

Chemicals and Waste Management

Sharing of strategies

Marjo Busto and Chela Vazquez

Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP)

Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC)

Context: Asia is mostly agriculture land

- 925 million people are **hungry and malnourished** around the globe. Around 578 million of them are in Asia, with women and children as the most vulnerable.
- **Corporate Agriculture:** chemical-intensive, monocropping; increased use and dependence on seeds, pesticides and fertilizers sold by seeds and agro-chemical TNCs – impacts highly on the biodiversity, access to land/resources; environment, and human health.
- **Corporate control:** Expansion of the highly profitable input industry-i.e. the agrochemical TNCs ((who are also the world's seed industry giants

Context: Asia is mostly agriculture land

- Pesticide poisoning estimates vary from 1-25 Million / annual (and even more than that)
- Landgrabbing worsens hunger and poverty – massive in Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Philippines, India, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Laos and Indonesia. (turned into oil palm, rubber, sugar, hybrid corn)
 - Laos - 43% of farmlands / Indonesia - 300,000 has. of forests acquired by foreign corporations.

Chemicals and Waste Management

- Platform of engagement– international lobbying work
- Stockholm Convention: -- Protect Human Health and the Environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- Rotterdam Convention: -- PIC Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- Endosulfan added to the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions (2011)
 - Challenge is faster phase out (we need to monitor);
 - To get other Highly hazardous pesticides added to the conventions
 - New pesticides are coming out into the market
- Herbicide paraquat has been proposed for listing in the Rotterdam Convention. COP6 in 2013 will take a decision on paraquat. – Challenge is to convince governments to include paraquat in the convention and to counteract the agrochemical companies influence on governments.

STRATEGIES: Lobbying work

- FAO Code of Conduct - Community Monitoring of the Code by partners in the Asia Pacific.
- SAICM: PAN AP and PAN International provided inputs on sustainable farms around the globe using non-chemical alternatives.



- **STRATEGIES: Community and national partnerships**
- Crucial is the link between local/national initiatives and international engagements
- Community-based Pesticide Action Monitoring (CPAM) -- a tool to document the use and impact of pesticides on health and for organising community action against pesticide use. (training and education and research) and to take it to the national and international policy instruments
- Capacity building on international policy instruments, i.e. FAO Code of Conduct –
- Campaign against HHPs – raising awareness, networking, sharing of experiences towards a global ban on pesticides, demand accountability from agro-chemical TNCs
- Regional cooperation: Manufacturing pesticide countries must respect the bans of other countries and establish mechanisms to accept the return of illegal pesticides.

Way Forward

- Reduce with the aim of eliminating pesticide use
- Promote safe food and provide support to biodiversity based ecologically sound agriculture (BEA)
- Protect human health and the environment from GE in food and agriculture
- Monitor and expose the strategies of agrochem TNCs that violate rights of people and communities. – to have an international legal mechanism to hold them accountable
- Strengthen people's movements in Asia-Pacific region (esp self-determination)
- Sustainable development: Right to Food, Right to land and productive resources, especially of women in agriculture – food sovereignty



Thank you!

Platform of Engagement

- WORK ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
- Policy level: Committee on World Food Security (CFS) of the FAO
- Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Land and Natural Resources Tenure
- Agriculture Investments



Committee on Food Security

Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VG) (endorsed May 2012)

- outlines principles and practices that governments can refer to when making laws and administering land, fisheries and forests rights.
- achievement of food security and realisation of the right to food as the most important goals of good land tenure governance.
- PAN AP and ARWC involved the consultation process in Asia; and in the negotiations of the VG through the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) - global mechanism for food and security and nutrition which functions as a facilitating body for CSOs/NGOs consultations and participation in the CFS

Committee on Food Security

- **responsible agriculture investments (rai)**-- process of developing principles guiding public and private investments towards the goal of achieving food security (For approval of CFS in Oct 2014)
- ARWC and PAN AP involved in the negotiations and consultation processes (2013-2014) and submission of policy demands and recommendations;
- Involved in the CSM as part of the Coordinating Committee on Gender; as member of the Working Group (WG)



Strategies

- Link of local struggles to international work and vice versa
- **Local / National**
 - Research (eg, case studies on impact of land grabbing; documenting best practices on BEA)
 - Campaign (eg, No to Land Grabs, Women assert Rights to Land and Resources)
 - Capacity building - leadership training for rural women; farmer exchange programmes
 - Using FAO tools (eg, VG) in our policy advocacy at the national level
- **International**
 - Critical engagement with the CFS / FAO
 - Facilitating the involvement of local groups / movements in meetings (participation or consultations)



Asian Rural Women's Coalition



- Founded in 2008 through a regional conference in Tamil Nadu, India (various women sectors from 21 countries in Asia-Pacific)
- Led by a Steering Committee of 12 member organisations of national alliances and regional NGOs
- Supporting initiatives of Asian rural women through:

STRENGTHENING THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

- Campaign and solidarity work
- Policy advocacy – Consultations at local/national levels; raising policy demands; involvement in regional and international fora, conferences and formations
- Sharing information (list serve, website)
- Building capacities of rural women (perspectives, skills)