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International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

ISIP Objectives

ISIP's four objectives include:
• Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
• Advancing National SAICM Implementation
• Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
• Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Title of activity: Contributing to training in IPM and safe occupational practices in support of improved implementation of the Code of Conduct.
NGO: Cameroon Pesticide Action Network (CAPANET)
Country: Cameroon
Date: 25 September, 2010

Elements of SAICM Covered:

Promoting full and effective implementation of the Code and its guidelines (23); Addressing problem areas where policy or practice falls short of the Code guidelines (23); Contributing to training in IPM and safe occupational practices in support of improved implementation of the Code (29)

Description of the FAO Code of Conduct:

The International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides provides guidelines in support of increased food security, while at the same time protecting human health and the environment. The Code established voluntary standards of conduct for all public and private entities engaged in, or associated with, the distribution and use of pesticides. It appears as a

globally accepted standard for pesticide management. It is a document that could serve as a clue in assisting Cameroon to put in place or strengthen its pesticide management systems.

The 12 Articles of the Code, the supporting technical guidelines and the annex represent an up-to-date standard for pesticide management. The Code includes a modern approach, leading to sound management of pesticides which focuses on risk reduction, protection of human and environmental health. The Code supports sustainable agricultural development and the utilization of pesticides in an effective manner. Also, use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as strategy to pesticide management in pest control.

The FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides covers all stages and targets all pesticide substances. The Code consists of the following issues:

- To eliminate hazardous substances from the WHO hazard classes of extremely hazardous (IA), highly hazardous (IB), moderately hazardous (II), and, as far as feasible, slightly hazardous (III) substances;
- To apply precautionary and substitution principles more strictly during pesticide substances and products registration;
- To give an increased priority to the elaboration of internationally harmonized guidelines for IPM and their implementation in practice;
- The development of internationally harmonized definitions and guidelines for agricultural production methods aiming at higher levels of integration;
- To apply the polluter pays principle more widely, for example by taxing the production, marketing and/or use of hazardous, patent-free pesticide products and to deposit the revenues in the Global IPM Facility;
- To stimulate non-state actors (e.g. NGO, civil society actors) to develop programmes using self-regulatory and multi-stakeholder approaches; and
- To formulate Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and a final goal of residue-free produce.

In fact, the Code shows that pesticide management should be seen as part of chemical management in general, as well as of sustainable agricultural development in particular. This means that a good collaboration, cooperation and information exchange should be established among various stakeholders (government institutions, agro pharmaceutical industries, pesticides distributors and retailers, research institutions, etc.).

Finally, the ultimate function of the Code is to serve as a framework and point of reference for using pesticides in a judicious manner.

Description of existing national pesticide legislation:

Cameroon has set up laws and regulations aiming at regulating the pesticide sub sector in the country. To name them we have:

- The N°2003/003 of 21 April 2003 on phytosanitary protection (with a 31st article creating the National Phytosanitary Council); and
- The decree N° 2005/0772/PM of 06 April 2005 stating the conditions for the registration and control of phytosanitary products.

To fight against pest and diseases, Cameroon imports and makes use of pesticide. This business is subjected to the above laws and regulation. Something is still to be done to improve the actual laws and sensitize the different actors of this sub-sector to fully comply with them. In Cameroon, pesticide registration does exist. The Ministry of Agriculture issues importation permits, agreements to enable economic operators to distribute or to use pesticides for phytosanitary treatments. All the above mentioned official documents are obtained after an application has been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Description of conditions of work:

At the level of farmers who are the main users of pesticides, a survey has shown that lever-operated knapsack sprayers are the most widely used type of equipment; but in the drier areas where water supplies are less readily available; CDA rotary atomizer sprayers are used, especially on cotton. Hand carried thermal foggers and motorized knapsack mistblowers are also used, especially in cocoa. Various problems with the equipment caused leakage on operators who generally do not wear protective clothing. Most producers have poor knowledge of pest and diseases. Most of them are overusing pesticides to control pest and diseases. Producers have poor knowledge on the exact period to apply pesticide, the alternative to chemical control with synthetic pesticides, the post interval period, etc. Also, it is the lack of capital that prevents some of them from using chemical products for pest control.

Description of highly hazardous pesticides formulations sold and/or used in your country:

A survey done in cocoa, coffee, oil palm, maize, cotton, tomatoes, groundnuts, plantains, bananas and various other crops growing areas of Cameroon, showed that the main herbicides used by the growers are paraquat and glyphosate; while metalaxyl, maneb and copper are the principal fungicides; cypermethrin and chlorpyrifos are the main insecticides. All these pesticides are classified by the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) as Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP).

In 1989, due to the financial crisis that hit the country; the government decided to liberalize and privatize the use of pesticides. This led to an increased acquisition and use of pesticides. As a result of this, stockpiles of pesticides in deteriorating leaking containers in some parts of the country were used by farmers. Some of these chemicals were stored outdoors and were causing considerable environmental pollution and risk to health. Some of the pesticides in this condition were: Gammophele 320 (Lindane), Dursban 240 ulv (Chlorpyrifos ethyl), Callidim Fe 320 (Lindane), Sumicombi 183 ulv (Fenitrothion + Fenvalerate), Diazinon (Diazinon), Aldrin (Aldrin), Dieldrin (Dieldrin), and Orthodifolatan (Orthodifolatan). The last three products (Aldrin, Dieldrin and Orthodifolatan) have been banned in the country since 1989 and are included in the pesticides listed by PAN International as Highly Hazardous.

Moreover, in 2002 a survey to identify stockpiles of pesticides was conducted in Cameroon within the framework of the Phytosanitary Strategy Reorientation Project of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and sponsored by GTZ. The survey reported that 22 stockpiles of pesticides were identified in Adamaoua, Far North, North, East, West, Centre, North West and South West regions of Cameroon; for a total of 34 415 in liters and 8 673, 93 in kilogrammes. Some of these pesticides are:

	Name of pesticides	**Active ingredients**	**Quantities (l)**	**Quantities (kg)**	**Regions**
1	ADONIS 6 UL	Fipronil 6%	12 375		Far North
2	ADONIS 4 UL	Fipronil 4 %	2500		Far North
3	CRYPTOGIL HN (granule)	Lindane + Pentachlorophenol		9750	East
4	CRYPTOGIL 6X Na (granule)	Lindane+ Pentachlorophenol +Na		2 200	East
5	FENTHION 600 UL	Fenthion 600 g/l	8 640		Far North
6	THIODAN 25 UL	Endosulfan	10 000		Adamaoua
7	DIELDRIN 20 ULV	Dieldrine		625	North
8	AFALON	Linuron		1 040	North
9	MOCAP	Ethroprophos		495	North West
10	HEPTACHLORE	Heptachlore		200	Centre
11	ORTHODOFOLATAN	Captafol		123	CE
12	GRAMURON ROUGE			15	North West

Source: MINADER, 2002

Description of problem areas where practice or policy is not consistent with Code guidelines:

Cameroon has insufficient legislation for pesticides. Even though registration and controls exist, a lot still needs to be done to improve the existing regulation.

In fact, there are many problems caused by the insufficient phytosanitary legislation in Cameroon. For example: the statistics of imports and exports of pesticides are not available; the list of banned pesticides is not updated; pre and post pesticide registration and approval is not properly done; the list and quantities of obsolete pesticides is very often not renewed and made available; the list of pests and their geographical distribution is not updated; weak collaboration with the secretariats of international conventions players in the field of pesticides; lack of a legislative framework on Maximum Residue Limit (MRL); data not available on the market of pesticides in Cameroon; etc.

It is of paramount importance to improve the situation by bringing solutions to the above mentioned weaknesses. Solutions should include: Elaborating rules defining the code of ethics of sworn officers in charge of inspections and pest control; developing procedures for certification of phytosanitary treatment devices; training and appointing more inspectors and phytosanitary controllers; popularizing the laws and regulations implementing the crop protection business; popularizing the laws governing the joint commission of pesticide registration in the CEMAC zone with business operators; etc.

As regards to practice, the problem is at the level of the choice of pesticide, the dosage, the application technique, and the respect of pre-harvest interval. Most of the producers apply pesticides on non-target organisms or on wrong crops, protective gear is neglected and not used, etc…To remedy these problems, it is necessary to train and inform all those intervening in this domain and strengthening the research infrastructures. Appropriate legislation elaborated in a broad consultation with competent authorities in pesticides is needed.

Description of the use of IPM and ecological agriculture:

Considering the case of cocoa production, import of pesticides has long been subsidized for use on this crop (also on coffee). With the liberalization of the cocoa (also coffee) and pesticides sectors and the devaluation of the local currency (CFA francs), farmers are facing fluctuations in the price paid for cocoa and the high cost of inputs.

Without the support of the extension services, they have developed themselves traditional integrated control methods based on the use of plant extracts (mixed with conventional pesticides).

A survey of 300 cocoa farmers in southern Cameroon showed their command of these integrated control methods. The research institution (IRAD) has conducted research and development for better definition and dissemination of such integrated control methods. During extension activities carried out by some NGO (e.g INADES Formation), non-chemical crop protection products were introduced to resource-poor farmers in North-West, South-west and West regions of Cameroon. Plant extract used in controlling pests included: *Chenopodium ambrosoifdes* (repellent for ants); the *Lobelia columnaris* (effective against stem borer, caterpillars); *Carica papaya* (leaf decoction effective against caterpillars, aphids); the *Urtica dioica* (decoction effective against acarians and weevils); ails and *onions* (decoction effective against insects on vegetable crops).

Project Outcomes:

Description of the activity conducted to promote the FAO Code of Conduct:

A workshop was organized by the NGO (Network) named Cameroon Pesticide Action Network (CAPANET) from 22 to 24 September 2010 in Cameroon in line with the implementation of the FAO Code of conduct on the production, distribution and use of pesticide. The initiative came from the fact that in this country, the Code is not well known, nor owned by the key actors of the Cameroon pesticide sub-sector. The activities conducted during this three days training included presentation by experts in the field of crop protection on:

- The general background on pesticides (the definition, the toxicity, the different classes of pesticides, etc…);
- The dangers of pesticide use on humans and the environment;
- The protective clothing;
- The main actors and their roles in the implementation of the FAO Code;
- The pesticides registration in Cameroon (the procedure to follow, the law and regulation in force, the list of pesticides registered for distribution and use in Cameroon);
- The initiative of Cameroon to ban the used of dangerous pesticides in the country;
- The action taken at the level of the government to make sure that the law in force is applied;
- The alternative to pest control using synthetic chemicals;
- The IPM concept and its implementation in Cameroon;
- The international conventions: the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel conventions;
- The anti-poison centers and their role in the implementation of the international conventions;
- The NGO and their strategy for the international management of chemical products;
- The international standards on the use and manipulation of phytosanitary products: e.g the GLOBALGAP fruits and vegetables private standard; and
- The action plan to be taken for full implementation of the FAO Code of conduct in Cameroon.

Impact on target groups:

The target participants in this workshop were the representatives of:

- civil society,
- common Initiatives Farmer Association;
- NGOs;
- pesticides importers and distributors; and
- the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in charge of pesticide registration and control.

At the end of the workshop the participants expressed their full satisfaction. All of them said to have learned new things. Before the training some of them declared not to even know whether pesticides were dangerous products to handle. At the end of the workshop, they said to have learned what pesticides and their toxicity classes are and to what extent these products can harm the operators, the consumers of agricultural commodities and the environment inside which we all live. Almost all of the participants said they are going to share what they have learned with the farmers who work with them in the field. For most of them the FAO Code and the GLOBALGAP fruit and vegetables standard was a completely new thing. They have learned a lot from the explanation provided to them and promise to make an effort to fulfill the requirement of the Code and of GLOBALGAP protocol; also to encourage the producers to make available healthy food on the national and international market. The participants were very happy to receive from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development representative the list of pesticides registered in Cameroon and the procedure to follow to obtain an authorization to distribute and/or sell pesticides, to make treatment using pesticides and to import phytosanitary products.

Impact on target policies:

The participants said the training has broadened their knowledge and skill as far as the FAO Code of conduct is concerned. All parties present said to have better understood the FAO Code, and the role that the exporting country and the host country have to play. Also, the role the founding agencies have to play to support further implementation of the Code.

The representative from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said that they are going to make a valid proposal to their hierarchy to improve the existing phytosanitary legislation (e.g; It is somehow important to include representatives from civil society in the National Commission of Pesticide Registration). Valid suggestions are also to be made to improve the phytosanitary control at the entry points (airports, seaports and terrestrial borders with neighboring countries). The list of what is to be suggested is not exhaustive.

Outreach to stakeholders:
From the action plan proposed by the participants, there is a great need for consciousness raising and/or extension work to further implement the Code, the alternative to synthetic pesticides, and the dangers of pesticides on the applicator; the consumer and our environment. The government should take action to further train the distributors and producers. The government should promote the use of valid protective clothing that is not too expensive to be afforded by resource-poor farmers. Organizations from civil society should make more official interventions and good project should be written to implement alternatives to chemical products. Funding agencies and governments should support such projects.

As already said, the participants involved people from

- civil society,
- common Initiatives Farmer Association;
- NGOs;
- pesticides importers and distributors; and
- the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in charge of pesticide registration and control.

The list of participants with their full contact addresses was prepared and distributed to everyone. This was done to encourage and make contact possible among each other. The participants promised to maintain this contact for further exchange of information regarding the difficulties in implementing the Code and possible projects that can be prepared for the same objective. So there is a possibility of follow-up action. CAPANET recommended to all participants to share what they have learned with their colleagues who were not present.

Deliverables, outputs and/or products:
During the training participants were provided information tools on the programme and how the workshop was going to be conducted. The training methodology was based on a participatory approach, with lot of input from the participants. The training was then very interactive and rich in fruitful discussions. At the end the participants were informed that the final report comprising all the presentations and information documentation will be sent to them by e-mail.

Communication efforts:
Communication through media (radio and television), production of pamphlets, posters, etc… required extra costs that are not easy to afford. So honestly speaking it was a bit difficult to pass the message through this communication technique.

SAICM National Focal Point:
We still have to know who was appointed, since the former National SAICM Focal Point is no longer there. We have not yet received that information.

NGO Recommendations for next steps:
Further consciousness raising and training on:

- Implementing the Code;
- The alternative methods to pest control with synthetic chemicals;
- IPM extension and development;
- The safe use of pesticides and pesticide equipment;
- Food safety; and
- Maximum residues limit issues.