



**Improved pesticides and chemicals management
in the Former Soviet Union
GCP/RER/040/EC**

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**MORE FOOD
LESS RISK**

**PESTICIDE
RISK
REDUCTION**

2014 Year of Action

2014 is set to be the busiest year yet for the project. The plans are now in place. The targets have been identified and the partners at national and regional level have a clear picture as to where we want to be by the end of the year. We have already been joined by Belarus who signed the project agreement with FAO in early February. We hope the remaining countries make similar commitments in the first quarter of the year.

Dealing with problems from the past

The project will look to achieve the following results in the coming year:

Inventory:

With the assistance of project partner Milieukontakt International (MKI) full national inventories will be completed in Armenia and Georgia in the first quarter of 2014. Verification of inventory data in Belarus will also be completed. All information to be entered into the FAO Pesticide Stock Management System (PSMS) by end of March. This information is essential to set the risk reduction targets for the project related to management of obsolete pesticides.

Environmental Risk Assessment:

The inventory data collected in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan will be used to formulate a national environmental assessment (EA) and environmental management plan (EMP) for obsolete pesticides. This work is already underway in Kyrgyzstan and the report will be used as a model for other countries to follow. The EA and EMP set out the country strategy for repackaging and disposal and will therefore be a major factor in the design of the international tender for waste management services (see below).The reports will be completed by end of April 2014 and made available to the companies bidding for the tender for disposal services. In addition to the country level activities the project will also initiate a review of contaminated sites across the region in cooperation with Blacksmith Institute (BI). The activities to be completed in 2014



include the finalisation of the Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) methodology and the completion of REA studies in over 60 sites across the region. The results of this work will form a component of a regional conference on waste management and contaminated sites to be held in September 2014 (location to be confirmed). Based on the recommendations of the second SC meeting in Kiev in 2013 the project will also complete a regional review of container management needs. This will culminate with a regional conference in December 2014, provisional to be held at FAO HQ in Rome.

Safeguarding (risk reduction):

The health and safety plan for the Pascani site in Moldova has highlighted the option for using national personnel from the Ministry of Defence to complete the repackaging work on site. Discussions are also on-going with the Emergency Ministry in Kyrgyzstan on access to trained personnel. A tender is under development for the provision of waste management services to supervise and implement field activities and to provide all necessary equipment. The safeguarding actions will focus on Armenia (100 – 150 metric tonnes from 49 known sites), Georgia (approx. 100 metric tonnes including an amount of buried DDT waste), Kyrgyzstan (up to 500 metric tonnes already identified in PSMS) and, Moldova (up to 300 metric tonnes of waste at the Pascani store). The safeguarding element of the tender will be based on these estimated amounts. The materials in Belarus (up to 350 metric tonnes) have been safeguarded previously and so no further repackaging work is foreseen for this waste. The completion of the safeguarding works is scheduled to be completed in 2014 and into mid 2015.

Environmentally sound disposal:

The tender for waste management services will aim to remove all safeguarded waste from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova. The waste in Kyrgyzstan will possibly be stored in a purpose built facility pending the identification of a suitable local or regional destruction option. This is necessary due to the lack of opportunity to export waste across the territory of Kazakhstan and Russian Federation. The disposal of this waste will be facilitated by a GEF funded project for Central Asia and Turkey which will become operational in 2015.



Looking towards a Sustainable future

Based on the foundation laid in 2013 the project will aim to generate the following results in 2014:

Pesticide legislation:

The completion of the legal review in Armenia, Belarus and Moldova is expected during the first quarter of 2014. A final report on the commonalities and differences amongst the countries and the existing legal gaps in each country will be released by May 2014. This report will also provide recommendations on the pilot actions to improve and harmonize countries' national legal framework in relation to pesticides management.

Pesticide life-cycle management:

During 2014, all remaining participating countries will complete their assessments and concept notes for follow-up projects will be developed addressing all recommendations made for improving pest- and pesticide management in the EECCA region

Reduction of risks from HHPs:

As above the next steps in this area of work will be to address the prioritised needs, challenges and agreed recommendations. This will result in the development of project concept notes.

The results from the three areas of work above will be presented at a regional conference for pesticide life-cycle management to be held in June 2014 (venue to be decided).

Country level awareness raising:

This activity has been delayed longer than expected due to the slow response from countries to engage with the project. Now that 6 countries are actively in the project a regional training on awareness raising has been organised. The training will be held in Chisinau, Moldova March 17 – 21. The event is organised in cooperation with project partner Milieukontakt International (MKI) and representatives from NGOs and national government communications teams from all 12 project countries have been invited. The first three days of the event will focus on general communications activities. Days 4 and 5 will allow time for countries with signed agreements to focus on development of national strategies with support from project partners.

In addition, the project has initiated the development of a regional programme for training on community based health awareness for vulnerable groups. The programme will call heavily on the results from the studies on HHP use outlined

above and the process and preliminary results will be presented at the June conference on pesticide management.



Communication, capacity assessment and education are the key to pesticide risk reduction

The second steering committee in Kiev highlighted the need for more regional and cross cutting activities linked to 6 areas of work. This has resulted in the regional training events and conferences on awareness strategies (March), pesticide management (June), waste management and contaminated site assessment (September) and container management (December). In addition to these activities the project will continue to implement actions in the following areas:

Visibility and communications:

The project web site is in the final stages of development and will be operational by the end of March. This will act as the main source of information transfer to project teams and countries as we move forward with the implementation. Newsletters, country briefs and promotional materials will be continued to be developed and a press release and newsletter will be sent out in conjunction with each regional event outlined above.

Disposal study:

Following the redesign of the project concept for this work a benchmarking tool to assess country waste management capacity has been developed (February 2014). It has been decided with project partner IHPA to organise a regional training to teach experts how to apply this tool which will be held in March. Immediately after the training a review of technology and economic issues linked to the establishment of regional and national waste management capacity will be completed in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The resultant feasibility study will be used as a basis for resource mobilisation with development partners for possible development of a sustainable solution in the region. The results of this review will be presented to the regional waste management meeting scheduled for September. In addition, a review of the potential for disposal of waste using co-incineration in cement kilns will be completed in Kyrgyzstan. The results of this work will also be presented in the September meeting.

Training:

In the year ahead the project aims to make significant progress in key areas linked to training and education. The finalisation of training materials in the areas of management of obsolete pesticides, assessment of contaminated land (in collaboration with Blacksmith Institute) and issues linked to labour protection will be developed and added to the existing postgraduate training materials developed by FAO and WHO. Materials will be reviewed and adapted to allow translation into Russian and agreements will be reached with teaching institutions in the region to offer the course materials. In addition, our partner Green Cross Belarus will finalise materials for use with secondary schools under the title *“Pesticides and Me”* and will complete the adaptation and translation of the FAO guideline *“Setting up and running a school garden”*. Both sets of materials will then be trialled in schools to further refine materials.

Guidelines:

2014 will see the publication of the second edition of the Environmental Management Tool Kit volume 3 (EMTK 3) and the adaptation, translation of EMTK 4. A new guideline EMTK v 5 (contaminated site assessment) will also be published. The adoption of the revised Basel POPs Pesticide Guideline is also expected in 2014.



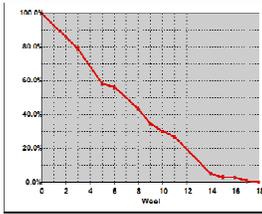
Monitoring and evaluation: the path to continual improvement

The project has worked hard to develop an easy to understand monitoring and evaluation template which is going to be managed through Green Cross Switzerland. The system is based on the indicators and milestones as presented in country operational manuals, letters of agreement with implementing partners and the logical framework and work plan as presented in the FAO reports to the European Commission.



The system developed presents a record of progress as a dashboard. A complete picture of implementation status is provided in a simple chart with a small amount of text to explain main achievements and areas which need to be given more focus. The system is designed to give a snap shot of where implementation stands compared to our plans. The idea behind the system is for it to assist country teams and the project partners to maintain delivery of results in line with the plan.

The charts similar to the examples shown here will be updated monthly and



presented on the project web site. It is likely that in order to ensure the latest progress is reflected in the charts representatives from Green Cross Switzerland will be in contact with country teams and project partners on a regular basis. As well as the overview of project progress, specific charts will also be developed looking at each area of work in more detail. The charts will also incorporate a traffic light system to show on a monthly basis if progress has been expected, is ahead of schedule or is delayed.

Finally, the M&E system will include a track of the risk reduction as stocks of obsolete pesticides are firstly safeguarded and then sent for disposal. This is a function of the FAO Pesticide Stock Management System (PSMS).

Upcoming Events

As indicated above a number of regional conferences, trainings and workshops are scheduled for 2014 in direct response to the recommendations of the second SC meeting held in Kiev November 2013. The outline schedule of events is given below and more details will be made available on the project web site at the end of March. Some additional high profile events are also included for reference purposes:

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| March 17 – 21: | Regional awareness raising training, Chisinau, Moldova; |
| March 19 – 20: | Regional training of waste management benchmarking tool, Chisinau, Moldova; |
| April 2 - 4: | FAO Regional Conference, Bucharest, Romania; |
| May 25 – 30: | GEF Council, Cancun, Mexico; |
| June 3 – 5 | Green Week Conference, Brussels, Belgium; |
| June 5: | World Environment Day, National Awareness raising events; |
| June 16 – 20: | FAO Conference, Rome, Italy; |
| June 23 – 27: | Regional conference on pesticide management and reduction of risk, location to be confirmed; |
| September 22 – 26: | Regional conference on waste management capacity and assessment of contaminated land, location to be confirmed; |
| October 16: | FAO World Food Day, National Awareness raising events; |
| October 28 – 30: | GEF 47 th Council Meeting, Washington DC, US; |
| December 1 – 5: | FAO Council, Rome, Italy; |
| December 8 – 12: | Regional conference on container management and pesticide risk reduction, TBC. |

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The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission*