What are Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)?

The term 'Highly hazardous pesticides' (HHPs) became a governmental term globally when the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 2006 proposed a "*progressive ban of highly hazardous pesticides"*.

But which pesticides are highly hazardous? It took seven years until the FAO and the World Health Organisation (WHO) included a definition of the term in the *International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management.* This was important because the Code is the only UN-level global document covering all pesticides, and covering most of the life cycle of pesticides, including use, trade and disposal.

The International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management now says: *"Highly Hazardous Pesticides means pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or environment according to internationally accepted classification systems such as WHO or GHS or their listing in relevant binding international agreements or conventions. In addition, pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous."*

Such a general definition, however, does not identify which pesticides are highly hazardous. FAO and WHO had already developed a list of criteria for HHPs in 2008 (FAO/WHO 2016). These criteria are indicators, for example, for acute toxicity, carcinogenicity, mutagenicity or reproductive toxicity. But, again, having criteria does not mean having a list of HHPs as the criteria have to be applied to get such a list. FAO and WHO have not developed a list of HHPs; but PAN has. The *PAN List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides*, initially produced in 2009, has been updated several times. It shows which pesticide active ingredients are highly hazardous according to the criteria PAN selected. These include the FAO/WHO criteria, and some additional criteria to include important human impacts such as endocrine disruption and environmental impacts (e.g. bee toxicity). For the PAN List of HHPs see: For further reading.

For further reading

► PAN List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides

PAN International (2015): *PAN International List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (PAN List of HHPs),* June 2015. http://tinyurl.com/hxgkm5j

► About the history of global regulatory efforts to avoid pesticide poisonings

PAN Germany (2013): *Stop Pesticide Poisonings. A time travel through international pesticide policies* (2nd updated and extended edition) http://tinyurl.com/h4g4uhb

► Important international documents

FAO/WHO (2013): International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests_Pesticides/Code/CODE_2014Sep_ENG.pdf

FAO/WHO (2016): *Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides* http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5566e.pdf

More information on HHPs from FAO/WHO can be found here: http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/code/hhp/en/

► Global Appeal

PAN International Appeal for a Ban of Higly Hazardous Pesticides (already signed by more than 500 organisations from 106 countries). http://pan-international.org/wp-content/uploads/HHP-Appeal-with-signatures-en.pdf More signatures are welcome. Send the following information to carina.weber(at)pan-germany.org: 1. Name of the organisation; 2. Country; 3. Name of the contact person; 4. Email of the contact person.

► Pesticides already banned globally

The PAN International *Consolidated List of Banned Pesticides* shows which pesticide active ingredients are banned in what countries. http://tinyurl.com/j3ccb9y

► Alternatives

PAN International (2015): *Replacing Chemicals with Biology: Phasing out highly hazardous pesticides with agroecology* http://tinyurl.com/pe5dxnp

The 'International People's Agroecology Multiversity (IPAM)' is developed as a network of Field Learning Sites (or campuses) and an online portal. The Field Learning Sites (FLS) are training centres of farmers' fields, CSOs, institutions, universities that offer on-site learning, sharing and collaboration on agro-ecological practices and innovations in various regions. www.ipamglobal.org

The 'Online Information Service for Non-chemical Pest-Management in the Tropics and Subtropics' provides crop and pest specific information. www.oisat.org

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) regional contacts PAN Africa, Ms Nadia TIH, aninadia@pan-afrique.org • PAN Asia & Pacific, Sarojeni V. Rengam, sarojeni.rengam@panap.net • PAN Europe, c/o Susan Haffmans (PAN Germany), susan.haffmans@pan-germany.org • PAN Latin America (RAPAL), Fernando Bejarano, coordinacion@rapam.org.mx • PAN North America, Judy Hatcher, judy.contact@panna.org (6/2016 Carina Weber/PAN Germany, Meriel Watts/PAN Asia & Pacific)