

# Chemicals and Waste Management

## Sharing of strategies

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# Context: Asia is mostly agriculture land

- 925 million people are **hungry and malnourished** around the globe. Around 578 million of them are in Asia, with women and children as the most vulnerable.
- Corporate Agriculture: chemical-intensive, monocropping; increased use and dependence on seeds, pesticides and fertilizers sold by seeds and agro-chemical TNCs – impacts highly on the biodiversity, access to land/resources; environment, and human health.
- Corporate control: Expansion of the highly profitable input industry-i.e. the agrochemical TNCs ((who are also the world's seed industry giants

## Context: Asia is mostly agriculture land

- Pesticide poisoning estimates vary from 1-25 Million / annual (and even more than that)
- Landgrabbing worsens hunger and poverty – massive in Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Philippines, India, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Laos and Indonesia. (turned into oil palm, rubber, sugar, hybrid corn)
  - Laos - 43% of farmlands / Indonesia - 300,000 has. of forests acquired by foreign corporations.

# Chemicals and Waste Management

- Platform of engagement— international lobbying work
- Stockholm Convention: -- Protect Human Health and the Environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- Rotterdam Convention: -- PIC Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- Endosulfan added to the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions (2011)
  - Challenge is faster phase out (we need to monitor);
  - To get other Highly hazardous pesticides added to the conventions
  - New pesticides are coming out into the market
- Herbicide paraquat has been proposed for listing in the Rotterdam Convention. COP6 in 2013 will take a decision on paraquat. – Challenge is to convince governments to include paraquat in the convention and to counteract the agrochemical companies influence on governments.

## STRATEGIES: Lobbying work

- FAO Code of Conduct - Community Monitoring of the Code by partners in the Asia Pacific.
- SAICM: PAN AP and PAN International provided inputs on sustainable farms around the globe using non-chemical alternatives.



- **STRATEGIES: Community and national partnerships**
- Crucial is the link between local/national initiatives and international engagements
- Community-based Pesticide Action Monitoring (CPAM) -- a tool to document the use and impact of pesticides on health and for organising community action against pesticide use. (training and education and research) and to take it to the national and international policy instruments
- Capacity building on international policy instruments, i.e. FAO Code of Conduct –
- Campaign against HHPs – raising awareness, networking, sharing of experiences towards a global ban on pesticides, demand accountability from agro-chemical TNCs
- Regional cooperation: Manufacturing pesticide countries must respect the bans of other countries and establish mechanisms to accept the return of illegal pesticides.

# Way Forward

- Reduce with the aim of eliminating pesticide use
- Promote safe food and provide support to biodiversity based ecologically sound agriculture (BEA)
- Protect human health and the environment from GE in food and agriculture
- Monitor and expose the strategies of agrochem TNCs that violate rights of people and communities. – to have an international legal mechanism to hold them accountable
- Strengthen people's movements in Asia-Pacific region (esp self-determination)
- Sustainable development: Right to Food, Right to land and productive resources, especially of women in agriculture – food sovereignty

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# Thank you!

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