



Did you know?

... that the **FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides** calls on the **Pesticide Industry** to hold sale when pesticide use pose an unacceptable risk?





Sustainable crop protection

is a key concern of a wide range of stakeholders dealing with agriculture and consumer and environment protection. However, harm to human health and the environment as well as economic and social disadvantages are major continuing problems found the world over from pesticide usage, especially in developing countries. These concerns are clearly addressed in the Code of Conduct.

Agriculture is among the world's most hazardous industries and pesticides account for 14% of occupational injuries and 10% of known fatalities. Highly toxic pesticides have immediate adverse effects on human health, wildlife, local food sources such as cattle or fish, beneficial insects and biodiversity. Chronic effects include cancers, reproductive problems, birth defects, hormonal disruption and damage to the immune system. Pesticide residues, including multiple compounds, are regularly detected in food and drink and there is increasing scientific concern about chronic exposure, even at the low doses ingested on a daily basis.





The Pesticide Industry

is one of the key stakeholder groups addressed by the Code of Conduct. Contributing actively and transparently to the Code's implementation will deliver a range of benefits. It:

- ✓ demonstrates Corporate Social Responsibility
- ✓ reduces human and environmental exposure to pesticides
- ✓ improves food quality
- ✓ supports sustainable agricultural production

It also helps companies respond to concerns of consumers in the North and public interest groups in the global South.





Obligations of pesticide companies

According to the Code of Conduct pesticide manufacturers and traders should "retain an **active interest in following their products to the end-user**, keeping track of major uses and the occurrence of any problems arising from the use of their products, as a basis for determining the need for changes in labelling, directions for use, packaging, formulation or product availability". (Art. 3.4.6)

"Even where a control scheme is in operation, pesticide industry should **halt sale and recall products** when handling or use pose an unacceptable risk under any use directions or restrictions". (Art. 5.2.4)

Advertisements should not contain any statement or visual presentation which "is likely to mislead the buyer" (11.2.2) and pesticide companies should also "ensure that persons involved in the sale of pesticides are trained adequately, hold **appropriate government licences** (where such licences exist) and have access to sufficient information, such as material safety data sheets". (Art. 8.2.7)





How to play an active role?

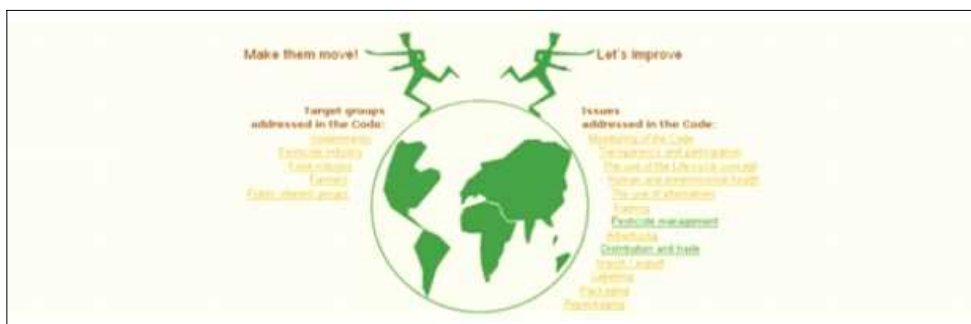
Implementing the Code of Conduct effectively involves transparency, targets and timeframes. Social responsibility reports are a good means to make the process of implementing the Code visible in a sufficiently detailed manner. Problems occurring should be documented and the data should be publicly accessible.

Pesticide Action Network has been involved in pesticide issues since 1982. PAN Germany's new website www.fao-code-action.info provides a useful resource for different stakeholders on practical implementation of the Code of Conduct. We are interested to share ideas and experiences on how to implement the Code. Please visit our website and feel free to contact us.

How to get hold of the Code?

The Code of Conduct is available in English and a small number of other languages at the FAO Homepage at: www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/code/PM_Code.htm

PAN Germany's convenient access to specific issues of the Code is provided at www.fao-code-action.info



The Pesticide Action Network

was founded in 1982. It is a global coalition of over 600 non-governmental organisations and individuals in over 60 countries working together to oppose the misuse of pesticides and to promote sustainable agriculture and ecologically sound pest management. PAN Germany was established in 1984 as part of the global network and has been continually involved in initiatives to reduce the use of hazardous pesticides and to promote sustainable alternatives on national, European and global levels.



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www.pan-germany.org
www.fao-code-action.info
www.oisat.org (for non-chemical pest management)
www.pesticide-residues.org

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