



International actions in support of the Appeal against highly hazardous pesticides

Action News 2

A growing number of organisations who signed the PAN International Appeal against Highly Hazardous Pesticides have started activities to support the implementation of the Appeal. The short reports below might encourage you to also start action or to strengthen your activities towards a ban of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs).

Read about activities in June-October 2016 in:

Argentina – Cambodia – Cameroon – Costa Rica – Ecuador – Germany – Guatemala – Italy – Lao PDR – Paraguay – Philippines – South Africa – Tunisia – Uruguay – UK – Vietnam

In Argentina

the *Centro de Estudios sobre Tecnologías Apropriadas de la Argentina (CETAAR)* not just signed on to the Appeal but in addition implemented a program on HHPs and addressed the Appeal in a radio program in Buenos Aires called *Integrantes* (frequency AM 1200). On Friday, August 12, 2016 CETAAR made a presentation on HHPs and mentioned the *Appeal* in a radio program in Buenos Aires called *Vivir Mejor en Mi País*, (frequency AM 1420, 16-18 pm). On Wednesday, August 17, 2016 Javier Souza from CETAAR gave a presentation on HHPs on cable TV (RSO cable) and used this opportunity to also address the *Appeal*.

In Cameroon

on July 21st and 22nd, 2016, the *Centre Optionnel pour la Promotion et la Régénération Économique et Sociale*

Secteur Afrique (COPRESSA) did an awareness-raising campaign on highly hazardous pesticides with the participation of 10 communities in Makalingā / Tokom-béré. With uploading PAN's one-pager "What are Highly Hazardous Pesticides" to its website, *COPRESSA* facilitated peoples access to information on HHPs.

In Costa Rica

a collaborative project run by the *Regional Institute for Research into Toxic Substances (IRET)* – in cooperation with *PAN UK* and with funding from the UN's Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) - is seeking to address pesticide problems, by:

- identifying which pesticides and use patterns are highly hazardous in the Costa Rican context, using a life cycle approach (from regulation/import to disposal),
- bringing together government agencies, the agriculture sector and NGOs to develop a joint National Action Plan for HHP Risk and Use Reduction,
- raising awareness of HHPs, their hazards and risky

practices by users and train smallholder organizations and farm workers in practical measures to reduce their exposure and risks to health and the environment,

- identifying potential alternative pest management options for priority HHPs and trial the most feasible with a network of pilot farms for IPM, and
- sharing lessons, good practices and useful experiences with other countries in Central America.

Read more at: http://www.pan-uk.org/files/PN103_phasing_out_HHPs_in_Costa_Rica.pdf

✓ In Ecuador

the *Asociación Sindical de Trabajadores Bananeros Agrícolas y Campesinos (ASTAC)* not just signed on to the Appeal in July 2016 but also actively supported the implementation of the Appeal. Jorge Acosta, union adviser of ASTAC, gave an interview on July 25, 2016, and used this opportunity to introduce the Appeal. In the framework of campaign activities targeting specific HHPs in July 2016 ASTAC sent an e-mail to government authorities of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries of Ecuador and addressed the Appeal for a ban of HHPs and PAN International's list of HHPs. In this e-mail Acosta emphasised to the Ecuadorian government authorities that the two fungicides mancozeb and chlorthalonil which are listed at the PAN International List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides are in use on banana plantations and demanded that these pesticides should be banned.

Also in July 2016 ASTAC sent out a press release to let the public know that ASTAC signed on to the Appeal. The press release explained that it is important for workers to know that this Appeal exists because it supports their campaign to get chlorthalonil and mancozeb banned from use on banana plantations.

And thanks to ASTAC on August 13, 2016 a local newspaper, "La Hora" in Los Ríos, Ecuador, published an article on highly hazardous pesticides used on banana plantations and referred to the Appeal and to the work of PAN International. See:

https://issuu.com/la_hora/docs/rios_14

In addition to ASTAC also the *Fundación Savia Roja* from Ecuador signed on to the Appeal recently.

✓ In Germany

PAN Germany published the 1-pager "What are Highly Hazardous Pesticides" which – with the support from PAN Africa, PAN Asia/Pacific and PAN Latin America -

now available in four languages: German, English, French and Spanish. See: http://www.pan-germany.org/gbr/project_work/highly_hazardous_pesticides.html

In addition, PAN Germany was putting pressure on the EU authorities to acknowledge that scientific literature is giving evidence for the fact that glyphosate is 'probably carcinogenic'. Parallel to these activities targeting glyphosate PAN Germany fought for the implementation of criteria for the identification of endocrine disrupting pesticides and biocides.

✓ In Guatemala

the *Red Nacional Por la Defensa de la Soberanía Alimentaria en Guatemala (REDSAG)* signed on to the Appeal for a ban of HHPs in August, 2016 and right after started activities to support the Appeal by not just putting it at their website but also planning to introduce the Appeal at their conference *Encuentro de Agroecología* on October 13, 2016. In addition REDSAG plans to address the Appeal in a press release on October 13, 2016.

✓ In Italy

members of the *Associazione Medici per l'Ambiente (ISDE Italia)* not just translated the Pesticide Appeal into Italian and shared it with partner organisations. In addition ISDE send a letter to the Italian Ministry of Health on 22nd of September 2016, the "Fertility Day", to address pesticide risks, because some of the highly hazardous pesticides can interfere with the female hormonal function, which may lead to negative effects on the reproductive system through disruption of the hormonal balance necessary for proper functioning and as also men and animals can be effected by such pesticides. See:

<http://andiamoavantiitornandoindietro.jimdo.com/testimonianze/>

The *Associazione per la Difesa dell'Ambiente e della Salute (A.D.A.S. onlus)* and the *Comitato Veneto Sensibilità Chimica Multipla* signed the Appeal and *Colli Puri, Collalbrigo Respira* uploaded the Italian Appeal on its website and shared it via Facebook. See:

<http://www.collipuri.it/2016/09/15/appello-per-la-messa-al-bando-dei-pesticidi-di-sintesi/>

In the municipality of Mals, PAN Italy and others are still fighting for a full ban of pesticides. After being successful in getting legislation demanding a transformation of the agricultural system into organic (dated 29.03.2016) opponents started fighting this legislation by going to court in June 2016. The pro-organic activists are therefore now desperately looking for the support of

lawyers. If you know lawyers who are willing to help please contact:
Koen Hertoge, koen.hertoge@gmail.com

✓ In Paraguay

Alter Vida (Centro de Estudios y Formación Para el Ecodesarrollo) not just uploaded the Appeal to its website in August 2016 but is also going to send a letter to several ministries highlighting the dangers of HHPs and the need to replace them with safer alternatives.
<http://www.altervida.org.py/v4/convocatoria-por-la-prohibicion-de-los-plaguicidas-altamente-peligrosos/>

✓ In the Philippines

Interface Development Interventions, Inc. (IDIS), a small environmental NGO based in Davao City, is working for the protection of water resources. One of the major threats confronting their water resources are the toxic chemicals used by banana and pineapple plantations in the upland portions of their watersheds. These plantations are expanding even in high elevation and in steep slopes, hence, pesticides residues are easily carried by surface runoff ending in bodies of water. To combat contamination *IDIS* conducted pesticide monitoring in water and air. Their studies found a lot of pesticides both in water and air as well as in sediments. They disseminated the results to the public, gave copies to their government agencies, and called for strict monitoring of these pesticides. They were successful in meeting with the Executive Director of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority to explain their demands.
Contact: Mary Ann V. Fuertes, ann.fuertes@idisphil.org

✓ In South Africa

the *City of Cape Town* suspended the spraying of a herbicide in the Noordhoek and Kommetjie area after concerned locals complained that this could cause environmental and human health damages.
For more see:
<http://www.capetalk.co.za/articles/16029/city-halts-use-of-powerful-herbicide-in-noordhoek-amid-probe>

✓ In Tunisia

Semia Gharbi from the *Association de l'Education Environnementale pour les Futures Générations (AEEFG)* spoke about the Appeal for a Ban of Highly Hazardous

Pesticides in the National Radio of Tunis, which was broadcasted on August 21, 2016. In addition, Semia Gharbi spoke about the Appeal in an interview in *Radio Tunisie Chaîne Internationale (RTCI)* in the program "Jardin à Vivre" - FM frequency 102.9 MHz on Sunday, September 4, 2016: <http://rtci.fm/>

Prof. Bouzid Nasraoui, Editor-in-Chief of the *Tunisian Journal of Plant Protection* and head of the *Laboratory of Phytopathology* of the *National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia*, University of Carthage in Tunis forwarded the Appeal for a ban of highly hazardous pesticides to agriculture stakeholders in Tunisia, including agricultural universities, researchers and engineers.

✓ In Uruguay

RAPAL Uruguay posted the Appeal on its website in their July 2016 bulletin.
See: <http://www.rapaluruguay.org/index.html>

✓ In the UK

the national *Hazards Campaign* is working with trade unions in councils to find alternatives to glyphosate.
PAN UK launched a new *Food Spray Manual* 6 October 2016, a trainers guide to using the Food Spray Method as part of an IPM system in cotton farming. The manual is based on work they have been doing in Benin and Ethiopia to help farmers produce more cotton, more profitably, without pesticides. It is aimed at sustainable cotton initiatives, project managers, extension agents, field trainers – anyone working with cotton growers world-wide. It guides trainers through each stage with helpful tips and advice, along with warnings of common problems and pitfalls. The full manual can be accessed on their website using this link:
<http://www.pan-uk.org/publications-resources/the-food-spray-manual>

✓ In Vietnam

the *Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD)* translated the Appeal into Vietnamese, uploaded this new version to their website and also made the English version available at their website. In addition, *SRD* introduced the Appeal at a training with rice farmers interest groups in the Tinh Gia district, Thanh Hoa province, on August 15-17, 2016 and in Phu Luong district, Thai Nguyen province on August 31st., September 13 and September 29, 2016. The trainings

were entitled "Skills on Prevention and Control of Plant Pests and Diseases and Technical Skills on Planting and Caring of Grafted Stumps".

✓ Global: Monsanto Tribunal and People's Assembly

On 14-16 October 2016 the *Monsanto Tribunal* and the parallel *People's Assembly* took place in Den Haag, Netherlands. The Tribunal was an international civil society initiative to hold Monsanto accountable for human rights violations, for crimes against humanity, and for ecocide. Eminent judges heard testimonies from victims, and delivered an advisory opinion following procedures of the International Court of Justice. A distinct and parallel event to the Monsanto Tribunal, the People's Assembly, provided the opportunity for social movements to rally and plan for the future we want. For more see:

- https://twitter.com/monsantotribun?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
- <http://pan-international.org/release/594/>
- http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org/main.php?obj_id=281601562

✓ Global: New Review on Glyphosate

In a "state of the science" review released 11.10.16, PAN International presented a large body of research documenting the adverse human health and environmental impacts of glyphosate and glyphosate-based herbicides. The Monograph underscores the need for a global phase-out. Environmental and health advocates say the monograph on the world's most widely used herbicide, commonly known by its original trade name Roundup, should serve as a wakeup call for regulators, governments and users around the world. The findings were shared at *The Peoples Assembly* by PAN representatives on behalf of PAN International.

The Monograph is available here:

<http://pan-international.org/>

To strengthen the Appeal several NGOs/CSOs increased the visibility of the Appeal by communicating it at their website

In Argentina the *Centro de Estudios sobre Tecnologías Apropriadas de la Argentina (CETAAR)* at their blog page at <http://cetaar.blogspot.com/>

In Cambodia the *Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC)* at

<http://www.cedac.org.kh/?page=detail&ctype=article&id=506&lg=en>

In Cameroon the *Centre Optionnel pour la Promotion et la Régénération Économique et Sociale Secteur Afrique (COPRESSA)*, in English and French at <http://copressa.org/index.php/rapports>

Also in Cameroon the *Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Développement (CREPD)* in English and French at <https://www.facebook.com/crepdcameroun/>

In Ecuador the *Asociación Sindical de Trabajadores Bananeros Agrícolas y Campesinos (ASTAC)* at <http://astacecuador.wixsite.com/astac-ecuador>

In Guatemala the *Red Nacional Por la Defensa de la Soberanía Alimentaria en Guatemala (REDSAG)* at <http://redsag.net/index.php> and at their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1057478897641094&id=174512975937695¬if_t=like¬if_id=1470780186881574

In Italy *Colli Puri, Collalbrigo Respira* at <http://www.collipuri.it/2016/09/15/appello-per-la-messa-al-bando-dei-pesticidi-di-sintesi/>

In Lao PDR the *Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA)* made the *PAN International List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides* available at their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1003541403096309&set=a.490692834381171.1073741826.100003213779110&type=3&theater>

In Paraguay *Alter Vida (Centro de Estudios y Formación Para el Ecodesarrollo)* at <http://www.altervida.org.py/v4/convocatoria-por-la-prohibicion-de-los-plaguicidas-altamente-peligrosos/>

In Uruguay. *RAPAL Uruguay* at <http://www.rapaluruguay.org/index.html> (in their monthly bulletin)

In Vietnam the *Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD)* July 2016 in English and in Vietnamese at <http://www.srd.org.vn/index.php/sustainable-agriculture/801-appeal-for-a-ban-of-highly-hazardous-pesticides> and <http://www.srd.org.vn/index.php/nong-nghi-p-b-n-v-ng-menu/806-keu-g-i-l-nh-c-m-thu-c-tr-sau-co-d-c-t-cao>



Report on your activities!

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