

BOTH ENDS' INFORMATION NEWSLETTER # 3 -2004 TOXICS, PESTICIDES AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

The information in the Information Newsletters is based on data from Both ENDS' database of organisation profiles. Maintenance of the database is part of Both ENDS' ongoing service to environmental organisations in the South, the countries of Central and (South) Eastern Europe, as well as the Newly Independent States.

GLOSSARY

Pesticides

Pesticides are chemicals used to control, to repel, to attract or to kill pests, for example, insects, weeds, birds, mammals, fish, or microbes, that are considered a nuisance.

Pesticides are usually, but not always, poisons.

- **Molluscicides** are pesticides used to control molluscs, i.e. slugs and snails.
- **Insecticides** are pesticide whose purpose is to kill or to prevent the multiplication of insects.
- **Fungicides** are pesticides for destruction or development prevention of fungi.

Persistent Toxic Substances

PTSs are toxic chemicals that take a long time to break down, if ever, into harmless substances in the environment. These substances do not go away. They remain in the environment for long periods of time. They accumulate in the tissues of plants and animals, particularly those high on the food chain. These chemicals can cause disease, cancer, genetic mutations and reproductive problems in living things.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

POPs are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms and are toxic to humans and wildlife. POPs circulate globally and can cause damage wherever they travel.

- **PCBs** are a group of synthetic organic chemical compounds consisting of chlorine, carbon and hydrogen. PCBs are very persistent in the environment, since they are very resistant to biodegradation. They are fat soluble, and tend to accumulate in organisms, with those highest in the food chain being most affected.

Herbicides

Herbicides are pesticide used to kill unwanted plants. Selective herbicides kill certain targets while leaving the desired crop relatively unharmed. Some of these act by interfering with the growth of the weed and are often based on plant hormones. Herbicides used to clear waste ground are nonselective and kill every plant with which they come into contact.

- **Aquatic herbicides** are chemicals specifically formulated for use in water to kill or control aquatic plants.
- **Bioherbicides** are based on a living organism, such as fungi, bacteria or protozoa (a bioherbicide based on a fungus is called a mycoherbicide).

Hazardous wastes

Hazardous wastes are any solids, liquids, or gaseous byproducts that pose a significant hazard to human health or the environment when mishandled.

Chemical safety

Chemical safety is the prevention of the adverse effects, both short- and long-term, to humans and the environment from the production, storage, transportation, use and disposal of chemicals.

GENERAL RESOURCES ON PESTICIDES

PAN Pesticides Database

<http://www.pesticideinfo.org/Index.html>

The PAN Pesticides Database is the main gateway for current toxicity and regulatory information about insecticides, herbicides and other pesticides. It provides a comprehensive collection of data sources with an alphabetized chemical list (chemical search); a product search tool; information about international pesticide registration; aquatic ecotoxicity; a pesticide tutorial and reference list; and links to other resources.

Database on Pesticides and the Environment

<http://www.fadinap.org/pesticide>

The information in this database was compiled between 1992 and 1996. It may be out of date in some areas (e.g. Maximum Residue Limits and Acceptable Daily Intake) but it still constitutes a good source of information on pesticides used in Asia. It puts pesticides widely used in Asia in a direct relationship with their environmental and health effects. The database also provides information on environmentally friendlier alternatives of crop protection, e.g. through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods.

Extension TOXicology NETwork InfoBase

<http://extoxnet.orst.edu>

The EXTTOXNET InfoBase (maintained by several American universities) provides a variety of information about pesticides. It contains Pesticide Information Profiles (PIPs) for specific information on pesticides; Toxicology Information Briefs (TIBs); Toxicology Issues of Concern (TICs), factsheets, news about toxicology issues, newsletters, resources for toxicology information, and technical information.

TOXNET - TOXicology Data NETwork

<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov> or
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/toxnetfs.html>

TOXNET is a cluster of databases covering toxicology, hazardous chemicals, environmental health and related areas. It is managed by the Toxicology and Environmental Health Information Program (TEHIP) of the US National Library of Medicine. TOXNET provides free access to and easy searching of numerous toxicology databases.

THE PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK

The Pesticide Action Network (PAN) is a network of over 600 participating NGOs, institutions and individuals in over 90 countries working to replace the use of hazardous pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives. Its projects and campaigns are coordinated by five autonomous Regional Centers: Africa, Asia/Pacific, Europe, Latin America, and North America.

Pesticide Action Network Africa (PAN Africa)

Website: <http://www.pan-africa.sn>

PAN Africa coordinates PAN's Regional Center for Africa (established in 1996). PAN Africa involves volunteers, NGOs, farmers organisations, institutes, universities and individuals who support the adoption of sound ecological practices in place of dangerous chemical pesticide use all around the world. PAN Africa publishes three issues per year of Pesticides & Alternatives, a newsletter on pesticide news, alternatives to chemicals, integrated pest management as well as sustainable agriculture.

PAN Africa hosts the Resource Centre on Chemical pesticides, IPM and sustainable Agriculture which possesses 476 catalogues, 1081 articles, over 103 periodicals, several reports and studies written in French, English and Spanish.

Contact information:

Visit address: Sicap Amitié I villa N° 3018, Dakar
Mail address: BP 15938 Dakar-Fann, Dakar, Senegal
Phone: +221-825.49.14; Fax: +221-825.14.43
E-mail: panafrica@pan-africa.sn

Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP)

Website: <http://www.panap.net>

PAN AP coordinates the PAN's Regional Center for the region. PAN Asia and the Pacific believes in people-centred, pro-women development through sustainable agriculture and is committed to protect the safety and health of people and the environment from pesticide use and genetic engineering. PAN AP intends to achieve its goals by empowering people within effective networks at the Asia Pacific and global levels.

Contact information:

Visit address: 54 Lorong Batu Uban Satu Taman Century, 11700 Gelugor
Mail address: P.O. Box 1170, 10850 Penang, Malaysia
Phone: +60-4-6570271 / 6560381; Fax: +60-4-6583960
E-mail: panap@panap.net

Pesticides Action Network Europe

PAN Europe is a network of European NGOs promoting sustainable alternatives to pesticides (established in 1983). A major focus of PAN Europe's work involves initiating Europe-wide measures to facilitate a broad-based reduction in pesticide use. Activities include:

- * Supporting national pesticide reduction programmes,
- * Promoting targets for organic and sustainable agriculture,
- * Tackling insufficiencies of the EU pesticide approval system,
- * Publishing a quarterly PAN Europe newsletter,
- * Facilitating an email network on European pesticides issues,
- * Arranging an annual PAN Europe conference.

PAN Europe is facilitated by PAN Germany and PAN UK. These organisations also represent PAN Europe in the international PAN.

Website: <http://www.pan-europe.info>

Contact information:

Address: c/o PAN UK, Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4JX, United Kingdom

Phone: +44-20-7065.0905; Fax: +44-20-7065.0907
E-mail: coordinator@pan-europe.info

Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK)

Website: <http://www.pan-uk.org>

PAN UK seeks to eliminate pesticide hazards and promote policies and practices that minimise the exposure of workers, consumers and communities to pesticides. The programmes promote healthy food, agriculture and a sustainable, safe environment to provide food and meet public health needs without dependence on toxic chemicals. PAN UK works nationally and internationally with like-minded groups and individuals concerned with health, environment and development to: eliminate the hazards of pesticides; reduce dependence on pesticides; and promote ecologically and economically sound alternatives to chemical pest control.

PAN UK's international programme works to eliminate pesticide hazards in developing countries, and to support at both policy and practical levels ecological alternatives to help users reduce their exposure to toxic chemicals, improve the sustainability of farming systems, and maintain incomes.

The website of PAN-UK provides a large collection of online publications (annual reviews, fact sheets, books and reports).

Contact information:

Address: Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4JX, United Kingdom

Phone: +44-20-7065.0905; Fax: +44-20-7065.0907

E-mail: pan-uk@pan-uk.org

Pesticide Action Network Germany (PAN Germany)

Website: <http://www.pan-germany.org>

PAN Germany was formed to improve coordination of existing activities, to broaden the commitment against the misuse of pesticides and to strengthen the competence of critical experts. PAN Germany works on various areas connected with pesticide use, including pesticide residues in food, worldwide starvation and pesticides, agricultural production systems, genetic engineering in agriculture, and pesticide use in households.

PAN Germany has initiated information transfer and dialogue among NGOs in Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs). It has organized strategic planning meetings and workshops on pesticide issues and sustainable alternatives in order to strengthen their capacity for action. In addition, small grants have supported NGO projects at national level in CEECs and publications were produced by PAN Germany partly in co-operation with NGO partner organizations in CEECs.

Contact information:

Address: Nernstweg 32, 22765 Hamburg, Germany

Phone: +49-40-39.91.910-0; Fax: +49-40-390.75.20

E-mail: info@pan-germany.org

PAN Germany also coordinates the Organic Cotton Europe Awareness-raising programme. The long-term goal of this project is to stimulate commitments by stakeholders in the textile chain and consumers in Europe for the improvement of the economic, health and environmental conditions of cotton producing small-scale farmers in Africa.

Contact information:

Contact persons: Alexandra Baier and Norbert Reintjes

Address: c/o PAN Germany

E-mail: cotton-connection@pan-germany.org

Website: <http://www.organiccotton europe.net/contact.htm>

Alianza por una Mejor Calidad de Vida/Red de Acción en Plaguicidas (RAP AL)

Website: <http://www.rap-al.org>

PAN's Regional Center for Latin America is coordinated by the Alliance for a Better Quality of Life/Pesticide Action Network.

Contact information:

Address: Av. da Providencia N° 365, Dpto. N° 41, Providencia, Santiago de Chile

Phone/Fax: +562-341.67.42

E-mail: rap-al@terra.cl

Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA)

Website: <http://www.panna.org>

PAN's Regional Center for North America is the Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA). PANNA campaigns to replace pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives since 1982. The organization links over 150 affiliated health, consumer, labor, environment, progressive agriculture and public interest groups in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. with more than 1000 partners worldwide to promote healthier, more effective pest management through research, policy development, education, media, demonstrations of alternatives and international advocacy campaigns.

PANNA hosts the PANNA Information Clearinghouse: an extensive collection of books, reports, articles, periodicals, videos, slides, photos, and other materials about pesticides and related issues. Subjects include: production, use-reduction, alternatives, citizen action, regulation, exports, toxicology, crops, trade, legislation, farmworkers, residues, IPM, training, children, endocrine disruption, health/safety, cotton, methyl bromide, and biotechnology. The Clearinghouse has many materials in Spanish and German, and some in French, Portuguese, Japanese and other languages:

<http://www.panna.org/resources/clearinghouse.html>

PANNA's website contains an extensive Resource Library of reports, articles, guides, videos, databases, links and other resources.

A special feature is PESTIS, the Pesticide Information Service: an online document collection containing pesticide-related material, including articles, newsletters, reports and action alerts:

<http://www.panna.org/resources/pestis.html>

Another element is the PANUPS Pesticide Action Network Updates Service: a free international news service covering the latest pesticide research, regulatory and other policy decisions, and pesticide- and agriculture-related activism. Some issues of PANUPS are Resource Pointers, which briefly describe new books, reports and other resources related to pesticides, sustainable agriculture and

genetic engineering. PANUPS issues are published 1-2 times a week:
<http://www.panna.org/resources/panups.html>

Finally PANNA publishes the Global Pesticide Campaigner (GPC); a trimesterly publication on pesticides, genetic engineering and sustainable agriculture news from around the world: <http://www.panna.org/resources/gpc.html>

Contact information:

Address: 49 Powell St., Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94102, United States
Phone: +1-415-981.1771; Fax: +1-415-981.1991
E-mail: panna@panna.org

OTHER INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Basel Action Network (BAN)

Website: <http://www.ban.org/index.html>

BAN is an international network of activists seeking to prevent the globalization of the toxic chemical crisis. BAN conducts both national and international programs to halt toxic trade (trade in toxic wastes, toxic products and toxic technologies), that are exported from rich to poorer countries.

At the same time BAN works proactively in both the USA and around the world, to ensure national self-sufficiency in waste management through clean production and toxics use reductions and in support of the principle of global environmental justice. BAN serves as a campaigning organization, an investigative and research body, a political advocacy group, and as the definitive clearing house for information on toxic trade.

Contact information:

Address: c/o Asia-Pacific Environmental Exchange, 1305 4th Ave., Suite 606, Seattle, WA 98101 United States
Phone: +1-206-652.55.55; fax: +1-206-652.57.50
E-mail: info@ban.org

Beyond Pesticides

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org>

Beyond Pesticides (formerly National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides) works with allies in protecting public health and the environment to lead the transition to a world free of toxic pesticides. Beyond Pesticides provides useful information on pesticides and alternatives to their use, topics also covered in Beyond Pesticides' quarterly news magazine; monthly news bulletins, technical reports; and, the bi-monthly bulletin, School Pesticide Monitor. The organisation also publishes a wide variety of brochures, information packets, and reports.

Especially the pesticide fact sheets are a good source of information:

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/pesticides/factsheets/index.htm>

Contact information:

Address: 701 E Street SE #200, Washington DC 20003, United States
Phone: +1-202-543.5450; Fax: +1-202-543.4791
E-mail: info@beyondpesticides.org

CETOS – Center for Ethics and Toxics

Website: <http://www.cetos.org>

CETOS is a project of the Tides Center and its mission to protect vulnerable populations from harmful toxicants, and to assure a toxic-free world for our children and our children's children. CETOS is working on four interrelated issues: toxicity from chemical exposures, especially before and immediately after birth; deleterious impacts on agriculture and the environment and the genetic alterations of animals and plants, through the intensive application of pesticides; loss of endangered species caused by the destruction or contamination of habitat with pesticides and other toxic chemicals; and protection of the genetic integrity of future generations.

CETOS provides public educational information through writing, speaking engagements, and books and acts directly to encourage new policies designed to protect people and natural populations at risk.

Contact information:

Address: 39120 Ocean Dr., Suite C-2-1, Gualala, CA 95445 United States

Phone: +1-707-884.17.00; Fax: +1-707-884.18.46

E-mail: cetos@cetos.org

Greenpeace Toxics Site

Website: <http://archive.greenpeace.org/toxics/index.html>

This is a new site providing information and resources on campaign activities of Greenpeace in the fields of POPs, PVC, Toxic Trade and Toxic Hotspots. Including extensive links on toxic issues.

Contact information:

Address: Greenpeace International, Ottho Heldringstraat 5, 1066 AZ Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Phone: +31-20-514.81.50; Fax: +31-20-514.81.51

E-mail: supporter.services@int.greenpeace.org

GroundWork

http://www.groundwork.org.za/Resources/chemical_profiles.asp

GroundWork is a non-profit environmental justice service and developmental organization working primarily in South Africa but increasingly in Southern Africa. It seeks to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people in Southern Africa through assisting civil society to have a greater impact on environmental governance. GroundWork places particular emphasis on assisting vulnerable and previously disadvantaged people who are most affected by environmental injustices.

Contact information:

Phone: +27-33-342.56.62; Fax: +27-33-342.56.65

E-mail: team@groundwork.org.za

Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)

Website: <http://www.who.int/ifcs/index.htm>

The IFCS is a broad consensus-building mechanism that serves as a facilitator and advocate aiming to bring order to global actions taken in the interest of global chemical safety. It is an over-arching mechanism to develop and promote strategies and partnerships among national governments, intergovernmental and NGOs. Its purpose is to: provide policy guidance; develop strategies in a

coordinated and integrated manner; foster understanding of issues; and promote the required policy support

Contact information:

Address: IFCS Secretariat (L 231), c/o World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

Phone: +41-22-791.38.73; Fax: +41-22-791.48.75

E-mail: ifcs@who.ch

International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)

Website: <http://ipen.ecn.cz>

The IPEN is comprised of public interest NGOs who support a common platform for the global elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants. These Participating Organizations of IPEN are those NGOs which have endorsed the IPEN Stockholm Declaration agreed on May 22nd, 2001 in Stockholm (or which have endorsed the previous POPs Elimination Platform). The mission of IPEN, achieved through its participating organisations, is to work for the global elimination of persistent organic pollutants.

Contact information:

Contact person: Björn Beeler, IPEN International Coordinator

Address: c/o CIEL 1367 Connecticut Ave. NW Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036 United States

Phone: +1-202-785.87.00; Fax +1-202-785.87.01

E-mail: bbeeler@ciel.org

National Toxics Network (NTN)

<http://www.oztoxics.org/ntn>

NTN is a community-based network with a common aim to reduce the chemical load on the environment and to promote environmentally responsible technologies and management systems.

NTN aims to be a true network reflecting a diversity of approach with a solidarity of purpose. NTN has interests in all aspects of toxic chemical pollution including regulatory and assessment issues. Over 300 groups and campaigners from across Australia as well as representatives from NZ and South Pacific, have already registered as network participants.

NTN is the Australian Focal Point for the International POPs Elimination Network.

Contact information:

Address: 47 Eugenia St, Rivett ACT. 2611, Australia

E-mail: biomap@oztoxics.org

Toxics Links

Website: <http://www.toxiclink.org>

Toxics Links is India's leading NGO working in toxics and waste issues. The website aims at providing exhaustive information and resources on toxics and waste. Furthermore it provides a platform of dialogue concerning this issues. Programme areas are a.o.: toxics free health care (making healthcare delivery hazards free by replacing toxic products, processes and technologies by clean and safer alternatives), clean industry (replacement of toxic technologies, industries and products with cleaner alternatives), and chemical health (create knowledge

and collaboratively raise awareness about the harmful effects of POPs and pesticides on health, food and environment).

Contact information:

Address: Delhi office: H2 (Ground Floor), Jungpura Extension, New Delhi 110 014, India

Phone: +91-11-2432.8006; Fax: +91-11-2432.1747

E-mail: tldelhi@toxicslink.org

UNEP Chemicals' Programme

Website: <http://www.chem.unep.ch>

UNEP Chemicals is the center for all chemicals-related activities of the UNEP. Its goal is to make the world a safer place from toxic chemicals. This is done by helping governments take needed global actions for the sound management of chemicals, by promoting the exchange of information on chemicals, and by helping to build the capacities of countries around the world to use chemicals safely.

The website provides information on POPs, PCBs, PTSs, the Global Mercury Assessment, the POPs Global Monitoring Programme and the Lead Programme.

See <http://www.chem.unep.ch/irptc/default.htm>

Contact information:

E-mail: chemicals@unep.ch

WWF Toxics Programme

Website: http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/toxics

WWF's Toxics Programme is involved in a variety of exciting projects ranging from cleaning up dangerous pesticide stockpiles in Africa to advancing international treaties to ban toxic chemicals.

WWF is working with government leaders, scientists, environmental and public health groups, and businesses to reduce chemical threats to wildlife and human health.

The goal of WWF's Toxics Programme is to end threats to biological diversity from hazardous chemicals, especially those used in industrial, agricultural, and consumer products or processes by 2020, identifying safer alternatives where possible.

Contact information: your national or regional WWF Office.

TREATIES

Basel Convention

Website: <http://www.basel.int>

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in Basel, Switzerland on 22 March 1989. The Convention was initiated in response to numerous international scandals regarding hazardous waste trafficking that began to occur in the late 1980s. The Convention entered into force on 5 May 1992. Since that time, developing countries and environmentalists have succeeded within the Convention in achieving a decision to ban hazardous waste exports from the wealthiest to less wealthy countries.

Contact information:

Address: Secretariat of the Basel Convention, 13-15 Chemin des Anemones, 1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

Phone: +41-22-917.8218; Fax: +41-22-797.3454

E-mail: sbc@unep.ch

Rotterdam Convention

Website: <http://www.pic.int>

Governments started to address the problem of toxic pesticides and other hazardous chemicals in the 1980s by establishing a voluntary Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure¹. The Rotterdam Convention of 1998 did make the PIC legally binding and it entered into force on 24 February 2004. The aim is to establish a first line of defense by giving importing countries the tools and information they need to identify potential hazards and exclude chemicals they cannot manage safely. If a country agrees to import chemicals, the Convention promotes their safe use through labeling standards, technical assistance, and other forms of support. It also ensures that exporters comply with the requirements.

Contact information:

Address: Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention, c/o UNEP Chemicals, 11-13 Chemin des Anemones, 1219 Châtelaine, Switzerland

Phone: +41-22-917.81.83; Fax: +41-22-797.34.60

E-mail: pic@unep.ch

Stockholm Convention

Website: <http://www.pops.int>

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs. In implementing the Convention, Governments will take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment.

Contact information:

Address: Secretariat for the Stockholm Convention on POPs, 11-13 Chemin des Anemones, 1219 Châtelaine, Switzerland

Phone: +41-22-917.81.91; Fax: +41-22-797.34.60

E-mail: ssc@chemicals.unep.ch

Disclaimer: Both ENDS does not invite reliance upon, nor accept responsibility for, the information it provides. Both ENDS makes every effort to provide a high quality service. However Both ENDS does not give any guarantees, undertakings or warranties concerning the accuracy, completeness or up-to-date nature of the information provided. Both ENDS always welcomes feedback on the information it provides; please mail your comment and/or corrections to hk@bothends.org

All information in this publication has been gathered from public sources, if however organisations have objections against publication in the information newsletter please notify the editor.

¹ This procedure required exporters trading in a list of hazardous substances to obtain the prior informed consent of importers before proceeding with the trade.