

Pesticide Action Network

Celebrating 25 Years of Advancing Ecological Agriculture, Health and Food Sovereignty Worldwide

November 2007



**PAN Europe • PAN Asia & the Pacific • PAN Africa
PAN North America • RAP América Latina**

PAN at 25!



In a fertile valley west of Santa Cruz, a Bolivian woman works in her organic garden.
Photo: Rodrigo Lampasona, RAP-AL

Pesticide Action Network is celebrating 25 years of progress toward eliminating the use of toxic pesticides that damage public health and poison the planet. This special magazine is as unique as PAN itself—a global collaboration created by activists on six continents with articles in English, Spanish, French and German. *Translations are available on pan-international.org.*

La Red de Acción en Plaguicidas está celebrando 25 años de avance hacia la eliminación del uso de plaguicidas tóxicos que dañan la salud pública y envenenan el planeta. Esta revista especial es tan única como PAN en si misma—una colaboración global creada por activistas en seis continentes con artículos en inglés, español, francés y alemán. *Las traducciones están disponibles en pan-international.org.*

Le Réseau d'action pour le Contrôle des Pesticides célèbre 25 ans de progrès dans l'élimination progressive de l'utilisation des pesticides dangereux qui endommagent la santé publique et empoisonnent la planète. Ce spécial magazine est aussi unique que PAN lui-même—une collaboration globale créée par des activistes sur six continents avec des articles en Anglais, Espagnol, Français et Allemand. *Les traductions sont disponibles sur pan-international.org.*

Das Pestizid Aktions-Netzwerk feiert 25 Jahre Fortschritt hin zur Eliminierung des Einsatzes gefährlicher Pestizide, die unsere Gesundheit schädigen und global die Umwelt vergiften. Diese spezielle Publikation ist so einzigartig wie PAN selbst—sie ist Ergebnis der globalen Zusammenarbeit von Aktiven in sechs Kontinenten mit Beiträgen in englischer, spanischer, französischer und deutscher Sprache. *Übersetzungen sind unter pan-international.org verfügbar.*

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Pesticide Action Network (PAN) is an international coalition advocating ecologically sound practices in place of pesticides. Established in 1982, PAN links more than 600 organizations in 90 countries and is coordinated by five Regional Centers. Views expressed herein are the authors' and do not necessarily represent those of PAN International. Nonprofit reprinting of content is welcomed, provided that the source (Pesticide Action Network) is acknowledged.

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Cover: Images from PAN's five Regional Centers (clockwise from top left)

- PAN UK's Stephanie Williamson visits an Integrated Pest Management apple farm near Hamburg, Germany. Photo: Barbara Dinham, PAN UK 1999
- A dancer from Sinagbayan, an organization of grassroots artists in the Philippines. During the Peoples Camp and Rice Festival they used dance performances to dramatize the damaging effects of globalization. Photo: PAN AP
- Smallholder farmer displays a Sugarloaf pineapple, produced for local markets without the use of agrochemicals, in Abontsin Village, Central Africa. Photo: Stephanie Williamson, PAN UK 2001
- Marcos Crisantos from the Farmworker Association of Florida adjusts a Drift Catcher at a California training session. Photo: Stephenie Hendricks, PANNA 2007
- PAN Latin America demonstrates in Santiago, Chile, calling for protection against Persistent Organic Pollutants (COPs). Photo: RAP-AL 2007

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The First 25 Years

Die ersten 25 Jahre

Los primeros 25 años

Les 25 premières années

Each year, five million tons of pesticides are released into the environment worldwide. The consequences are far-reaching and incalculable.

It was a quarter-century ago that a book called *Circle of Poison: Pesticides and People in a Hungry World* prompted 40 activists from 20 countries to gather in Penang, Malaysia. Their goal: to forge a common strategy to address the international pesticide threat. “We had no idea what was going to happen next,” recalls PAN North America’s Monica Moore. “We just knew we needed to be able to work together at all levels to deal with these global problems.”

Anwar Fazal, then-president of the International Organization of Consumers Unions (now Consumers International), was the prime mover behind the workshop that gave birth to PAN. After a series of meetings with the Union of Dutch Scientists, OXFAM/UK and Mondial Alternative in The Hague, it was decided that the meeting would be held in Malaysia to reflect the concerns of people in the Global South. Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth/Malaysia), hosted the international conference that lead to the creation of the Pesticide Action Network.

Moore remembers the historic five-day meeting in May 1982 as “exhilarating and emotional.” She recalls a government scientist whose coworkers kept telling him, “Why do you make problems for yourself about pesticides? Just take the money they offer and forget about it.” Tears came to his eyes as he concluded, “Now I’m in a room full of people who don’t think I’m crazy!”

“When we first started, pesticides were not widely seen as a problem,”

recalls Sarojeni V. Rengam of PAN Asia & the Pacific. “PAN was instrumental in bringing that information to a wider public. Now, even institutions like the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Bank acknowledge that pesticides are a problem.”

PAN was not intended to be a multinational organization; it was a “multinational network and movement” without a headquarters, driven largely from the South, and unusual in that many of the leadership roles were held by women.

PAN provided an early example of “globalization from below,” growing into an effective force for positive change by working directly with the people most harmed by these chemicals—farm owners, farmworkers, small-town residents and city dwellers. Rengam notes that organic farming practices that promote biodiversity have shown unequivocally “that pesticides are not necessary for food production” and Farmer Field Schools have proven so successful in promoting



We need to create a new paradigm of development and happiness that can generate a three-dimensional peace—peace with ourselves, peace with other people and peace with Mother Earth. Little people doing little things in little places everywhere can change the world.”

— Anwar Fazal



PAN International meeting near Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, in 1986.

ecological alternatives that Asia's farmers "have reduced pesticide use by 60–80% without any drop in yields or income."

Today, PAN's network embraces more than 600 nongovernmental organizations, institutions and individuals in over 90 countries. Our major components are PAN Africa, PAN Asia & the Pacific, PAN Europe, PAN North America and Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas (RAP-AL, aka PAN Latin America). These five Regional Centers work together as PAN International to leverage the resources of allies on all six continents. The Regional Centers are currently located in the UK, Senegal, the U.S.

From the beginning, PAN put scientists together with grassroots movements to promote health and equity. Over the years, PAN and its expanding circle of allies have won numerous victories on local, regional, and national fronts while our joint international campaigns have reined-in dangerous practices and helped create new laws and safer standards worldwide. We are particularly concerned that pesticide exposure targets the most vulnerable—including the women and children who are forced to work in fields treated with hazardous chemicals.



PANNA's Monica Moore (second from right) prepares to testify at a Dirty Dozen Pesticides hearing in Washington, DC, in 1985.

From PIC to the "Dirty Dozen"

The founding meeting in Malaysia challenged the corporate globalization of the pesticide trade by devising the concept of Prior Informed Consent. PIC was designed to give importing nations access to critical information on dangerous pesticides. More importantly, it gave them the right to refuse such imports. A UN Consolidated List provided a good guide for identifying banned and restricted pesticides.

PAN's global partners gathered evidence supporting the need for Prior Informed Consent and used these findings to persuade the FAO to include the PIC standard in the International Pesticide Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. When U.S. and European pesticide-manufacturing countries blocked the plan, PAN increased its efforts to build public support for global pesticide reform. In 1987, the FAO finally adopted PIC within the voluntary Pesticide Code. PIC became international law in 1988 with the signing of the Rotterdam

Convention, which took full effect in 2004 and has been ratified by 117 countries to date.

On June 5, 1985, PAN launched the "Dirty Dozen" Campaign to win a global ban on 12 classes of pesticides that were particularly damaging in the Global South. The campaign debuted simultaneously in 40 countries (quite a feat in the days before the Internet).

In 1988, the campaign forced Ciba-Geigy to stop making chlordimeform, a carcinogenic Dirty Dozen pesticide. The Dirty Dozen campaign eventually contributed to the creation of the global 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the "POPs Treaty"), which requires a global phaseout of seven of the Dirty Dozen pesticides, including DDT. Due to unrelenting pressure by PAN and its allies, an eighth Dirty Dozen pesticide (lindane) will soon be added to the treaty's phaseout list and our latest Dirty Dozen campaign has led to endosulfan being nominated for consideration this year.

In the late 1980s and '90s, the PAN Asia & the Pacific and North America networks joined forces to expose the World Bank's dangerous pest management policies and forced the Bank to adopt least-toxic, Integrated Pest Management practices. NGOs and community groups in China, Indonesia and Mexico were subsequently trained to monitor pesticide use so they could demand safer alternatives from World Bank-sponsored agricultural development projects in their countries.

Today, our Regional Centers are collaborating on four major campaigns facilitated by international PAN working groups: Pesticides and Corporations, Genetically Engineered Crops, Peoples' Food Sovereignty, and Alternatives to Pesticides. A fifth working group on Community Based Monitoring is currently being formed.

"Genetic engineering is a major challenge," says former PAN UK Director Barbara Dinham. Thanks to the dramatic consolidation of the agrochemical industry, "we now have six companies with almost 80% of the market and those companies are the major players in genetic engineering."

The tightly focused, lightly structured, action-oriented network that began in Penang 25 years ago has become a far-reaching, tough and credible international network. Looking ahead to our next 25 years, PAN's goals remain unchanged: to eliminate the use of the most hazardous pesticides, promote safer alternatives, and to advance food sovereignty through community-based control over a healthy and sustainable food supply.



PAN Africa is an information and action network that teams with its members to raise awareness about the hazards of pesticide use in agriculture and disease vector control. PAN Africa promotes environmental protection and sustainable agriculture based on the sound management and development of local resources. We advance the understanding of complex questions arising from the indiscriminate use of pesticides at all levels of the society by gathering and widely disseminating essential information about methods, techniques and adapted local technologies that provide safe alternatives to hazardous and expensive chemical pesticides.

PAN Africa, the newest member of the PAN Regional Centres, has been based in Dakar, Senegal, since May 1996. It coordinates members' activities throughout the continent, working with partner organisations and individuals in Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The African Regional Centre publishes *Pesticides & Alternatives*, a bi-lingual French/English journal devoted to reporting on pesticide issues and alternatives to chemical pest control. We collect critical information through research and collaboration; create print and audiovisual materials to raise awareness of pesticide issues; organise workshops and training sessions; maintain an online databank on pesticides, sustainable agriculture and agroecology; and provide the Regional Documentation Centre with information on issues ranging from chemical risks and pesticide legislation to organic agriculture, Integrated Pest Management, and natural crop protection.

In collaboration with PAN Germany, PAN UK and *Stichting Natuur Milieu* (an NGO in the Netherlands), we have embarked on a three-year "Food and Fairness" program backed by the European Parliament to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers. The program will support safer, fairer and more sustainable agricultural production to meet the needs of European markets that are increas-



ingly demanding pesticide-free, organic produce. The program also will encourage European importers and supermarkets to support the small-scale African farmers who are making the transition to natural farming.

Backed by a 1.3 million euro grant from the European Union, PAN Africa is engaging local farmers and pesticide victims to monitor the use of dangerous chemicals. Our "Pesticides and Poverty" program is collaborating with local farmers and government agencies to watchdog the enforcement of the Rotterdam (PIC) Convention.

"These conventions are intended to help the poor farmers who suffer the most from pesticide 'collateral damage,'" says PAN Africa Director Abou Thiam. Moreover, it provides "a fantastic opportunity for farmers and international regulators to join forces."

We are active participants in the Africa Stockpiles Programme, an international effort that seeks the safe removal of tons of obsolete pesticides that lie abandoned across the continent.

PAN Africa's legislative goals include: informing the public, organisations and farmers about the risks of banned or restricted pesticides; circulating the FAO's code on pesticide distribution

and use; making regulatory and legislative texts more understandable for pesticide users; supporting consumer associations in dealing with pesticide issues; and working with authorities and interested individuals to implement strengthened health-positive legislation in Africa.

PAN Africa also conducts ongoing training sessions, workshops, field visits and information exchanges to promote greater understanding of Integrated Pest Management, biological controls, organic agriculture, natural crop protection and other proven practices designed to promote safe and affordable alternatives to pesticides.

PAN Africa, BP 15938 Dakar Fann, Sénégal,
www.pan-afrigue.org.

Eliminating Obsolete Pesticide Stockpiles in Africa

Eliminación de plaguicidas obsoletos en África

Pestizid-Altbestände in Afrika beseitigen

Elimination des stocks de pesticides obsolètes en Afrique

by Dr. Alassane Sarr, PAN Africa

DAKAR, SENEGAL — Over the past 40 years, more than 50.000 tonnes of obsolete pesticides have accumulated in Africa. These stockpiles (many containing highly toxic products including DDT, dieldrin and a host of Persistent Organic Pollutants) sit abandoned in every one of Africa's 53 nations, left untended in the open air or stored inappropriately near homes and villages.

Because the usable “shelf-life” of these chemicals is only a few years, unused barrels of chemicals quickly begin to accumulate and, eventually, the hazardous contents escape and threaten human health and the environment. The presence of dead cats, goats, birds and sheep around buildings is sometimes the first sign that deadly chemicals have begun to seep onto the ground and into the water. Animals that feed on contaminated land are sold for meat in marketplaces, adding to the toxins consumed by local people.

African countries do not have means to eliminate these obsolete pesticide stocks in an environmentally sound way. Because there are no incinerators on the continent that can handle these wastes safely, they must be shipped hundreds of miles to incinerators in Europe.

In 2000, PAN Africa, PAN UK and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)—with the support of other partners, including the World Bank and CropLife International—initiated the Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP), a global, multi-stake-



Collecting evidence. PAN UK's Stephanie Williamson finds a container of aerosol pesticide abandoned on the ground in Ethiopia.
Photo: Jane Worner, PAN UK



Taking inventory of toxic pesticides in Mozambique. Note the cardboard container used to store blocks of Klerat, a chemical rodenticide. Photo: Jane Worner, PAN UK

holder coalition of countries, NGOs, international bodies and private sector interests whose objective is to rid Africa of its obsolete chemical stockpiles and to prevent future build-ups.

The cost of containing, removing and disposing of these chemicals is anticipated to reach around \$3.500 per tonne. Based on this figure, the cleanup could cost as much as \$200 million. Another \$75 million budgeted for “preventative” measures could bring the total cost to well over a quarter-billion dollars. On September 8, 2005, the World Bank announced two Global Environment Facility grants—\$1.7 million for South Africa and \$4 million for Tunisia—representing the first contribution to the \$25 million needed to fund the initial stage of the cleanup.

Implementing the ASP will require participation by all the stakeholders, including NGOs that are explicitly recognized

as ASP partners. The ASP framework includes a Steering Committee, a national Project Management Unit, a Technical Support Unit, a Project Coordination Unit and a Crosscutting Activity Management Unit. PAN Africa, PAN UK and WWF are in charge of implementing the Crosscutting Activity Management Unit. The most critical aims include building NGO capacity, knowledge management and communication.

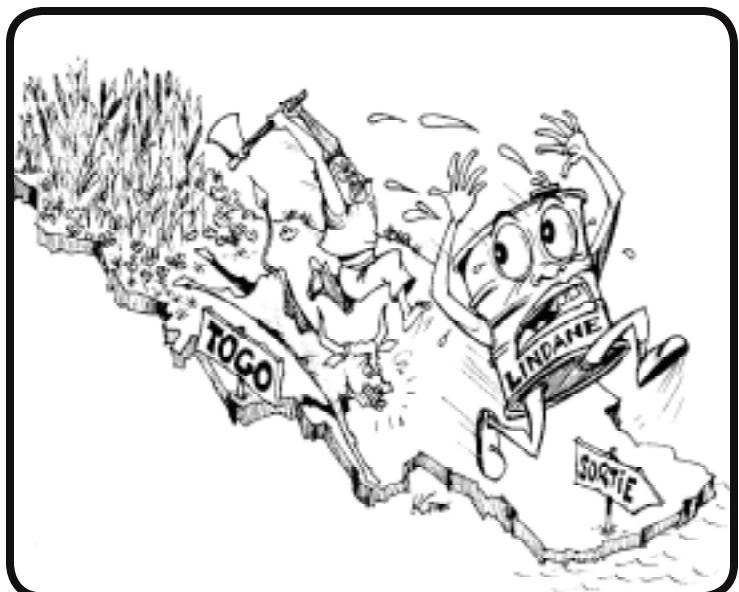
The programme will last up to 15 years and comprises successive stages lasting up to five years each. The first stage of the ASP cleanup began in 2006 with work in Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Tunisia. It is an immense challenge. In June 2005, the ASP reported that, "in nearly a decade of cleanup activity, less than 5% of the estimated stockpiles have been disposed of."

PAN Africa and PAN UK have been actively involved in the ASP since the start, helping to:

- Train NGOs to monitor pesticide impacts on health and on the environment,
 - Provide NGOs with essential pesticide management information,
 - Promote alternatives such as Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Pest and Production Management,
 - Carry out case studies on pesticide management problems,



Obsolete pesticides uncovered in Mozambique. ASP investigators in protective hazmat suits take stock of piles of corroding drums and decaying pallets stored on a bare dirt floor. Photo: Jane Worner, PAN UK



In June 2007, the World Bank's Africa Stockpiles Programme fund financed the publication of PAN Africa's 72-page collection of humorous, pesticide education cartoons created by the renowned artist Karim Gangué.

- Strengthen networks to support ASP efforts at national levels, and
 - Facilitate the effective involvement of national NGOs in implementing country-wide projects.

Since 2005, PAN Africa, PAN UK and partner NGOs have been working to share information at national and international meetings and at the local level. In order to make sure the message reaches some of the most remote regions of rural Africa, our educational outreach involves radio broadcasts, mobile cinemas and actors delivering pesticide warnings through live performances.

PAN Africa and other NGOs will continue to play a key role in raising awareness of pesticide-related hazards, while promoting alternatives to pesticide use, ensuring communication and following-up on disposal activities in the different countries.

As long as the international trade in pesticides continues to bring more shipments of these dangerous products to our shores, PAN Africa and its NGO partners will remain vigilant and deeply engaged in preventative activities designed to avoid future build-ups.

Alassane Sarr holds a doctorate in biology from the University of Rostock in Germany and teaches ecology and limnology at the Institut Universitaire de Pêche et d'Aquaculture at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar. Dr Sarr joined PAN Africa in 2002 where he is responsible for issues ranging from GMOs to obsolete pesticides.

Pesticides et pauvreté en Afrique

Pestizide und Armut in Afrika
 Plaguicidas y pobreza en África
 Pesticides and Poverty in Africa

par Henry René Diouf, PAN Afrique

DAKAR, SENEGAL — Depuis 2005, PAN Afrique, bénéficie avec PAN UK de l'appui financier de l'Union Européenne pour réaliser un projet international intitulé, «Pesticides et Pauvreté: Mise en œuvre des Conventions relatives aux pesticides pour un développement sain et équitable».

Le projet a pour objectif global d'aider les pays en développement à mettre efficacement en œuvre les instruments internationaux sur les produits chimiques dans le but de contribuer à l'intégration de la dimension environnementale dans les

priorités de développement et de promouvoir un développement sain et juste dans les zones rurales.

Pour ce faire, le projet se fixe comme objectifs spécifiques de:

- assister et soutenir les gouvernements dans la mise en œuvre des conventions internationales sur les produits chimiques et créer de nouvelles opportunités de collaboration entre les ONGs et les gouvernements dans la gestion des impacts négatifs des pesticides;
- aider au renforcement des cadres réglementaires nationaux et régionaux;
- promouvoir la coordination et les synergies entre les différentes initiatives nationales relatives à la gestion des pesticides;
- sensibiliser les ONGs et les Organisations de la Société Civile sur la nécessité et la pertinence de la mise en œuvre au niveau local des initiatives internationales relatives aux pesticides; et
- promouvoir les alternatives durables aux pesticides afin de réduire la dépendance des producteurs agricoles vis-à-vis aux pesticides dangereux.

L'assistance et le soutien apporté aux gouvernements dans la mise en œuvre des instruments internationaux ont consisté au renforcement des capacités des acteurs étatiques. Au Sénégal, le projet a organisé des ateliers qui ont permis de former les responsables régionaux de l'environnement sur les instruments internationaux sur les produits chimiques et les problématiques des pesticides. Ces activités ont été très bien appréciées par ces acteurs chargés du contrôle de l'utilisation des pesticides au niveau des zones rurales car elles leur ont permis de mieux connaître leur responsabilité dans la mise en œuvre de ces accords au niveau local et de pouvoir mieux prendre en charge les problèmes des pesticides. Le Directeur Régional de l'Environnement et des Etablissements Classés de Kolda (Sud-Ouest du Sénégal) a dit en ce sens: «les conventions peuvent, si elles sont mises en œuvre convenablement, contribuer dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et promouvoir une gestion écologiquement rationnelle des pesticides. PAN Afrique doit de ce point de vue, être félicité parce que les activités menées dans le cadre de ce projet aident à la mise en œuvre des



Travailleur agricole au Sénégal ne portant pas d'équipement de protection individuelle pendant la pulvérisation de pesticide organophosphoré.
 Photo: Barbara Dinham, PAN UK

conventions qui permettent ainsi de lutter contre la pauvreté. Le projet «Pesticides et pauvreté» représente un appui de taille pour le gouvernement».

Dans d'autres pays comme le Mali et le Togo, les Autorités Nationales Designées, d'autres acteurs gouvernementaux impliqués dans la mise en œuvre de la Convention de Rotterdam sur la procédure PIC et des membres de communautés utilisant beaucoup de pesticides ont été formés sur des méthodologies de suivi communautaire et de documentation des impacts des pesticides sur la santé des populations et le renseignement des formulaires de rapport d'incidents de la procédure PIC. Le résultat attendu de ces activités est la mise sur pied d'un projet de notification des formulations pesticides causant des problèmes dans ces communautés au Secrétariat de la Convention de Rotterdam en vue de leur inscription sur la liste PIC.

Le projet «Pesticide et Pauvreté» a contribué aussi au renforcement du cadre réglementaire de gestion des pesticides au Sénégal. Le Sénégal a ratifié plusieurs conventions internationales relatives aux pesticides (Bale, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Réglementation commune Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel), mais leur mise en œuvre reste difficile car les dispositions pertinentes de ces conventions n'ont pas été traduites dans l'arsenal juridique national relatif aux pesticides. De plus les textes juridiques nationaux légiférant les pesticides se caractérisent par des contradictions et ne prennent pas en charge toutes les étapes du cycle de vie des pesticides. Pour pallier ces manquements, le projet a initié, en collaboration avec la Commission Nationale de Gestion des Produits Chimiques, un processus multipartite de concertation et de mise en cohérence des textes législatifs et réglementaires sur les pesticides. Ce processus a aboutit à l'élaboration d'un projet de textes juridiques cohérents et applicables qui, en intégrant à la fois les préoccupations nationales et les engagements régionaux et internationaux du Sénégal, sont à même d'assurer une gestion écologiquement rationnelle des pesticides au Sénégal.

De même, plusieurs activités de sensibilisation et de renforcement des capacités des ONGs ont été menées afin de les permettre de mieux contribuer dans la gestion des pesticides et de mieux promouvoir la mise en œuvre au niveau local des conventions internationales sur les produits chimiques. C'est ainsi que des acteurs des ONG du Bénin, du Burkina Faso, du Cameroun, du Mali, du Maroc, du Sénégal, du Togo, de la Tunisie ont été formés sur les méthodes de suivi communautaire des impacts de pesticides sur la santé et de suivi



Une famille typique de producteurs de Haricot dans le village de Moglaa, District de Tolon-Kumbungu au Ghana. Stephanie Williamson, PAN UK (2001)

des impacts écotoxicologiques des pesticides, et ces ONGs ont pu bénéficier du soutien financier et technique du projet pour la réPLICATION de cette formation auprès des communautés afin de leur permettre elles aussi de contribuer à la mise en œuvre de ces instruments.

Une autre des réalisations majeures du projet «Pesticide et Pauvreté» est l'accompagnement de producteurs de coton de Vélingara (Sud-Ouest du Sénégal) afin de leur permettre d'utiliser la méthode de Lutte Intégrée contre les Déprédateurs (LID). En effet, après être formés par PAN Afrique durant quatre années sur la méthode LID, les producteurs avaient souhaité être accompagnés afin de pouvoir appliquer les connaissances acquises en plein champ. C'est dans ce cadre que 8 producteurs accompagnés par le projet produisent du coton avec la méthode LID. Les champs de ces producteurs se présentent bien et l'exploitation des résultats de cette expérience pourrait déboucher sur des perspectives très intéressantes pour les producteurs de coton du Sénégal.

Henry René Diouf, Chargé de Programmes, PAN-Afrique, henrydiouf@pan-afrigue.org.

In its 14 years of existence as an independent organisation, PAN AP has grown and gained strength by forging links with grassroots movements throughout Asia. Currently, PAN AP has 108 partner groups in the Asia-and-the-Pacific region and more than 390 PAN AP participants. PAN AP is active in Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam.



Starting out as an adjunct of the International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU), with an office comprised of one person and one table, the region gradually saw the birth of PAN AP when, on November 1, 1991, PAN AP left the IOCU to create its own structure and programmes. PAN AP has now become an autonomous, efficiently functioning, and visible regional organisation.

Today, PAN AP is still in that ever-evolving process of carving out a unique niche in the regional arena. PAN AP envisions a society that is truly democratic, equal, just, culturally diverse, based on food sovereignty, gender justice and environmental sustainability. It honours participatory and holistic principles and believes in: the power of partnerships; the need to confront social injustice and global inequities; and the protection of biodiversity and traditional, indigenous knowledge systems. We see the Earth as one interdependent living system.

From the beginning, the empowerment of women has been a conscious effort within PAN AP staff, its programmes, and its network. PAN AP has worked systematically to ensure women's involvement throughout our projects and activities. PAN AP fought hard for equal representation of grassroots women from Asia in various national and global fora. PAN AP has, as its core, women's movements and groups that are strong on issues of gender equality.

Apart from PAN AP's contribution in strengthening peasants' and women's movements, PAN AP



has been recognised for developing grassroots-based campaigns like the Community Pesticide Action Monitoring (CPAM) program. Developed as a tool for grassroots documentation of the impact of pesticides on community health, CPAM not only documents hazards but it also actively organises communities to take action against pesticides. The training workshops have inspired effective action plans that are now being implemented. PAN AP and its facilitators have improved information-sharing and training methodologies to be easily adapted to different situations and cultures.

The experiences shared by communities, the local knowledge gained from these interactions, and the collaborative work with partner groups have enhanced PAN AP's policy advocacy work as it aims to influence government policies and regulations at the national and international level. Its

research agenda has provided deeper analysis and perspectives on policy issues. On December 1, PAN AP will be publishing Dr. Meriel Watts' *Pesticides and Breast Cancer*, an important book that links the disease to commonly used pesticides. All PAN AP programs—from the Peoples Caravan for Food Sovereignty to the Save Our Rice Campaign—aim at generating and collating information with the full participation of communities and partner groups.

The WHO estimates that three million people are victims of pesticide poisoning every year—and that 200,000 of them die. But, too often, developing countries don't have the resources to monitor these poisonings, so they can't prove that the pesticides cause them."

— Sarojeni V. Rengam, PAN AP

Overall, PAN AP's work continues to provide impetus to improve the lives of marginalised communities. PAN AP will continue to mobilize and network to strengthen movements that empower communities for change while advancing the goals of food sovereignty, ecological sustainability and gender justice.

PAN Asia & the Pacific, PO Box 1170, 10850 Penang, Malaysia, www.panap.net.

The People's Caravan for Food Sovereignty

Die Bürgerbewegung für Nahrungsmittelsouveränität
 La Caravana de los Pueblos para la Soberanía Alimentaria
 La caravane des peuples pour la souveraineté alimentaire

by Sarojeni V. Rengam, PAN AP

PENANG, MALAYSIA — Food sovereignty, which has become a central part of the struggle for people's empowerment, was first placed on the global agenda at the 2002 Forum for Food Sovereignty in Rome, which clearly established the people's fundamental right to determine the food and agricultural policies that affect their lives. This includes the right to control food production, the right to safe, culturally appropriate food, and the freedom to practice sustainable food production.

Food sovereignty respects gender justice by recognising women's rights to economic and political equality. Food sovereignty requires that food meets the highest environmental, social and health standards—free of pesticides and genetically modified ingredients—and calls on governments to adopt policies that promote sustainable, community-based farming over industry-led, high-input, export-oriented production.

Food sovereignty was first developed by Latin American peasant organizations and Via Campesina, the international peasants' movement, to challenge the neoliberal premise that global markets and "free trade" offer the only solution to global food insecurity. Food sovereignty promotes small-scale, low-input farming and the local consumption of locally grown food.

Save Our Rice: A Week of Rice Action 2007 ■

In Asia, rice is life. Rice is not only the staple food of Asia, it is also Asia's most political crop. In 2004, in response to serious threats against rice (ranging from transnational agreements to "patent" traditional rice to the introduction of genetically engineered seeds), PAN AP formed the Save Our Rice Campaign to celebrate and preserve rice culture. The Campaign, which is guided by a Rice Advisory Council that includes representatives from 13 Asian countries, is built on five pillars—rice culture, community wisdom, biodiversity-based ecological agriculture, safe food, and food sovereignty. Since its inception, the Campaign has made a substantial impact in terms of policy work, networking, and outreach. It has challenged the corporate agenda and gained positive recognition among network groups.

The Week of Rice Action (WORA) was designed to publicize the threats to rice and small rice farmers, especially from genetically engineered rice and corporate agriculture. WORA's call to "Celebrate and Protect Rice Culture" was a resounding success. Held from March 29 to April 4, WORA 2007 featured a mass mobilization of more than one million people in 13 countries across Asia who endorsed a "People's Statement on Saving the Rice of Asia."



Land battles can turn deadly. Bullets barely missed the feet of Noralyn Galan, three months pregnant, when she tried to prevent guards from confiscating farmers' hand tractors in Mindinao in the Philippines. Families had been evicted from their farms by the landowner, the Central Mindanao University. Photo: PAN AP

The People's Caravan

The 2004 People's Caravan for Food Sovereignty provided a dramatic demonstration of the power of this inspiring people's movement by uniting hundreds of organizations in a call for "Land and Food without Poisons." Three years ago, thousands of men, women and children traveled through 12 countries, crossing cultures, languages and political ideologies. The resulting interactions with local communities have enriched grassroots solidarity between organizations, advocacy groups and individuals.

In November 2000, PAN AP (together with 14 grassroots organizations and Asian NGOs) embarked on the first People's Caravan (PC 2000). United by the theme "Citizens on the Move for Land and Food Without Poison," leaders from peasant's, women's, indigenous and other grassroots groups and NGOs took part in a 17-day journey that covered 2,500 km (1,553 miles), visiting 200 villages in India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, Korea and Japan.

PC 2000's message reached almost 50,000 people and proved to be a powerful tool for mobilizing the people to resist the monopolistic control of agriculture by transnational agrochemical companies,

whose profit-driven promotion of pesticides and genetic engineering not only threatens human life and the environment, but also increases food insecurity and endangers the future survival of landless peasant farmers.

PAN AP, working with hundreds of groups, helped organise the second People's Caravan (PC 2004). One of the region's most exciting, successful and productive grassroots events, the Caravan reached more than a million people in 13 Asian countries, traveling more than 20.000 km (12.427 miles) on a 30-day journey that engaged more than 500 local movements of peasants, agricultural workers, fisher-folk and indigenous peoples, as well as NGOs and their networks.

Food Sovereignty: Around the World

Africa

During the First World Forum on Food Sovereignty—held in Mali from February 23–27, 2007—500 representatives from more than 80 countries endorsed the Nyéléni Declaration on Food Sovereignty (named in honor of a legendary African woman farmer). At a three-day International Conference of Food Sovereignty held in Nepal this August, delegates endorsed the Kathmandu Declaration, which spells out a framework for achieving agrarian reforms and assuring peasants' rights.

www.nyeleni2007.org

Latin America

In July 2007, RAP-AL organized a global seminar in Buenos Aires on "Recreating Roads for Discussion and Action to Achieve our Food Sovereignty." Key issues were: the state and food sovereignty; the impacts of pesticides on food sovereignty; GE crops, monocultures and food sovereignty; social movements and food sovereignty. Participants included RAP-AL Cono Sur (Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay), CETAAR Argentina, Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria, Instituto de Desarrollo Tecnológico para la Pequeña Agricultura Familiar Pampeana de Argentina, organic growers and peasant groups from Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina.

North America

The food sovereignty movement is also beginning to take hold in the Global North. PAN North America has joined farmworkers in their efforts to improve labor standards by introducing a Domestic Fair Trade (DFT) label for food grown and sold within the U.S. The DFT label would establish high social justice standards for farmworkers, farmers, and consumers in the production of healthy, sustainably grown food. In 2007, PANNA participated in a farmworker conference that formulated guidelines for the development of a DFT label. PANNA is a member of the newly formed Domestic Fair Trade Association.

The month-long Caravan kicked off in Malaysia, then travelled through the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, China, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and 12 states in India. To build solidarity and broaden its reach, Belgium, France and Germany were added to the itinerary. The Caravan became one of the biggest coordinated social movement actions in years.

To further the Caravan's message—"Food Sovereignty: Assert Our Rights to Land and Food"—the organizers drew attention to the global food crisis by using the Caravan to stage symposiums, rallies, demonstrations, cultural events, food festivals, seed exchanges, and concerts filled with inspiring songs of resistance and celebration. A public hearing on starvation deaths was also organised. (The life-and-death nature of regional power struggles was vividly demonstrated when several members of the Caravan were briefly taken hostage at gunpoint by Maoist rebels in Nepal.)

The four-week trek ended in Nepal on September 29 with a two-day celebration that provided a fitting climax to a historic outcry for food sovereignty, land and food rights, and an end to imperialist globalization and corporate control.

Thanks to the People's Caravan, food sovereignty has been placed on several national agendas and activists are fighting for its implementation around the world. Nepal recently enshrined food sovereignty as a fundamental right in the country's interim constitution and Nepalese groups are campaigning for adoption of a model law that acknowledges the right to food. In Mongolia, a workshop on food sovereignty—organized with leaders of grassroots organizations, NGOs, government agencies and political parties—has called for the recognition of food sovereignty as a fundamental human right.

PAN AP's Food Sovereignty Programme continues to organise national and regional training workshops and has produced a primer on food sovereignty that has been translated into many languages. The Programme supports the struggles of local communities through Fact Finding Missions that mobilize public support on critical issues. So far, the missions have highlighted the extrajudicial killings of peasants in the Philippines; the land-grabbing West Bengal government's dispossession of poor peasants; the social, health and environmental damage wrought by industrial aquaculture on the Dalits in Tamil Nadu; and the theft of land from Mindanao rice farmers in the Philippines. All of the Fact Finding Missions have succeeded in creating positive impacts.

Women and Pesticides in Agriculture

Femmes et pesticides en agriculture
Mujeres y plaguicidas en la agricultura
Frauen und Pestizide in der Landwirtschaft

by Sarojeni V. Rengam, PAN AP

MALAYSIA — With the continued use of pesticides in Asia & the Pacific, the most vulnerable people are the women and children fieldworkers who face the greatest risk of exposure. Women from the South produce more than half of the world's food but they have always been the most invisible and lowest-paid farmers, doing the most strenuous and hazardous work—including pesticide spraying.

A 1991 PAN AP survey on women and pesticides (conducted through interviews with mostly women farmers and plantation workers) revealed that although they routinely came into direct contact with highly toxic pesticides in their work, most were unaware of the adverse effects of pesticides, could not read the labels nor follow instructions, and did not use protective clothing.

In response, PAN AP embarked upon a Women and Pesticides Training and Education Programme that included training workshops, community

monitoring projects and research studies focusing on women and pesticides.

Three years into the programme, PAN AP realized that women-and-pesticide issues could not be tackled without addressing the serious and systematic discrimination and oppression of women. In many countries, women's subordinate positions in the community

and family, their low self-esteem as well as their lack of awareness did not encourage any expression or assertion of their rights. Consequently, in 1997, PAN AP inaugurated the Women in Agriculture Programme, which focused on the need to address the invisibility of women in the farming and plantation sectors. The goal was to support women's empowerment as a means of achieving more just and equitable lives for the region's women.

Women from the South produce more than half of the world's food but they have always been the most invisible and lowest-paid farmers, doing the most strenuous and hazardous work—including pesticide spraying.

From subsequent evaluations of the problem, it became clear that, in order to reduce and eliminate pesticides, PAN AP had to actively promote alternatives to pesticides and, in particular, the practice of sustainable agriculture.

As a result, PAN AP embarked on an ambitious project to gather and distribute essential information on sustainable agriculture while, at the same time, organizing farmer exchanges and training workshops in sustainable farming.



In Kerala, India, a child named Shruti was born with multiple deformities due to endosulfan exposure. Now a teenager, she is a community activist and an anti-pesticide campaigner.

A Kerela en Inde, une enfant nommée Shruti a été estropiée suite à une exposition à l'Endosulfan. Adolescente aujourd'hui, elle est activiste au sein de la communauté et militante contre les pesticides.

In Keral, Indien, wurde ein Kind, das Shruti genannt wurde, durch Belastung durch Endosulfan verkrüppelt. Jetze ein Jugendlicher, ist sie ein Gemeinschaftsaktivisten und ein Anti-Pestiziden Mitkämpfer geworden.

En Kerala, India, una niña llamada Shruti nació con malformaciones congénitas a causa de la exposición a endosulfan. Ahora ella es un adolescente y se ha convertido en una activista comunitaria muy comprometida con la campaña contra los plaguicidas.



Action on Pesticides

Aktionen gegen Pestizide

Action sur les pesticides

Acción sobre los plaguicidas

by Sarojeni V. Rengam, PAN AP

MALAYSIA — PAN AP's core activity, the Pesticide Programme, remains focused on four main strategies: local empowerment through community-based pesticide monitoring; policy research and advocacy; campaigning on targeted pesticides; and institutional strengthening. Over the past 12 years, this work evolved into the Community-based Pesticide Action Monitoring (CPAM) programme, a comprehensive tool for awareness-building and community empowerment. CPAM delivers valuable documentation for networking and advocacy work at national and international levels. CPAM is a participatory endeavour that relies on community members to undertake research, thereby encouraging local organizing and action.

PAN AP's work on pesticides includes compiling educational materials and translating the informa-

tion into many languages. We also train CPAM facilitators, support local communities and NGOs, and feed relevant information into national and international campaigns. Recently, PAN AP has begun working with African groups that are interested in adapting the CPAM methodology for local use.

Pesticide dangers in developing countries have gained wider recognition over the years and are now being addressed through international policy initiatives. PAN AP, in part via the global PAN network, has been involved in the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention. PAN AP has actively participated in the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and the United Nations Environment Programme-sponsored Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. PAN AP has incorporated aspects of the UN FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides into CPAM and has used this framework to monitor the pesticide industry throughout our region.

There have been many successes in the community struggles against pesticides. For example, "Poisoned and Silenced" (a report by Tenaganita, a workers' rights organization and one of PAN AP's partners) exposed the impacts of paraquat on the health of Malaysian plantation workers. This contributed to the banning of paraquat in Malaysia (a policy that has yet to be fully implemented). The recent ban on aerial spraying in Davao, Mindanao, owes its existence to the consistent, hard work of PAN Philippines and its partners. It was community monitoring by Vikalpani (the National Women's Federation, another PAN partner) that identified paraquat as a key problem pesticide in Sri Lanka, prompting concerted efforts to get it banned. In India, PAN partner Thanal (the Public Interest Research, Advocacy, Education and Action Trust) worked closely with the residents of Kerala's Kasargod communities to wage a court battle that won compensation for the ill-effects suffered from 20 years of exposure to endosulfan. This toxic pesticide is now banned in Kerala and the Kerala State government is providing health support and compensation to the many victims of endosulfan poisoning.

Sarojeni V. Rengam is Executive Director of PAN Asia & the Pacific.

What Lies Ahead for PAN AP? ■

In the months ahead, PAN AP will focus on consolidating its network even further by strengthening its Women's Programme, giving additional focus to the issues of marginalized rural women and paving a new agenda for gender justice. One way of doing this will be via the Rural Women's Conference, which will be held March 6–8, 2008 in Tamil Nadu, India. At this gathering, 1,000 women will raise their voices against corporate agriculture, globalization, fundamentalism, militarization, violence, and all forms of discrimination.

PAN AP will continue our work to eliminate highly toxic pesticides. PAN AP's "Fatal 44" campaign will target 44 pesticides known to cause acute and chronic health effects. These 44 pesticides are symbolic of the multitude of poisonous pesticides easily available in the world today. PAN AP's Save Our Rice Campaign will continue working with the Week of Rice Action with an increased focus on genetically engineered rice. And we will continue our efforts to establish food sovereignty as a fundamental right that is recognized not only at the national level but also at the international level.

We expect PAN AP's role in the region to become increasingly important because of the economic and political forces that will be at play throughout Asia in the near and distant future. It is imperative that we remain rooted to the struggles of local communities and focused on addressing current issues within the sphere of our vision and mission.

PAN Europe (PANEU) was founded in 1987 and is jointly facilitated by PAN Germany and PAN UK. The PAN Europe network includes consumer, public health and environmental organisations, trade unions, women's groups, development and sustainable farming groups and farmer associations. We have more than 50 European partner organizations. Our campaign for Pesticide Use Reduction in Europe is supported by 91 organisations in 30 European countries.

The European Union food chain is contaminated with 324 pesticide residues, many known to harm human health. Half of the EU's fruits and vegetables contain pesticide residues. PAN Europe's focus since 1999 has involved advocating for strong and binding European legislation for pesticide reduction. The EU's new policy framework on pesticides offers a unique opportunity to push for a progressive pesticide-elimination policy covering all 27 EU countries.

Pesticide Action Network UK

PAN UK works nationally and internationally with like-minded groups and individuals to eliminate pesticide hazards. We publish independent research on pesticides for governments, decision-makers, researchers, trade unions, public-interest groups, the media, academics, educational bodies and concerned citizens.

The UK has particularly weak pesticide regulations. Currently, there is no requirement to create buffer zones around residential properties when spraying, nor is there a requirement to notify residents before spraying. PAN UK has been working with PAN Europe to create EU-wide pesticide legislation that provides greater protection for human health and the environment.

PAN UK helps small-scale farmers in developing countries demonstrate the viability of organic production as economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound. We are working with partner organisations to eliminate stockpiles of obsolete pesticides stored across Africa. PAN UK is collaborating with

Pestizid Aktions-Netzwerk e.V.

PAN Germany was founded in 1984 to coordinate campaigns against the misuse of pesticide and to broaden the adoption of non-chemical alternatives. PAN Germany concentrates on pesticide use, healthy food, worldwide hunger, agriculture, genetic engineering, and household pesticides.

PAN Germany works at the national, European and international level. At the national level, PAN Germany was one of the key players involved in develop-

PAN Europe kick-started the debate in 2002 by publishing its own suggested text for an EU Directive on Pesticide Use. In 2005, two of our safety recommendations were incorporated into the EU Directive. In 2006, we opened an office in Brussels to counteract the influence of the agrochemical lobby. This summer, PANEU launched a special Paraquat Watch web section to monitor the rapidly changing legal status of this Dirty Dozen herbicide. We are currently preparing NGO members to play a key role in the National Action Plan steering committees in 2008.

PAN Europe, Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4JX, www.pan-europe.info.



farmers, designers and merchants to increase the demand for organic cotton in the European market.

Our Pesticide Exposure project database provides essential information about the negative health effects of pesticides. Our website features advice about controlling pests in the home and garden without hazardous chemicals and identifies the foods most frequently contaminated with chemicals and pesticide residues. PAN UK publishes the quarterly *Pesticides News*, shares peer-reviewed research through our *Current Research Monitor* (and its related Web-based research site www.pesticidelibrary.org), and hosts the annual Rachel Carson Memorial Lecture.

PAN UK, Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4JX, www.pan-uk.org.



ing a German pesticide use-reduction program and is now working for the implementation of this program. PAN Germany supports PAN Europe's call for strong Europe-wide pesticide legislation that acknowledges transparency, public participation and the Precautionary Principle.

At the regional level, PAN Germany began working with organisations in Central and Eastern European Countries, after the fall of the Berlin





Wall, to initiate monitoring of pesticides and press for transition to sustainable non-chemical alternatives. On the global level, PAN Germany supports implementation of the FAO's International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, the most comprehensive global set of rules for handling pesticides.

PAN Germany is working to encourage the transition to safer pest management for farmers in the tropics and sub-tropics through our Online Information Service for Non-chemical Pest Management in the Tropics (OISAT). PAN Germany publishes an *Organic Cotton Circular* and works with members of the Ethical Trading Initiative to educate the public about the advantages of choosing merchandise made from organic cotton.

PAN Germany, Nernstweg 32, D-22765 Hamburg, Germany,
www.pan-germany.org.

Der Ausweitung des Pestizideinsatzes in Mittel- und Osteuropa entgegentreten

Resisting Pesticides in Central and Eastern Europe

Résister aux pesticides en Europe Centrale et de l'Est

Resistencia a los plaguicidas en Europa Central y Oriental

by Susanne Smolka, Pestizid Aktions-Netzwerk e.V. (PAN Germany)

HAMBURG, DEUTSCHLAND — Der Zusammenbruch der Sowjetunion Anfang der 1990er Jahre führte zunächst zu einem Kollaps politischer und wirtschaftlicher Strukturen in den ehemaligen Ostblockstaaten. In der Landwirtschaft wurden vielerorts die großen Staatsbetriebe stillgelegt, zerteilt

und privatisiert. Ein gefährliches Erbe dieser Entwicklung sind große Bestände von obsoleten Pestiziden. Die Lager sind oft ungesichert, marode und nur zum Teil in einem Inventar erfasst. Von PAN Germany unterstützte Umfragen in der Ukraine und Bulgarien belegen ein hohes Maß an Unkenntnis bei der Landbevölkerung zu den Risiken dieser Altpestizide. Es ist nicht unüblich, sich aus den Lagerbeständen frei zu bedienen. Die Gesamtmenge wird auf 233–249 tausend Tonnen in der Region Osteuropas bis nach Zentralasien geschätzt. Besonders stark betroffen sind Russland und die Ukraine.

Der Zusammenbruch führte auch dazu, dass die Anwendung von Pestiziden sehr teuer wurde. So liegt zur Zeit der Pestizideinsatz in Mittel- und Osteuropa (MOE) noch wesentlich niedriger, als in Westeuropa. Mit dem EU-Beitritt von 10 MOE-Staaten ist es jedoch nur eine Frage der Zeit, bis sich der Einsatz von Pestiziden angleichen wird. Die MOE-Staaten hätten derzeit die Chance, die möglichen negativen Folgen eines hoch industrialisierten Pestizideinsatzes wie in Westeuropa durch gut geplante Minimierungsmaßnahmen zu



Gemeinsame Aufräumaktion eines Altpestizidlagers mit Dorfbewohnern und lokalen Behörden in der Ukraine, organisiert von der NGO Sustainable Development and Ecological Research Center Dovkylla. Foto: PAN Germany

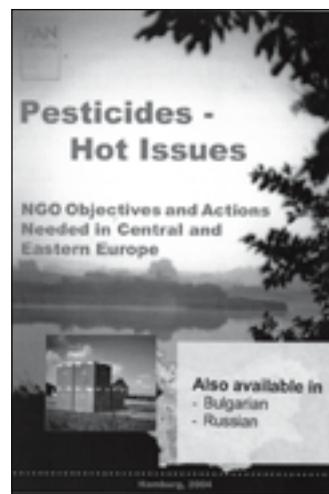
vermeiden, andererseits verzeichnet der Pestizidmarkt in der Region MOE bereits seit Jahren die größten Zuwachsraten weltweit.

Nur langsam entwickelten sich in den 1990er Jahren in den MOE-Staaten Vertretungen der Umwelt- und Verbraucherschutzinteressen. Mit finanzieller Unterstützung des Sigrid Rausing Trusts konnte PAN Germany seit 2001 gezielt NGOs bei ihrem Aufbau der Arbeit zu Pestizidrisiken und Alternativen unterstützen. Schnell wurden aus ersten Kontakten gemeinsame Aktivitäten und es zeigte sich, dass in der Anfangsphase vor allem Plattformen zum direkten Austausch dringend nötig waren. Wichtig war zudem, Informationen über den Pestizideinsatz in MOE-Staaten erst einmal zu recherchieren, zu dokumentieren und diese dann in verschiedene MOE-Sprachen zu übersetzen. Als sehr hilfreich erwiesen und erweisen sich die von PAN Germany koordinierten kleinen nationalen NGO-Projekte, die durch den Sigrid Rausing Trust, den Global Greengrant Fund und andere Geldgeber finanziert werden und dazu beitragen, das NGO-Netzwerk zu stärken, weiter auszubauen und zu entwickeln.

Zu den Arbeitsschwerpunkten zählten zunächst die Abschätzung des Status Quo, die Sensibilisierung der Öffentlichkeit bezüglich der Pestizidaltlasten und gezielte Informationskampagnen über die Risiken des Pestizideinsatzes für die Landbevölkerung. Forderungen nach der Implementierung des FAO Verhaltenskodex zur Verbreitung und Anwendung von Pestiziden wurden gestellt, Marktstrukturen der biologischen Landwirtschaft verbessert und begonnen, ein kritisches Monitoring bezüglich der Implementierung von EU-Gesetzgebungen, z.B. bei Rückstandskontrollen, durchzuführen.



Eine Mitarbeiterin der NGO National Movement Priately na Zemiata spricht mit bulgarischen Landfrauen und verteilt Informationsmaterialien zu Pestizidrisiken und ihrer Vermeidung. Foto: PAN Germany



Insgesamt hat PAN Germany mehr als 35 Projekte in 12 MOE-Ländern initiiert und unterstützt: in Polen, Ungarn, Tschechien, Slowakei, Litauen, Slowenien, Bulgarien, Rumänien, Mazedonien, Armenien, Russland, Weißrussland und in der Ukraine. Es wurden sieben Workshops in fünf Ländern sowie strategische Planungstreffen organisiert und rund 40 Broschüren und Fact Sheets veröffentlicht. Erfreulich ist, dass die Initiativen in MOE-Ländern zunehmend in die PAN Europe Arbeit integriert werden. Ein Drittel der PAN Europe Mitgliedsgruppen sind inzwischen aus MOE und zwei Vorstandsmitglieder stammen aus dieser Region.

Nach der sechsjährigen Phase des Aufbaus von Kapazitäten nimmt die Arbeit jetzt einen anderen Charakter an, weil viele NGOs in MOE inzwischen an Prozessen der Pestizidpolitik aktiv teilnehmen. Ziel der aktuellen Arbeit ist (wie in Westeuropa auch), in den neuen EU-Mitgliedstaaten die Entwicklung von Nationalen Aktionsplänen zur Pestizidreduktion gemäß einer neuen EU-Rahmenrichtlinie durchzusetzen und die aktive Beteiligung von NGOs an diesem Prozess sicherzustellen.

Susanne Smolka ist Biologin. Sie koordiniert das PAN Germany Projekt "Aufbau von Kapazitäten in Mittel- und Osteuropa".

Promoting Organic Cotton: From Field to Fashion

Bio-Baumwolle fördern: Vom Feld zum Design

Promouvoir le coton biologique: du champ à la mode

Promoción del algodón orgánico: Del campo al mundo de la moda

by Alexandra Perschau, PAN Germany and Damien Sanfilippo, PAN UK

HAMBURG, GERMANY — Originally established as a network of regional organizations dedicated to ending the hazards of pesticide use and misuse, PAN's agenda gradually evolved to include the promotion of practical and safe alternatives to pesticides. Cotton became a focus of PAN's concern following research in the 1980s that revealed cotton to be the main non-food crop being treated with the largest quantities of the most toxic pesticides. According to "The Deadly Chemicals in Cotton," a joint study by PAN UK and the Environmental Justice Foundation, \$2.6 billion worth of pesticides—more than 10% of the world's pesticides and nearly 25% of the world's insecticides—are poured on the world's cotton crops each year. Cotton growers typically use some of the most hazardous pesticides including aldicarb, phorate, methamidophos and endosulfan.

Since the early 1990s, PAN Germany and PAN UK have played a key role in promoting the organic cotton movement. Today, thanks in part to PAN's efforts, organic cotton has moved from being a small, struggling niche market and has blossomed into the commercial mainstream with a growing market connected to an ever-increasing number of stakeholders. The British market for organic cotton products has grown nearly ten-fold since 2002 and is expected to generate more than 75 million euros in sales before year's end. Organic cotton is now grown in 24 countries around the world.



Exhibition at PAN UK's 2006 Rachel Carson Memorial Lecture, "Farmers and Fashion: From Harvest to High Street". Photo: PAN UK

Throughout this transformation, PAN has served as a source of reliable, independent information on cotton pesticides, documenting the impacts of pesticide use on the livelihoods—and lives—of farmers and their families, on animals and the environment.

Collaboration with stakeholders on pesticide and organic cotton issues has been a crucial part of PAN's activities in Europe. PAN Germany and PAN UK have created effective networks and working groups in several countries of the European Union. In the future, both PAN Germany and PAN UK will engage in more active international collaborations with other PAN Regional Centres and their constituent organisations—extending contacts with PAN Africa, PAN Asia & the Pacific and PAN Latin America—to share experience and information.

PAN's work on promoting the acceptance of organic cotton has involved providing basic information about this promising new fibre alternative to the marketplace—to the public, to shops and merchants and to individuals interested in starting their own organic-cotton businesses. PAN Germany and PAN UK have taken a lead role in educating consumers about ethical consumption issues as they apply to textiles and clothing. It is critically important to reach young people and students if we are to create a favourable climate for organic cotton companies to become visible, to be acknowledged and to prosper.



An organic cotton farmer from the Mangassa village, Benin. Photo: Barbara Dinham, PAN UK (1999)

PAN UK's "Wear Organic" campaign, begun in 1994, has produced a useful guide to organic cotton purchases ("My Sustainable T-Shirt") that untangles the flurry of new marketplace labels to help shoppers make intelligent choices when selecting truly sustainable, organic and fair-trade textiles. PAN UK's "Consumer Guide and Directory" identifies 120 brands of organic cotton products for sale in 150 retail stores and 170 online shops in the UK. The Information Resource Centre contains "everything you need to know about cotton and sustainability" with PAN UK's "Practical Guide to Organic Cotton" and more than 50 reports, books, directories and videos—including a DVD called "Moral Fibre" that depicts the positive impact of organic cotton on the lives of farmers in Benin.

PAN is much appreciated for its on-the-ground understanding of farming and pesticides related issues, its participation in key projects and its publication of findings, serious data gathering efforts and inclusive forum-building activities. It is even more appreciated because of its independence. The work that PAN Germany and PAN UK do is absolutely vital."

— William Lana, co-director of Greenfibres, a pioneer organic cotton company, December 2006

from collaboration with PAN Africa and organizations in Benin and Senegal. PAN groups in other regions, particularly PAN Peru (RAAA), also have robust organic cotton programs.

The transition to organic cotton is boosted through an online Organic Cotton Directory (www.organiccottondirectory.net) that was developed collaboratively with PAN North America in the late 1990s and has been hosted by PAN Germany since 2003. Noting that farmers will only convert to organic production if there is sufficient demand, this database is designed to connect conscious shoppers to ethical retailers and producers and presents almost 750 addresses from stakeholders involved in the organic cotton value chain around the globe.

PAN Germany and PAN UK will continue to encourage agro-biodiversity through the support for organic cotton while, at the same time, working to reduce dependency on cotton, a commodity that consumes vast amounts of water (on an increasingly water-short planet) and suffers from fluctuating world-market prices. PAN's long-term strategy involves convincing companies and consumers to adopt a holistic view on agricultural production.

Alexandra Perschau is PAN Germany's Organic Cotton Project Coordinator. Damien Sanfilippo is PAN UK's International Cotton Project Officer.



PAN UK's organic cotton stand at the Organic Food Festival in Bristol, England. Photo: PAN UK

Pesticide Action Network and Alternatives for Latin America and the Caribbean (Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas) was created in June 1983 at the First Latin American Pesticide Workshop in Tlaxcala, Mexico. RAP-AL's twin goals—to reduce and eliminate pesticide use while encouraging a transition to socially fair, sustainable and sound agriculture practices—are driven by three tragic and emblematic incidents.

The first occurred on November 25, 1967, in Chiquinquirá, Colombia, when 61 children and 27 adults died after eating bread contaminated with parathion. Then, in 1999, 24 children died in Tauccamarca, Peru, poisoned by the same pesticide. More recently, on January 1, 2003, a poor family in Itapúa, Paraguay, was doused with Roundup (glyphosate) and cypermethrin sprayed on a nearby field of GE soy. The entire family was sickened and the youngest, 11-year-old Silvino Talavera, died.

RAP-AL is a nonprofit network of more than 300 organizations representing three sub-regions—Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, the Andean

Region, and the Southern Cone. RAP-AL's members include 600 individuals from 18 Latin American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela. Over the years, our Regional Coordination Centres have been located in Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and Chile.

RAP-AL practices democratic and collaborative work and organization at all levels—national, sub-regional, and regional. Each year, a Regional Assembly meets to define RAP-AL's policies and frameworks for action. The three sub-regional coordinators elect a Regional Coordinator who serves a two- or four-year term. Regional Coor-

dination currently is based in Cali, Colombia. In 2008–2009, the Regional Coordinator will be based in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

RAP-AL members work in partnership with social and environmental organizations to raise awareness about the harmful impacts of pesticide use and genetically engineered (GE) crops on ecosystems and human health. Communities affected by pesticides receive RAP-AL's technical support and active solidarity. Because of our commitment to protect biodiversity and promote agroecology, RAP-AL strongly opposes GE crops and agrofuels.

RAP-AL carries out research, outreach, and capacity-building programs while our network members promote ecological alternatives and community-based initiatives—such as the increasingly popular native-seed-exchange fairs. RAP-AL offers a number of videos, maintains a Spanish-language Pesticide Database, constantly updates its website and publishes *Enlace*, a quarterly magazine.

Finally, there is cause for hope in Silvino Talavera's case. Thanks to the efforts of numerous peasants, environmental, women's and human rights organizations, the two powerful landowners who ordered the deadly spraying (to protect fields of GE soybeans) were ordered to stand trial. They were found guilty of homicide—the first time such a verdict had been rendered in a case involving a death from agrochemicals. Hoping to delay sentencing, the landowners appealed all the way to Paraguay's Supreme Court. RAP-AL joined other activist groups around the world to demand justice for Silvino. Finally, on November 27, 2006, only days before the case would have expired, the Supreme Court denied the appeal and the landowners were ordered to serve two-year jail sentences.

This historic victory demonstrates the power of local and global coalitions and reinforces the urgent need to make the transition to farming practices that sustain human health and the environment.

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GMO Crops Mean More Pesticides

OGMs significan más plaguicidas

Gentech-Pflanzen brauchen mehr Pestizide

Les cultures OGM signifient plus de pesticides

by Patricia Bravo, RAP-AL

SANTIAGO, CHILE — No matter what corporations say, genetically engineered (GE) crops (which often require more extensive use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers) will deepen world hunger and increase the financial, social and environmental problems associated with large-scale monocultures. On every continent, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have already caused widespread contamination of traditional crops, increased pesticide applications, fueled extensive deforestation and accelerated the loss of critical biodiversity. GE crops thus pose new and unimaginable risks to the environment and human health.

However, being a highly profitable business for corporations, it has only taken a decade for global plantings of GE crops—mainly soybean, maize, cotton and colza—to grow 60 times, reaching a total of 102 million hectares in 2006. Nearly 98% of the world's genetically altered crops are concentrated in eight, mostly Third World, nations. The USA holds the top spot, with 54.6 million hectares of GE crops, followed by Argentina (18 million hectares), Canada (6.1 million), India (3.8 million), China (3.5 million), Paraguay (2 million) and South Africa (1.4 million).

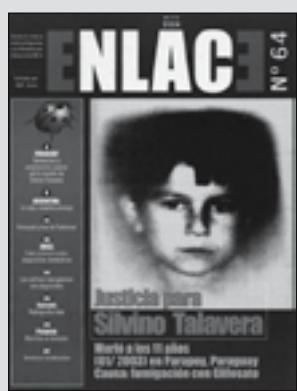
In Latin America and the Caribbean, the planting of 32 million hectares of GE crops is contributing to the destruction of much of the region's exceptionally rich biodiversity. The Mexican Committee on Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity cites studies by the journal *The Scientist* and the Institute of



A GMO-Free Zone. Benita Garcia, who investigates organic practices for FAMA/RAP-AL, clearly approves of the produce being grown by organic farmers in the Dominican Republic. Photo: Dante Castillo Ogando

Science and Society that confirm large-scale GMO contamination of traditional maize varieties growing near highways. In its 2003 "Global Environment Outlook 3" report, the United Nations Environment Programme's chapter on Latin America warned "this intrusion of modified genes in maize affects its features, endangering a biodiversity that is key to mankind's food security."

The death of Silvino Talavera—a Paraguayan boy poisoned by glyphosate and other pesticides applied to GE soy—stands as a tragic reminder of the alarming situation faced by rural families (see issues 64, 74 and 75 of *Enlace* magazine). Meanwhile,



Silvino Talavera was walking to his home when a tractor sprayed him with pesticides. He died five days later. "They tried offering me money so that I wouldn't talk," Silvino's mother remembers. "I told them that I didn't care about the money, only justice. If I just accepted the money they could just continue spraying their poison."

Silvino Talavera se rendait à la maison lorsqu'un tracteur a pulvérisé des pesticides sur lui. Il est mort 5 jours plus tard. La mère de Silvino se rappelait qu'ils ont essayé de lui offrir de l'argent pour qu'elle se taise. Je leur avais dit que seule la justice m'intéressait et non l'argent. Si j'avais accepté l'argent, ils pourraient continuer à pulvériser leur poison.

Silvino Talavera ging nach Hause, als ein Traktor ihn mit Pestizid spritzte. Er starb fünf Tage später. "Sie versuchten, mir Geld anzubieten, damit ich nicht sprechen würde," Mutter Silvinos sich erinnern. "Ich erklärte ihnen, daß ich mich nicht für das Geld interessierte, nur Gerechtigkeit. Wenn ich gerade das Geld annahm, konnten sie ihr Gift, zu sprühen gerade fortfahren."

Silvino Talavera iba de regreso casa cuando un tractor que aplicaba plaguicidas roció al niño completo. El murió cinco días después. "Trataron de ofrecerme dinero para que yo no hablara," recuerda la madre de Silvino. "Yo les dije que el dinero no me importaba, que sólo quiero justicia. Si yo hubiera aceptado el dinero, ellos podrían seguir fumigando con su veneno."



Viña del Mar, Chile: October 22, 2007. RAP-AL activists protest outside RedBio2007, a meeting hosted by the FAO, the Chilean government, Monsanto and others to promote GMOs. The poster in Portuguese reads: "We are not guinea pigs. No GMOs!" PAN Mexico's (RAPAM) Fernando Bejarano (wearing corn costume) holds a sign reading: "Without Corn, Our Country Does Not Exist." Photo: RAP-AL

thousands of small farmers and peasants have been forced off their lands by the spreading expanses of monocultures.

"A handful of landlords and corporations have been buying more and more land to grow GE crops, a process [that] has strongly modified land tenure," states Javier Souza Casadinho from RAP-AL Argentina's Centro de Estudios sobre Tecnologías Apropiadas. In his article, "Review of the Rural Situation in Argentina," he warns, "Corporate-driven agriculture is increasingly becoming 'agriculture without farmers' because of land ownership concentration and because GE crops demanding scarce hand labor [are being] planted at ever-increasing rates."

Between 2003–2004, Latin American agrochemical business grew 30% with \$5.4 billion in sales. By 2008, it is estimated that sales will soar to \$7.5 billion. In Argentina, almost 100% of soybean, 80% of cotton, and 73% of maize now are GE crops. Brazil has planted 11.4 million hectares of pesticide-tolerant GE crops and 120,000 hectares of insect-resistant cotton. Today, 90% of Paraguay's soybean cultures are GE crops. GMOs are on the march in Uruguay where 370,000 hectares of glyphosate-tolerant soybeans have been planted. Colombia has planted 31,000 hectares of pesticide-resistant BT

cotton and blue carnation crops, Chile has grown 13,000 hectares of GE crops for seed exports and Honduras has planted 2,000 hectares of herbicide-tolerant BT maize.

Genetic engineering and the growth of corporate profits

The spread of GE crops goes hand-in-hand with the spread of pesticides. More GMOs means more chemical spraying. Du Pont Corporation is trying to register GM Optimum GAT, a GE seed variety that tolerates both Monsanto's glyphosate (Roundup™) and ALS herbicide, an enzyme Acetolactate synthase (ALS) inhibitor. Subsequently, other pesticides will be used in combination with glyphosate. Dupont and Swiss Syngenta will sell Optimum GAT and license it to other companies marketed through GreenLeaf Genetics LLC.

Meanwhile, DowAgrosciences (a subsidiary of Dow Chemical) has announced that, by 2012, there will be a new Bt maize genetically engineered to survive repeated doses of 2,4-D, an herbicide widely criticized all over the world because of its disastrous effects on environment and health. Dow Agroscience President and CEO Jerome Peribere recently acknowledged that the fast adoption of glyphosate-tolerant GE seeds has promoted an increase in pesticide resistance in targeted weeds. As for Monsanto, in August 2007, Argentina registered the use of MGRR2, a new GMO maize that combines Gard Maize, (MG, engineered to contain toxic Bt bacterium) and Roundup Ready (RR2) technology.

Given the seriousness of the present state of affairs, RAP-AL is intent on informing Latin American citizens about the environmental and health risks associated with the increasing use of pesticides that comes with the introduction of GE crops. The network has called for a moratorium on the introduction of these crops and the mandatory labeling of all GE products, both domestic and imported. In the meantime, RAP-AL is working to discourage consumption of GMOs by supporting agroecological cultivation, and free farmer-to-farmer exchanges and conservation of traditional, native seeds.

Journalist Patricia Bravo is RAP-AL's Communications officer.

Diálogo abierto entre ONGs y gobiernos sobre COPs, PIC y problemáticas locales

An Open Dialogue between Governments and NGOs on POPs and PIC

Ein offener Dialog zwischen NGOs und Regierungen über POPs und PIC

Un dialogue ouvert entre gouvernements et ONGs sur les POPs et le PIC

by María Elena Rozas, RAP-AL Chile

SANTIAGO, CHILE — En América Latina y el Caribe el uso de plaguicidas ha causado la intoxicación de millones de personas y ha cobrado miles de víctimas mortales, muchas de ellas niños. Según los Ministerios de Salud y la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS), en siete países de Centroamérica cada año se intoxican por plaguicidas 400,000 personas. En el Cono Sur, sólo en Brasil, la base de datos de SINITOX (Sistema Nacional de Informaciones Tóxico Farmacológicas) registra 816,141 intoxicaciones agudas y 5,323 muertos entre 1985 y 2001.

Sin embargo, la mayoría de los casos que ocurren en la región no son notificados. Pero además, miles de personas, principalmente mujeres y niños, son ejemplos vivientes de daños provocados por intoxicaciones crónicas con plaguicidas, como cáncer, malformaciones congénitas y alteraciones en los sistemas inmunológico, neurológico y reproductivo, entre otros.

Ante esta realidad, una de las iniciativas más exitosas desarrolladas por RAP-AL en el plano de la incidencia en políticas públicas son los seminarios subregionales “Diálogos ONGs/ gobiernos sobre convenios internacionales y problemáticas locales relacionadas con plaguicidas.” Estos encuentros se vienen realizando cada año desde el 2001 en las subregiones Mesoamérica y el Caribe, Andina y Cono Sur, con la participación de las máximas autoridades de cada país en materia de plaguicidas y tóxicos.

El objetivo de estos seminarios organizados por RAP-AL es ejercer el derecho ciudadano a participar en el proceso de implementación y monitoreo de la legislación nacional e internacional sobre plaguicidas en el marco de los Convenios de Estocolmo sobre Contaminantes Orgánicos Persistentes (COPs); Rotterdam, sobre Consentimiento Fundamentado Previo (PIC), y Código de Conducta de la FAO.

Las más altas autoridades del país anfitrión (Autoridades Nacionales Designadas, AND) no sólo realizaron los discursos inaugurales de estos encuentros, sino que participaron en discusiones y mesas de diálogo junto a miembros de RAP-AL y diversos grupos de interés. Los “Diálogos” han fortalecido o iniciado la comunicación y coordinación entre las ONGs y las AND.

Fuerte impulso a los convenios

Estos eventos abrieron las puertas a la participación de los miembros de RAP-AL en una región donde los gobiernos han sido reacios a escuchar a la ciudadanía y a contraer compromisos para la eliminación o reducción de plaguicidas.

El trabajo de RAP-AL influyó decisivamente para que todos los gobiernos firmaran el Convenio sobre COPs. Hasta ahora lo han ratificado 15 países: la



Diálogos 2006 en Brasilia. De Izquierda a derecha: Jaime Weber de CAPA, coordinador nacional de RAP-AL en Brasil; Sergio de Souza Oliveira, Ministerio del Medio Ambiente de Brasil; María Elena Rozas, coordinadora Cono Sur de RAP-AL; Lorenzo Gonzalez Videla, coordinador de la Unidad Sustancias y Productos Químicos, Dirección Nacional de Gestión Ambiental, Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de Argentina. Foto: RAP-AL

totalidad de los países del Cono Sur (Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Uruguay y Paraguay), donde la mayor parte de los miembros de RAP-AL forman parte de los grupos de implementación de los planes nacionales; Ecuador, Perú, Venezuela y Bolivia en la subregión Andina; y México, Honduras, Panamá, República Dominicana, Nicaragua y Costa Rica en Mesoamérica y el Caribe.

En la actualidad, RAP-AL integra en 13 países—Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Perú, Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, México, Costa Rica, Honduras, República Dominicana y Panamá—las comisiones técnicas y grupos de trabajo gubernamentales sobre plaguicidas y legislación internacional,



interviniendo activamente en la identificación de problemas y posibles soluciones.

Además, en 16 países de la región participa en actividades de fiscalización del cumplimiento del Código de la FAO.

Diagnósticos por país

En el contexto de los “Diálogos” y de una creciente participación ciudadana, RAP-AL avanzó notablemente en la obtención de informaciones que dieron consistencia a su campaña por la erradicación de los plaguicidas más tóxicos (1a y 1b, extremada y altamente peligrosos, según la clasificación de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, OMS).

En los años 2003 y 2004, en la mayoría de los países se logró contar con información sobre COPs y diagnósticos actualizados sobre plaguicidas 1a y 1b registrados a nivel nacional. Estos valiosos insumos han permitido fortalecer el trabajo de sensibilización social, de denuncias públicas e incidencia en la toma de decisiones para prohibir o restringir el uso de plaguicidas. En algunos casos, como Paraguay, Uruguay, México, Perú y Chile, se tramitan nuevas normativas y proyectos de ley orientados a la reducción y eliminación de los plaguicidas más dañinos en el ámbito agrícola y doméstico.

América Latina: Diálogos Subregionales ONGs/Gobiernos sobre COPs y PIC

Subregión Andina	Mesoamérica y el Caribe	Cono Sur
Bolivia, 2001	El Salvador, 2001–	Chile, 2001
Perú, 2002	2002	Uruguay, 2002
Ecuador, 2003	Panamá, 2003	Paraguay, 2003
Colombia, 2004	México, 2004-2005	Argentina, 2004
Venezuela, 2005		Brasil, 2006
Ecuador, 2006		Paraguay, 2007

Especial significación tienen en la región las campañas que exigen justicia para los casos de muerte masiva de niños en Tauccamarca, Perú y las víctimas de intoxicaciones por fumigaciones aéreas en cultivos de banano en Nicaragua, Costa Rica y Honduras. Asimismo, continúan las campañas por la prohibición del paraquat y el lindano, lideradas por Costa Rica y México respectivamente, y las denuncias por los efectos de las fumigaciones en cultivos de soja transgénica en Paraguay y Argentina, en sectores frutícolas y forestales de Uruguay y Chile, y la campaña para detener las fumigaciones aéreas en cultivos de coca en Colombia y Ecuador, con nefastas consecuencias para la población y el ambiente. En algunos casos, el impacto político de estas campañas ha contribuido al establecimiento de nuevos reglamentos y normas para la prohibición de ciertos plaguicidas.

El camino recorrido no hace sino redoblar nuestras energías para seguir adelante, hasta lograr hacer realidad el sueño de una América Latina libre de plaguicidas y transgénicos, con alimentos sanos y una mejor calidad de vida para todos.

María Elena Rozas es Coordinadora de la Sub-Región Cono Sur (2006-2007).

A Modern Farming Book—Written in 1814

In October, PAN Uruguay and the National Library jointly announced the electronic publication of *Observations on Agriculture*, written in 1814 by Father José Manuel Pérez Castellano. In 1813, Pérez Castellano retired to his farm to record the experience he had gained in 40-years of farming. *Observations on Agriculture* is considered to be Uruguay's first national book.

This work is of particular importance today for peasants and farmers engaged in pesticide-free agriculture, because it describes methods for cultivating a wide range of vegetables, fruits, cereals, and aromatic herbs using only natural pest control methods from a time before chemical pesticides.

Nearly 200 years later, this book has become one of the most “modern” works on agriculture. It is an inspiration for people struggling for food sovereignty, because it describes a type of agriculture based on the sharing of seeds, plants, and knowledge all aimed at providing local people with sufficient and healthy food.

— Maria Isabel Cárcamo, RAP-AL Uruguay



Campaña para exigir justicia por la muerte masiva de niños en Tauccamarca, Perú, 3 de octubre. Fotos: RAP-AL

PAN North America

In 1982, Malaysian activist Anwar Fazal, then-president of the International Organization of Consumers Unions, won the Right Livelihood Award (the "Alternative Nobel Prize"). Soon thereafter, Fazal announced that it was time to "get serious about pesticides" and offered \$7,000 of his Right Livelihood prize to *Circle of Poison* co-author David Weir, Friends of the Earth's (FOE) David Chatfield, Food First's Greta Goldenman, and Monica Moore to open PAN's first North American office. Working in donated space at FOE's San Francisco office, Moore became PANNA's one-person staff, working with a circle of local volunteers and groups across North America to establish the Pesticide Education and Action Project (PEAP), the precursor of PAN North America.

PANNA's first big project was coordinating the international launch of PAN's Dirty Dozen Campaign in 1985. In the late 1980s, in partnership with PAN Asia & the Pacific, PANNA helped lead the campaign that compelled the World Bank to adopt least-toxic Integrated Pest Management policies. By the late 1990s, a second project led the Bank to transform its agricultural development projects in China, Indonesia and Mexico. Over the years, PANNA's network expanded to include the organic farming and sustainable agriculture movements, fair-trade campaigns and the anti-globalization struggle. Today, PANNA has 28 full- and part-time staff (including four core staff with Californians for Pesticide Reform) and has links to more than 200 health, consumer, labor, environment, agriculture and other public interest groups. We serve a community of 3,400 individual donor/members and nearly 20,000 citizen activists.

PANNA combines rigorous scientific analysis with community knowledge and activism. In its first decade, sharing resources regionally and internationally and working with Steering Committee members like the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (now Beyond Pesticides), Consumers Union, Greenpeace and many others, PANNA built a strong base by reaching out to farmers, farmworkers, scientists, health advocates and policymakers. Our network-based advocacy has won pesticide restrictions and phaseouts at local and national levels in Canada, Mexico and the U.S.

Since the late 1990s, we have been deepening our alliances with the rural communities that are on the frontlines of pesticide exposure. Many of these groups now are using PANNA's Drift Catcher, an inexpensive air-monitoring instrument that enables laypeople to scientifically document the presence

of pesticides in the air they breathe. In 2007, our partners ranged from high schoolers in Florida, to rural farm communities in California's Central Valley, to traditional rice growers on Minnesota's White Earth Reservation. We collaborate with progressive government scientists, regulators and legislators to block the most outrageous failures to protect the public from pesticides while promoting precautionary policies and funding to help farmers adopt a more sustainable agriculture.



PANNA remains committed to the goal of just, safe, community-controlled food systems. We're engaged with civil society agricultural experts worldwide to redirect development toward ecologically sound farming. We are working with Africans and Arctic-dwelling Indigenous Americans to promote safe and effective solutions to malaria and are challenging a right-wing campaign to revive the use of DDT. Our near-term agenda includes



PANNA's Drift Catchers and a biomonitoring program provided evidence of widespread pesticide poisoning and helped the citizens of Lindsay, California, turn a local tragedy into a national news story. Photo: Stephenie Hendricks, PANNA

eliminating the most hazardous classes of pesticides, including organochlorines, organophosphates and fumigants. And we're urging the U.S. Senate to ratify the global treaties on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Prior Informed Consent that PAN has worked so long to establish.

Pesticide Action Network North America,
49 Powell Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA
94102 USA, www.panna.org



The Drift Catcher: Testing the Air for Poisons

Der Abdrift-Fänger: Luft auf Gifte überprüfen

Le Capteur des Dérives: détection des poisons dans l'air

El Detector de Contaminantes: Detección de venenos el el aire

by Karl Tupper, PANNA

SAN FRANCISCO, USA — The “Drift Catcher” is a simple, inexpensive air-sampling system designed by PANNA Senior Scientist Susan Kegley that puts environmental monitoring into the hands of ordinary people. The device measures the levels of airborne pesticides. Like the inexpensive “Bucket Brigade” tool developed by Communities for a Better Environment to detect industrial pollution, the Drift Catcher allows users to take a chemical “snapshot” of pesticides without waiting for unresponsive bureaucracies to determine whether there is a danger.



PANNA Intern Lauren Elmegreen tests a prototype of the Drift Catcher in 2003. Photo: PANNA

The Drift Catcher works like a vacuum cleaner, sucking pesticide-contaminated air through small glass tubes where it adheres to an adsorbent resin. After about 24 hours of sampling, the tubes are sent to a laboratory for analysis. Each Drift Catcher simultaneously collects two samples: the second tube provides a backup that can be used, if needed, to double-check the results.

PAN’s device was specifically designed so that people without scientific backgrounds could collect samples in a scientifically robust manner. Although relatively easy to use and far less costly, they are based on instruments used by the State of California. Drift Catchers meet the same standards and employ testing methods similar to those developed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the U.S. EPA.

Since debuting in 2003, Drift Catchers have been used in 16 projects in nine states and are poised to go global.

California

The first Drift Catchers were used in summer 2003 to monitor the air in California’s northern Sacramento Valley for traces of molinate, an herbicide used on rice. (In these initial experiments, PANNA scientists personally monitored the samplings. In all subsequent experiments, Drift Catchers have been run by concerned citizens trained by PANNA.) Four of seven samples collected in a public park were found to contain molinate at levels exceeding the acute, 24 hour level-of-concern for infants (LCI), and the data helped lead to a phaseout of molinate in the U.S.

In 2004, PANNA, Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR), Commonweal, and the community group El Quinto Sol de América, first deployed Drift Catchers to monitor the air in the Tulare County town of Lindsay, California. Drift Catchers placed at five local homes collected 104 samples, of which 76% contained quantifiable amounts of chlorpyrifos (an organophosphate insecticide used extensively on the orange groves that surround the town) and 11% had levels greater than the acute, 24-hour LCI.

As Drift Catching continued, the problem appeared to be growing worse. In 2005, 80% of 108 samples showed quantifiable amounts of chlorpyrifos and 23% exceeded the LCI. In 2006, 95% of 116 samples tested positive for chlorpyrifos and 28% exceeded the LCI. In 2007, analysis of urine samples from local residents showed higher-than-average levels of 3,5,6-trichloropyridinol (a metabolite of chlorpyrifos), which suggests that the elevated air levels of chlorpyrifos observed in 2004–2006 do, in fact, translate into increased exposure for people living in the area.

In December 2005 and January 2006, PANNA collaborated with CPR to monitor the air for drift near an orchard of fruit trees in Parlier, a small town east of Fresno. A Drift Catcher positioned near migrant housing collected 22 samples, 83% of which tested positive for chlorpyrifos. A Drift Catcher stationed at a town health clinic gathered 14 air samples and

found that 93% tested positive for Telone® (1,3-dichloropropene), a carcinogenic fumigant.

In Huron, a rural community west of Lindsay, cotton, tomatoes, and lettuce are the major crops. There PANNA, CPR, Latino Issues Forum and Líderes Campesinas are helping local women test the air for pesticides. In August 2006, 28 samples were collected at two homes. Chlorpyrifos was detected in 86% of samples. Naled, another organophosphate, was detected in 88% of samples. Trace amounts of the DDT breakdown product DDE were detected in 100% of samples and chlordane was found in 93% of samples from one site. Samples collected in fall 2007 are at PANNA's laboratory awaiting analysis.

Washington

In April 2006, PANNA and Washington's Farm Worker Pesticide Project spent 21 days monitoring the air outside two homes located near apple orchards in Cowiche and Tieton, in the state's fertile Yakima Valley. Chlorpyrifos was detected in every sample and exceeded the LCI in 38% of the samples. These results, published in a joint report, *Poisons on the Wind*, made regional headlines and helped build momentum to win legislation in early 2007 mandating the state Department of Public Health to monitor the air for pesticides.

Florida

In the fall of 2006, two high school students in St. Augustine asked PANNA and the local Environmental Youth Council about doing a Drift Catcher-based science fair project. The students wanted to test the air near a new elementary school surrounded by fields of Chinese cabbage. PANNA's analysis of the students' tests revealed the presence of endosulfan, a dangerous organochlorine, in every sample. Lab results also detected the herbicide trifluralin and the insecticide diazinon. Once again, the results made headlines across the state and lead to calls for new regulations.

Colorado

In 2006, PANNA collaborated with the Endocrine Disruptor Exchange to monitor malathion applications by the mosquito control authorities during Colorado's summer spraying schedule. High levels of malathion were detected in every evening sample, a few of the overnight samples, and none of the afternoon samples, which suggests that ultra-low volume applications yield high concentrations of pesticides that remain in the air for only very short periods of time.

Alaska and North Carolina

Pesticide users may change their behavior if they know they are being watched. In the spring of 2005, PANNA collaborated with North Carolina's



Staff Scientist Dr. Susan Kegley demonstrates her invention, the Drift Catcher, during a 2007 international PANNA training session. Photo: Stephenie Hendricks; PANNA

Agricultural Resources Center and residents living near cotton fields to document drift from defoliant applications. In previous years, the cotton grower applied the chemicals aerially during the day. However, after learning about air monitoring plans, the grower switched to ground-spray applications at night, before the Drift Catchers could start sampling.

Alaska Community Action on Toxics contacted PANNA about monitoring forestry spraying. ACAT members received training and materials and were poised to begin Drift Catching when state officials announced that the spraying had been called off. Apparently the simple threat of Drift Catching contributed to this decision. These experiences suggest that an effective strategy for preventing pesticide exposure may be to distribute cardboard Drift Catchers!

The future of Drift Catching

In addition to ongoing programs, a host of new projects are underway. Last year, high school students in Fresno, California, began a Drift Catching program. This year, the Farm Worker Association of Florida will be Drift Catching downwind from a commercial fern farm. In northern Minnesota, PANNA, the White Earth Land Recovery Project, Indigenous Environmental Network, and the Environmental Association for Great Lakes Education (EAGLE) will be monitoring the air at the Pine Point Elementary School on the White Earth Reservation. The school sits directly across from a large field of kidney beans. Finally, PANNA has provided Dr. Romeo Quijano of PAN Asia & the Pacific with Drift Catching training and equipment that will allow him to document pesticide exposure in the Philippines.

Staff Scientist Karl Tupper runs PANNA's Environmental Monitoring Program.

French Fries, Pesticides and Native Lands

Papas fritas, plaguicidas y tierras nativas
 Pommes frites, Pestizide und Landbesitz
 Pommes frites, pesticides et terres natales

by Winona LaDuke, White Earth Land Recovery Project

MINNESOTA, USA — The Pine Point community resides in the southwest corner of the 1000-square-mile White Earth Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota. Under an 1867 treaty, this expanse of white clay, where a prairie nestles up against the Smokey Hills, was granted to the native people. But that was before Timber Baron Frederick Weyerhauser discovered the reservation's pines and began stealing them. Weyerhauser expanded his industrial empire by destroying most of the region's wooded land base and leaving the reservation's people with little more than stumps.

Over the years, the Anishinaabeg ("original people") clans—Sturgeon, Marten, Bear and Wolf—have survived land stealers, plagues, and politicians. A hundred years ago, visitors to the village of Pine Point would have found refugee families living in tarpaper shacks, suffering from tuberculosis and retching with influenza. Today nearly 10,000 people survive on the reserva-



Native American activist John Shimek (the Alternative Energy Organizer for the White Earth Land Recovery Project in Minnesota) teams with PANNA's technicians to master the art of Drift Catching. Photo: PANNA

tion—although it has been tough. Every statistic you do not want to see shadows this community. Arrest rates are high, car thefts and poverty plague the community—but the people remain proud. Two of the three most recent tribal leaders of the White Earth reservation have come from the Pine Point community. Erma Vizenor, the latest, is the reservation's first woman chairperson.

Enter Ron D. Offutt, an industrial potato farmer who has leased or purchased more than 11,000 acres of land adjacent to Pine Point village over the last 30 years. Offutt has been dubbed "The Lord of the Fries" because most of the 1.8 billion pounds of "supersized" potatoes his company harvests annually are turned into French fries for McDonalds. In addition to drawing down the aquifer with a huge number of wells for his irrigation system (one-third of all irrigation wells in the area are controlled by Offutt's family-owned RDO Holdings Company), RDO leads the other industrial farmers in the area with aerial pesticide spraying. RDO planes and helicopters spray the land with a variety of pesticides, including several likely human carcinogens and endocrine disruptors. Everything is hit—the village, houses and classrooms of the Pine Point Elementary School. This state-of-the-art K-8 school, a "jewel of the community," was only built after a hard-fought community struggle to win financing from the state legislature.

For the past decade, the White Earth Land Recovery Project (WELRP) and a number of community members have been challenging Offutt and RDO Holdings, over the use of toxic chemicals on the land around Pine Point. In 1992, a couple in Hubbard County, just east of Pine Point, whose home was situated between two RDO potato fields, appealed to the Mantrap Township Board for help. The township board passed a local ordinance restricting the aerial spraying of pesticides. In response, RDO sued the township and the township lost. "Finally, people just basically backed off," recalls township board member Judy Olson, "They knew they didn't have the money that [RDO] did."

Thirty-four miles south of Pine Point, the city of Perham found that its wells were contaminated with nitrate runoff from Offutt's land and storage tanks. Parents were especially concerned about a well near the town's elementary school. As a reporter from Minnesota Public Radio noted, "Offutt and other smaller potato farmers applied well over 100,000 pounds of nitrogen to the land that overlies Perham wells—60% of all fertilizer used on that land." Water quality tests conducted in the Straight River Watershed, surrounding Pine Point, found elevated levels of nitrates in 25% of the tests. Groundwater samples also detected the pesticides atrazine and metolachlor.



Winona LaDuke is founder of the White Earth Land Recovery Project, co-chair of the Indigenous Women's Network and author of *Last Standing Woman, All Our Relations*, and *Recovering the Sacred*. In 1996 and 2000, she was the Green Party's Vice Presidential candidate. For details on WELRP's programs, write the Project at 607 Main Avenue, Callaway, MN 56521. And check out their Native Harvest catalog at www.welrp.org. Photo: Bed Sandell, *The Crookston Daily Times*

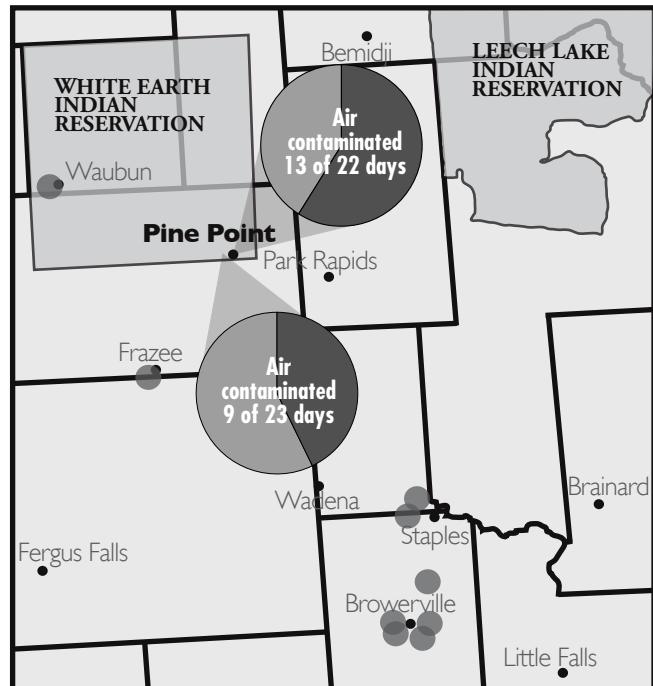
In a rainfall test completed in 1993, some 21 separate pesticides appeared in the samples. Eight locally used pesticides, including methyl parathion and simazine, appeared in more than half of the samples. Other pesticides (used on nearby paddy-grown wild rice and sugar beet fields) were also detected.

My son, Gwekaanimad Gasco, attends the Pine Point Elementary school as a second-grader. Class size is around 10 children, parental involvement is high, cultural instruction is good, and I'm a pleased parent—except for the spraying of those pesticides. I habitually write letters to Offutt, requesting to be informed before spraying in the village so I can remove my child from school. After all, there is a "no drug" policy in the school, so I think that should include pendamethalin and chlorothalonil. To date, we parents have yet to be informed about RDO's planned sprayings. Meanwhile, Mr. Offutt is attempting to improve his image by handing out \$500 scholarships and free French fries to a local school.

But even if the children are removed from school during a spraying, they will just be returning to housing projects where they will get sprayed anyway. So WELRP joined with PANNA, the Indigenous Environment Network, the White Earth Tribal Government, the Environmental Association for Great Lakes Education and others to install a PANNA Drift Catcher by the school.

Every couple of days, we sent our guys over there to collect and replace air sample tubes, and now we've got some results. We're just informing the community about the results of the test now and that's tricky because oppressed people already know we're in a bad spot and we don't need more bad news. Real solutions are best. But we are hopeful that this time—with the help of some national organizations and the growing concern about pesticides—we will have a better chance to enact regulations to protect our children.

Potatoes, Pesticides and Air Pollution in Minnesota



Chlorothalonil, a potato fungicide, was detected in 123 of 186 Drift Catcher air samples conducted at 11 sites in 2006–07.

Cones point to sampling sites near Pine Point. Grey circles indicate other sampling sites.

One of the solutions we are working on is a state right-to-know law that would provide the community with information on what chemicals are being considered for use and what hazards they pose. We are actively working to educate farmers and ask them to reduce their use of poisons. At the same time, we have introduced the Mino Mijim (Good Food) Program to provide local, organic and traditional foods for these children. This farm-to-school program will give young students a better chance at staying healthy since it relies on our pure and nourishing traditional foods—wild rice, hominy corn, squash and the like.

That's where we are at in our plan, and we invite your support.

A Peoples' Clinic Aids Bhopal's Survivors

Une clinique populaire aide les survivants de Bhopal

Una clínica popular ayuda a sobrevivientes de Bhopal

Eine öffentliche Klinik hilft den Überlebenden von Bhopal

by Kate Bootle, PAN UK

LONDON, UK — Twenty-one years ago, the world awoke to what has become known as the “Hiroshima of pesticide incidents”—the deadliest industrial disaster of our time. As the sun rose over Bhopal, India, on December 3, 1984, more than 8.000 people lay dead in the streets, killed by a deadly cloud of methyl-isocyanate gas that spilled from the U.S.-owned Union Carbide pesticide factory.

Since that date, more than 20.000 men, women and children have died from exposure to the fumes and 100.000 are still seriously ill. On average, one person dies daily from gas-related causes and 20.000 residents are being poisoned by water contaminated by the uncleared factory site.

Curious to experience the lot of Bhopal's survivors, Dominique Lapierre, author of *Five Past Midnight in Bhopal*, tried drinking a half glass of water from one of the local wells. “My mouth, my throat, my tongue instantly were on fire, while my arms and legs suffered an immediate skin rash,” Lapierre wrote. “This was the simple manifestation of what men, women and children have to endure daily.”

Little compensation has been provided by either Union Carbide or Dow Chemical, the current owner of the factory that devastated so many lives. However, for the last decade, a clinic built with the donations of ordinary people the world over has been providing unique free

treatments and free medicines. This extraordinary place is called Sambhavna (which means ‘possibility’). It has treated 30.000 people to date and won a clutch of humanitarian awards. In 2002, Sambhavna won the Margaret Mead Award, which is given to small groups of people who make a big difference in the world.

A decade after the disaster, PAN UK hosted an event in support of the Bhopal survivors: the Permanent People's Tribunal on Industrial Hazards and Human Rights. Everyone who attended that meeting was shocked to find that survivors were still not receiving adequate medical care. Despite the tremendous work of the campaigns for corporate justice, nothing was being done to alleviate the immediate suffering of the survivors.

Sathyu Sarangi, who is now director of the Sambhavna Clinic, has worked with victim support groups since the disaster. It was Sathyu's organization, the Bhopal Group for Information and Action, that first revealed in 1990 that toxic chemicals leaching into the soil and water were causing lung, kidney and liver damage and triggering birth defects and cancers. The idea for the Bhopal Medical Appeal was born when, during a visit to the UK, Sathyu met writer Indra Sinha (recently nominated for the Booker Prize for his gripping novel, *Animal's People*) and he offered to pen an appeal in *The Guardian*. The public response was, and continues to be, inspiring. The initial Appeal raised enough money to build the first Sambhavna Clinic in Bhopal.

PAN UK administered the Fund until early 2007 and PAN North America has helped publicise both the work of the Appeal and the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal. It's fitting that in PAN's 25th anniversary year, the Appeal is celebrating a milestone of its own. In January 2007, the Bhopal Medical Appeal was established as an independent British Charity.



Women of the Union Carbide Bhopal Gas Survivors organization rally in India in 1999.
Photo: Barbara Dinharn, PAN UK

Because survivors' bodies are overloaded with chemicals, the clinic has pioneered effective treatments combining modern medicine with traditional Indian herbal therapy, *panchakarma*, yoga breathing and massage. Allopathic and Ayurvedic doctors work in tandem. Allopathic and Ayurvedic doctors discuss cases together. Herbal medicines are grown in the clinic's organic herb garden and are used according to strict recipes preserved in Sanskrit texts.

The clinic's research has been published in international medical journals such as the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Community health worker Diwakar says, "When we first started, it was like a dream come true. Though money is very scarce, we offer four kinds of treatment, six days a week. No government hospital provides so many things."

Just as importantly, patients are treated as equals and the clinic is run by consensus. Some patients would not be examined in a state-owned hospital because they are lower caste. Dr. Ali Quaiser explains that survivors are not made to feel like patients at Sambhavna: "We try to have a friendly atmosphere. People report their frustrations, their home lives. As well as looking after the physical health of those who come here, we are taking care of their spirit." People are often overwhelmed by the help they receive at the clinic, and a volunteer community health team has grown from ex-patients, their friends and relatives.

Over half the staff are survivors themselves and know the terror of "That Night" firsthand. "Sambhavna is different from other hospitals," says health worker Sitara Bee. "I think our humanity must be part of our identity because we know how painful it is to bear the pains of the gas. I was diagnosed with cervical cancer and remember when the doctor told me that I could die. I decided to make it my mission that other women should not have to hear such words at such a young age."

As the suffering in Bhopal enters its third decade, the Medical Appeal's needs are just as urgent. Chemicals have leaked into drinking wells and groundwater. The breastmilk of local women now contains lead, mercury and birth-defect-causing organochlorine pesticides.

Children born after the explosion suffer from cancers, growth disorders and gynaecological disease. Mental health issues following the disaster are rife and unsurprisingly many survivors suffer from panic attacks. Yet the government hospitals offer no help. The clinic has



It took a lot of hard work by volunteers to transform the red clay subsoil of a former brick factory into a lush garden filled with more than 100 different Ayurvedic herbs. Trash from an adjacent dump was removed, soil was rebuilt, and a pond and flowing water now attracts chipmunks and dragonflies. Photo: www.bhopal.net

a consultant psychiatrist and would like to extend this area of its work. Staff also educates local communities about health issues and helps them fight for access to clean water.

Last year, the clinic opened a new building that can treat three times as many people. It is keen to share its knowledge of treating chemically- and industrially-induced illnesses with therapies that do not add to the body's toxic load.

Meanwhile, the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal reports that Dow Chemical, a multinational that earned \$4.5 billion in profits in 2006, continues to attempt to avoid responsibility to the survivors by offering "to clean up the toxic waste in Bhopal on the condition that the Indian government waives [Dow's] legal liabilities."

The Bhopal survivors felt betrayed in 1989 when Union Carbide paid the Indian government \$470 million in the aftermath of the disaster. Families were offered \$3.300 for "loss of life" and \$800 for permanent disabilities. Now the survivors are demanding that it is the government's duty to "ensure that Dow pays adequate compensation to the victims."

Kate Bootle is the Executive Secretary of the Bhopal Medical Appeal.

On December 3, PAN will mark the 23rd anniversary of the disaster with PAN's annual "Day of No Pesticides" to remember Bhopal's victims and survivors.

You can donate to the Bhopal Medical Appeal via FREEFONE 0800 3165577 or www.bhopal.org. Email: admin@bhopal.org. Contact Medical Appeal, c/o PAN UK, Development House, 56-64 Leonard St., London EC2A 4LT. To make U.S. tax-deductible donations, see PANNA's Bhopal page <http://panna.org/campaigns/bhopal.html>.

DDT: The Problem That Won't Go Away

DDT: Ein ungelöstes Problem

DDT: El problema persistente

DDT: Le problème qui ne disparaît pas

by Ruth Beckman, PAN UK

LONDON, UK — DDT's insect-killing properties were first discovered in 1939. From World War II onwards, it has been used against the mosquitoes that carry malaria, a disease that still kills more than a million people every year.

At first, DDT was seen as a great breakthrough in public health. However, early in its history, evidence of its damaging effects on the environment and human health began to emerge. Declining bird populations were the most visible sign of its pervasive presence. Highly toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms, DDT is slow to break down and can remain in the environment for decades. Since DDT is stored in fatty tissues, it eventually accumulates in animals higher up the food chain. A lifetime's

exposure, even at low doses, can lead to high levels of DDT in human fat and breast milk.

Because DDT has been carried by water and wind currents to all parts of the world, it has become an issue of global concern. DDT is now classified as a Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP), a substance controlled by the Stockholm Convention, which came into force in 2004. The treaty allows DDT use in malaria control, but only under strict guidelines, and with the ultimate aim of phasing it out once alternatives are in place. Numerous studies have linked DDT with human health problems including cancer, sterility, miscarriages, and developmental delay.

DDT-resistant strains of mosquitoes began to appear early on, fuelling a desperate search for alternatives. Vietnam, Mexico and the Philippines, for example, have stopped using DDT, with dramatic declines in malaria cases and deaths. These countries have adopted a range of strategies to suit local conditions, including early identification and treatment of malaria, treating mosquito breeding grounds, applying natural biological controls, and distributing bed nets treated with alternative pesticides.

Malaria is a virulent, yet treatable illness that disproportionately affects people living in poverty, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. DDT proponents maintain that the chemical is the most cost-effective way of reducing malaria deaths worldwide. In 2006, the World Health Organisation (WHO) stated its belief that the benefits of indoor DDT spraying outweighed the risks. Only a year later, the WHO backed off this seeming endorsement and reaffirmed its commitment to *reducing* reliance on DDT. The WHO's future position on DDT use remains unclear.

PAN International and other NGOs are calling on donors and the international community to support the development of integrated, alternative approaches to malaria, so that DDT's harmful effects can be minimised until the pesticide is ultimately phased out. Meanwhile, abandoned stockpiles of DDT will present a hazard to impoverished Third World nations for years to come.

Ruth Beckman is the Project Information Officer for PAN UK.



At a 2006 Budapest meeting, PAN partners from around the world protested the promotion of DDT for malaria control and called for the closure and cleanup of a DDT plant in Eloor, India. Left to right: Henry Diouf (PAN Africa), Jayan Jayakuma (Thanal), and Sarojeni V. Rengam (PAN AP). Photo: Medha Chandra, PANNA

Malaria Is a Scourge but DDT Is Not the Cure

Malaria ist eine Geißel, aber DDT nicht die Lösung

La malaria es un flagelo pero el DDT no es remedio

Le paludisme est un fléau mais le DDT n'est pas le remède

by Abou Thiam, PAN Africa

DAKAR, SENEGAL — Malaria is a terrible disease that has been irresponsibly neglected by the global community. All people of conscience agree that everything possible must be done to eradicate it. Unfortunately, proponents of DDT have grossly misrepresented the current state of debate around use of this infamous chemical for malaria control in Africa.

There is a considerable body of scientific evidence that documents the human health effects of DDT. This body of evidence, now spanning generations, was regrettably overlooked by Dr. Arata Kochi of the World Health Organization who gave DDT a “clean bill of health” for malaria control in a controversial announcement last year. The tragedy is that indoor spraying of DDT exposes families who are already at risk from malaria to additional risks of premature delivery, low birth weights, and developmental delays in children.

There is a brewing controversy within WHO, where the “dynamic” leadership of Dr. Kochi has lead to resignations of roughly half of the agency’s malaria experts. Tragically, those professionals who disagree with Kochi’s singular focus on chemical solutions to malaria control have been driven out of the leading global health agency tasked with finding a long-term solution to this deadly disease.

The fact is
that DDT
is not the best
solution for
malaria control.

The fact is that DDT is not the best solution for malaria control. Some of the most successful and cost-effective malaria programs in the world—including those in Mexico and Vietnam—rely on community-based approaches

that include bed nets, public education, medicine, improved health services and tracking of malaria cases, and water management. These—along with long-term poverty alleviation measures—are the real solutions to the scourge of malaria.

Because of its proven health and environmental impacts, DDT has been targeted for elimination by all 148 countries that have ratified the Stockholm

Convention. While the Convention clearly recognizes the need for DDT in the short-term (and specifically provides for use in those countries that document a need



A community in Africa celebrates the arrival of the first mosquito-resistant “bednets.” These simple, effective shelters provide a safer alternative to defeat malaria-carrying mosquitoes. Photo: International Development Research Centre

for it), the Convention’s ultimate goal is to replace DDT with safer and more effective solutions. The WHO’s misleading “clean bill of health” pronouncement and aggressive promotion of DDT (supported by the U.S. Bush Administration) directly undermines the goals of yet another widely supported international agreement.

We need to find a solution to malaria, but we urgently hope that the global community will not fall back on the failed chemical-intensive approaches of the 20th century. The communities in Africa suffering from malaria deserve better.

Abou Thiam is PAN Africa’s Regional Coordinator. A longer version of this statement was co-signed by Dr. Thiam and Paul Saoke, MD, Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility/Kenya, Peter Orris, MD, MPH, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA, and Monica Moore, Pesticide Action Network North America.

Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.

— Rachel Carson

Over the past 25 years, PAN has demonstrated how global collective action and respect for the Earth can turn local efforts into world-saving solutions.

Four of PAN's five regional centers are represented in this 1995 photo from a regional coordinators' meeting in Uppsala, Sweden. From left: Abou Thiam (PAN Africa), Sarojeni V. Rengam (PAN AP), Elsa Nivia (PAN Latin America), Frank Hansen (PAN Germany) and Barbara Dinhham (PAN UK).



PAN's Global Online Toolkit

In addition to the general websites of the PAN Regional Centers, the network shares specialized online databases covering many pesticide-related issues.

- **Community-based Pesticide Action Monitoring**

The CPAM Resource Centre enables scientists to share research related to pesticide impacts on human health and the environment. This database also provides materials for training community campaigners to submit incident reports of pesticide poisonings. The Resource Centre includes the Asian Pesticide Database, which contains regulatory information from several Asian countries for many widely used pesticides, cross-listed with the PAN Pesticides Database.

<http://www.panap.net/18.0.html>

- **PAN Pesticides Database**

The PAN Pesticides Database is your one-stop shop for current toxicity and regulatory information for all forms of pesticides—as well as tools for diagnosing pesticide poisoning symptoms and specialized sections for connecting pesticide use in California to air and water pollution. This extensive and well-regarded resource—a project of PAN North America—also includes a growing body of international pesticide registration information.

<http://www.pesticideinfo.org>

- **FAO Code Action site**

This online resource provided by PAN Germany is designed to support public interest groups, governments, companies and others in becoming active on implementation of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

<http://www.fao-code-action.info>

- **Pesticide Library** PAN UK's Pesticides and Alternatives Database supports PAN UK's *Current Research Monitor* with bibliographic information linking 5,000-plus articles, reports and books on the health and environmental effects of pesticides and alternatives to their use. A photographic database contains an archive of images covering issues such as food security, cotton production, and the disposal of obsolete pesticides.

<http://www.pesticidelibrary.org>

- **Pesticide Poisonings Database**

RAP-AL's Base Datos sobre Plaguicidas contains basic information on pesticides, active ingredients, commercial names, and the effects of agrochemicals on health and the environment, along with national and international laws about pesticides. The database also displays information on pesticides used in regional crops, alternatives, poisoning incidents and pesticide-related deaths in Latin America. (Login required.)

<http://www.rap-al.org/v2/db/index.php>

- **Online Information Service for Non-Chemical Pest Management in the Tropics**

Another service of PAN Germany, OISAT offers easy-to-read, "crop-centric" guidance for small-scale farmers in the tropics. It integrates "online information into training and extension services to ensure an effective flow from Web to field" on how to produce key crops using affordable crop- and pest-management practices that prevent infestations and diseases using least-toxic measures.

<http://www.oisat.org>

The image shows the front cover of a guide titled "Guía para el consumo de Alimentos Ecológicos". The title is written in large, stylized letters, with "Guía para el consumo" in green and "Alimentos Ecológicos" in red. Below the title is a circular logo with the word "Raa" and a stylized leaf. The background of the cover is filled with a variety of cartoon-style fruits and vegetables, each with a happy face, including cherries, lettuce, a lime, corn, grapes, a tomato, and a potato.

A cartoon illustration on an orange background. On the left, a man in a white lab coat and blue pants stands next to two large orange sacks labeled 'GMO'. On the right, another man in a red shirt and brown pants stands with a question mark above his head, holding a small green plant.

Pesticide Action Network November 2007

Pesticide Action Network

PAN was launched in Malaysia in 1982 as a global network for eliminating trade and use of toxic pesticides. PAN has autonomous regional facilitating centers in Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America. PAN's strength comes from more than 600 civil society groups driving the movement.

