

PAN STATEMENT on Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: Evaluation of and guidance on implementation and review and update of the Strategic Approach

Risk reduction We find that the report on progress and the 20 indicators useful and important to aid in achieving the 2020 goals. Based on this, we would like to highlight in brief some work of the Pesticide Action Network on Risk Reduction. PAN groups in Africa, Asia and Latin America carried out surveys in 21 areas of 13 countries, based on community monitoring strategies and using the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. PAN groups in the United States monitored the air for the presence of pesticides. The material presented from PAN groups in Africa, Asia and Latin America is based on interviews with 2220 women and men from farming communities, agricultural workers and rural communities affected by spray drift. Surveys identified common signs and symptoms of pesticide poisoning, and found wide-spread ill health in areas that use different pesticides on diverse crops. The report of these surveys, called *Communities in Peril*, is widely distributed to all stakeholders, and continued efforts are being taken to document safer alternatives to these pesticides.

In the last few years PAN groups have worked towards the banning of endosulfan in several countries in West Africa, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, India, New Zealand and Australia. And in Latin America some others will do so in 2013. There are also ongoing campaigns to stop or restrict aerial spraying with highly hazardous pesticides in Argentina, Uruguay, Philippines and India as well as disposal of obsolete pesticides in Africa. We have also been working towards the ban of paraquat, atrazine and chlorpyrifos by providing information on their use and impact on farmers and the environment to governments and collaborating with scientists and farmers to document and introduce safer alternatives. Public awareness campaigns on the highly hazardous pesticides are ongoing and the outreach to key stakeholders is emphasized.

PAN, together with its partners, has also developed community monitoring methodologies to document the impact of pesticides on the environment and community health, and monitoring is now being undertaken in more than 50 countries. The strategy is based on participatory action research together with continued involvement in the community to facilitate community empowerment for action. In Asia, working with local communities and workers organisations, we have been having an impact, bringing the results of the monitoring to our governments and discussing with them the way forward to reduce these impacts. In North America, PANNA and community organizations use the Drift Catcher as a tool for community based monitoring to strengthen community relationships and power; sharpen campaign analysis, develop plans for action; and make scientifically explicit the burden of pesticide exposure. The scientifically sound data helps communities in campaigning and to change pesticide policy, increase the visibility of the problem and increases evidence of pesticide exposure.

Finally we have also been active in promoting agroecological production as the safest alternative to use of highly hazardous pesticides, working with local farmers organizations to develop community supported agriculture and local marketing of these products in many countries. Much more needs to be done and our efforts can be further strengthened if we have more support from the governments and other stakeholders.