argentina – Cameroon – Chile – China - Costa Rica – Germany – India – Mexico – Philippines – South Africa - Tunisia – UK – Uruguay - USA.

✓ In Argentina

the Centro de Estudios sobre Tecnologías Apropriadas de la Argentina (CETAAR) celebrated its 30-year Anniversary with a seminar on highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs). At this seminar, entitled II Seminario Internacional Sobre Plaguicidas y su Efecto en la Salud, and at the joint 4th Meeting of the Sprayed Towns of Buenos Aires, Javier Souza, PAN Latin America coordinator, introduced the Appeal for a Ban of HHPs in the opening session and in the roundtable where several national RAPAL coordinators analyzed the problems derived from the use of HHPs in Latin America.

Also in Argentina individuals affected by pesticide spray living in the Barrio Ituzaingó of Córdoba and Los Toldos, Buenos Aires, discussed the health problems, especially chronic diseases, linked to HHP exposure that children and adults are suffering in their communities. The participants strategized on how to promote and advance agroecology as a viable alternative to HHPs and drafted an initial

position paper with proposals, which will be presented to the government of Argentina. The meetings took place in the Annex of the House of Representatives and were attended by affected communities, social and environmental organizations, parliamentarians, researchers, and union representatives.

✓ In Cameroon

the Research and Education Center for Development (CREPD) shared the Appeal for a Ban of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) with university professors at the University of Ngoundéré, targeting professors who are doing research on alternatives to synthetic pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture. Gilbert Kuepouo (CREPD) informed that he also has sent the Appeal for a Ban of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) to the Inter-states Pesticides Committee of Central Africa (CPAC).

The Centre Optionnel pour la Promotion et la Régénération Economique et Sociale Secteur Afrique (COPRESSA) from Cameroon has also

organized activities to support the Appeal for a Ban of HHPs. Fatima Sidiki from COPRESSA reported that they have identified a list of HHPs in Cameroon and plan to organize activities to raise awareness and introduce the Appeal at agropastoral trainings for youth and to three rural councils.

In Chile

Alianza por una Mejor Calidad de Vida (PAN Chile) was conducting a series of activities to support the implementation of the Appeal for a Ban of HHPs.

Among others they:

- introduced the Appeal at a round table on the right to health, respect for biodiversity and food sovereignty attended by 1st year nursing students of the School of Medicine from the University of Chile:
- introduced the Appeal at the Sexto Tribunal Etico (the Sixth Ethical Tribunal) organized by the Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indígenas, ANAMURI (the National Association of Rural and Indigenous Women). The meeting took place at the Auditorium of the Universidad de Los Lagos in Santiago de Chile. The Tribunal is an annual event that marks the International Day of No Violence against Women, which is part of the campaign to end violence against rural women, organized by Via Campesina and the Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Organizaciones del Campo, CLOC
- produced a poster with information on HHPs and on December 3, the starting date of the the No Pesticide Use Week, implemented various activities such a producing a poster on HHPs or publishing a press release with reference to HHPs.

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In China

Beijing citizens called on the Ministry of Agriculture to disclose information on glyphosate. Beijing citizens requested the Ministry of Agriculture to disclose to the public the 1985 'Roundup' toxicology animal test report submitted by Monsanto to the Ministry of Agriculture when it applied "Pesticide Registration" (for Roundup in 1988).

For more information: Kartini Samon, kartini@grain.org /

http://blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog_4bb17e9d0102w0hc.html

In Costa Rica

Fernando Ramírez, researcher at the Regional Institute of Studies on Toxic Substances (IRET) of the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica and a member of RAPAL (PAN Latin America), met the Minister of Agriculture and the director of Phytosanitary Services (in charge of registering and regulating pesticides) and presented a proposal for the reduction of HHPs. They discussed the serious problems caused by the aerial application of mancozeb on bananas, whose residues have been found in water. And the Appeal was addressed at this meeting.

Fernando Ramírez also presented IRET-RAPAL's proposal for the gradual phase-out of HHPs and replacement with safe alternatives at a meeting attended by representatives from the ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Health, Labour, and professionals from the schools of chemistry, engineering, agronomy, academics and NGOs. The proposal was well received and ideas came up on ways to promote the adoption of alternatives to HHPs, including enlisting agricultural extension agents to do this work. The Appeal for a ban of HHPs was presented at these meetings.

Prior to these discussions, IRET-RAPAL planted experimental plots with pineapples to evaluate alternatives to highly hazardous nematicides. The next round of experimental plots is planned to be done in coffee.

In Germany

23.000 people came to Berlin, the capital city of Germany, to join a demo against the industrialisation of agriculture. Among them there were several organisations and individuals addressing the issue of hazardous pesticides. The motto of the demo: "We are fed-up with agro-industry" ("Wir haben Agrarindustrie satt!").

In addition to this public battle of a diversity of interest groups fighting the use of hazardous pesticides and GMOs and calling for food sovereignty, agroecology, and support for small scale farmers, NGOs such as PAN Germany worked hard to avoid the re-registration of glyphosate in Europe.

✓ In India

Thanal and the Save our Rice Campaign supported the film “Save Our Rice” (by Suma Josson) addressing the issue of pesticide use and alternatives in rice production. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fp3flffzNRU&feature=youtu.be>

From South India Vanaja Ramprasad reported that the grass roots organization Foundation for Genetic Resources, Energy, Ecology and Nutrition is working with small and marginal farmers particularly with women to implement the Appeal. The main focus of the work has been to conserve the agricultural biodiversity which is the basis of our food security and food sovereignty. Over the last two decades they worked to overcome unsustainable farming and government policies that have introduced dependence on chemical inputs. Vanaja Ramprasad (earthbuddy@gmail.com): “We have collaborated with PAN Asia/Pacific in spreading the message on harmful effects of pesticides and we promoted agroecological practices”.

For more details see: www.greenconserve.com

✓ In Mexico

Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y Alternativas en México is raising awareness on the health and environmental impacts of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs). Fernando Bejarano, PAN Mexico’s coordinator, among others gave a presentation on HHPs and introduced the Appeal at a national symposium on pesticides that took place in Tepic, state of Nayarit, Mexico. In his presentation, Fernando referred to the letter from 118 toxicologists calling for an end to the use of HHPs that was sent by PAN International to the heads of UNEP, FAO and WHO on the occasion of the launch of the 4th International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) in Geneva, Switzerland, 28.9.-2.10.2015.

PAN Mexico, in collaboration with university researchers and NGOs, was drafting a report on a national assessment of HHPs to be released 2016.

Also in Mexico, Dr. Rocio Romero from the Universidad Autónoma de Chapingo (Chapingo Autonomous University) gave a presentation on HHPs using posters on HHPs and referring to the Appeal during the No Pesticide Use Week in December 2015.

✓ In the Philippines

the anti-aerial spraying group Mamamayan Ayaw sa Aerial Spraying (MAAS) once again countered the Philippine Banana Growers and Exporters Association's (PBGEA) assertions that the banana industry will not survive without aerial spraying, calling it an “exaggeration”.

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✓ In South Africa

the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town organized a „VULA Discussion Forum“ session on 25.02.16 entitled „The current status of managing highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) in your country and steps planned or already taken?“ The Pesticide Discussion Forum was established in 2009. It aims to encourage in depth discussion of particular issues with regard to pesticides and regulation of pesticides in Africa. Regulators and resource people meet twice a month to discuss. Contact: Kiren Reggo, RGGKIR001@myuct.ac.za

✓ In Tunisia

Semia Gharbi, Association de l'Education Environnementale pour les Futures Générations (AEEFG), informed master’s students about the issue of HHPs and the international Appeal to ban HHPs. She plans to introduce the Appeal to high school students in 2016.

Semia Gharbi also introduced the PAN International List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) to the Ministry of Agriculture and has sent to the Ministry a list of 38 HHPs identified among the pesticides registered in Tunisia. She is working with colleagues at her school to set up an agroecology programme to highlight best practices with the aim of protecting human health, water, soil, and air.

Contact: semia.gharbi@laposte.net

✓ In the UK

PAN UK is fighting to save pollinators. Populations of bees and other insect pollinators have fallen dramatically in recent years in the UK and there is

growing scientific evidence that pesticides are playing a significant role. A PAN UK website is intended to provide an up-to date and balanced explanation of the role of pesticides in pollinator declines.

See: <http://bees.pan-uk.org/>

Contact: Keith Tyrell, keithtyrell@pan-uk.org

In Uruguay

RAP-AL (PAN Uruguay) is raising awareness on the need to phase out highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs). As part of this effort, its electronic bulletin posted the Appeal for a ban of highly hazardous pesticides.

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In the USA

a great resource on agroecology was published by The Oakland Institute with 33 case studies of agroecology from Africa. PAN North America contributed 5 of the 33 case studies in this project (working with a team of interns). Originally, back in 2010, it was published as a hard copy book. So it's great that all the case studies are now available online.

See: <http://www.oaklandinstitute.org/agroecology-case-studies>

PAN North America contact: Judy Hatcher, judy@panna.org



Report on your activities!

Please also send a short paragraph on your activities to be shared with all who signed to:

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PAN International contacts for this Appeal

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