

Thanal Intervention on Endosulfan

26 April, 2011

I speak on behalf of a public interest group Thanal from Kerala, India, a participating organisation of IPEN and PAN.

Thanal welcomes the proposal to list endosulfan under the convention at this fifth conference of the Parties. This is an historic occasion for us as we came to the INC4 in Bonn, Germany for the first time seeking global wisdom on the issue of endosulfan. We were working with the impacted communities in India. Since then we have been travelling together with you with our local action and looking forward for the global thinking and global actions.

Kerala its officials, media and activists are aware of POPRC and the COP5 is covered everyday in the news channels with due importance to this global process that is attempting to create a toxic free world. Our organisation followed the POPRC and the process from the beginning and are extremely happy to note that the documents provided by the committee are a balanced view of the issue and are based on sound science.

My Chief Minister who is young at 87 years was fasting yesterday along with thousands in Kerala and along with his cabinet colleagues of the state government to express solidarity with your efforts here to globally phase out endosulfan. Kerala State government has implemented rehabilitation programmes to help the many thousands of people whose health has been blighted by the aerial spraying of endosulfan. It has now drawn a plan for health and remediation which is costing it more than 3 billion Indian rupees. Civil society and the state government is now on the road to raise this resource to remediate the problems. Over 1000 people are dead and 10,000 impacted with severe health problems. At the same time many more communities in other states are coming out with more such incidents and cases of endosulfan poisoning. We had over 16 Committees and three detailed studies which concluded that endosulfan is causing harm to people and environment.

We, as an NGO, have worked with different agencies and organisations and now have developed a hand book and package with specific alternatives to endosulfan, based on a No-pesticide management programme of the state of Andhrapraeshin which over 2.8 million acres of land and almost a million farmers are engaged in growing crops without pesticides. We see hope in the path forward laid out by the UN Special Rapporteur on Right to food and we look forward to work in this direction to increase production and fight hunger.

We understand the listing of endosulfan will trigger action plans that will bring the available alternatives to areas where there is non-availability. We further believe

from our experience in Kerala that the cost of inaction today will increase the liability and burden for planet earth from endosulfan.

We also see the need for financial resources for the developing countries to move out of the toxic pesticide in the efforts to create the toxic free future.

Thank you for listening and looking forward to work with you by being part of the solution.