

29 September, 2015

## PAN Intervention on Highly Hazardous Pesticides

Thank you Mr. President

Pesticide Action Network is pleased to be one of the 32 sponsors of CRP4 which proposes the formation of a Global Alliance to Phase out Highly Hazardous Pesticides. We believe this conference needs to take urgent concrete action to address a serious problem that has been going on for far too long – the poisoning of farmers and farm workers who produce the food that many of us eat.

CRP4 affirms the 2006 recommendation of the FAO Council for a progressive ban on HHPs in order to implement SAICM with regard to pesticides.

That recommendation was 9 years ago; and still pesticides continue to poison farmers and farm workers every day. Recent studies report acute poisoning symptoms in up to 80-100% of exposed farmers and farm workers in some countries. HHPs continue to cause long term suffering including cancer; and physical disabilities and reduced intelligence in children.

In this respect, we are particularly concerned by CRP7 from CropLife, which undermines the FAO Council recommendation for a progressive ban of HHPs. The CropLife paper relies on an approach that has fundamentally failed to prevent the poisoning of farmers and farm workers, and which essentially is based on promoting increased access of farmers to pesticides, without any commitment to phasing out HHPs.

There is overwhelming evidence that HHPs can be replaced by safer methods of pest management that increase production, increase farmer profits, improve food security and improve farmers' ability to withstand climate change events, at the same time as they dramatically reduce pesticide poisoning. As has already been indicated to the plenary this information is contained in a new book PAN will release at a side event this evening.

But farmers need help; countries need help, and the international community can provide that help. A Global Alliance to phase out HHPs would provide an excellent platform for coordinated global assistance.

There is very strong support here today for the phase-out of HHPs, as there was at the OEWG and ICCM3. We believe that the time has come for concerted global cooperative action through SAICM to really address the unacceptable pesticide poisoning of farmers and farm workers.

Thank you Mr. President.