Pesticide Action Network
PAN Germany

Policy and pressure to eradicate the most toxic cotton pesticides

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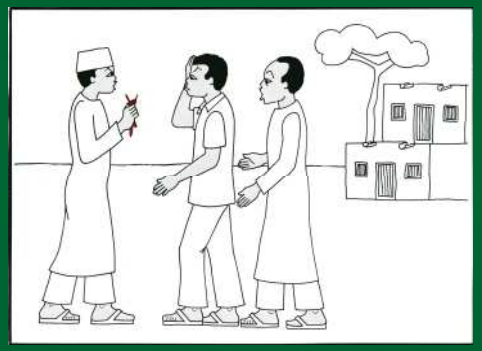
- Toxicity
- Pesticide classification
- Most toxic/most problematic pesticides
- Example of Endosulfan
- Policy and pressure strategies to eradicate dangerous pesticides
- Current policy: PIC, POPs, FAO Code
- Lobbying for implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct - What different actors can do/contribute

Toxicity

Human toxicity: acute toxicity, chronic toxicity
Environmental toxicity: e. g. terrestic and aquatic toxicity
Eco-toxicology: short term and long term and indirect effects (loss of biodiversity)

Immediate health effects may be:
headaches,
vomiting,
skin rashes,
eye complaints,
excessive sweating and others



Chronic health effects are associated with:
a range of cancers and tumours,
reproductive impacts (birth defects, infertility and spontaneous abortion)
effects on the nervous and immune systems
and arrested development (children).

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Classification of pesticides

Pesticides are classified according to their acute or chronic toxicity according to different chemical regulatory categories: International regulator categories like (WHO hazard classification); on EU level and national categories like the US and California regulatory Categories

Rather known

WHO classification
WHO 1 a: Extremely hazardous
WHO 1b: Highly hazardous
WHO II: Moderate hazardous
WHO III: Slightly hazardous

Rather not known

IARC classification
(International Agency of Research on Cancer)
Gr. 1: "Carcinogenic to humans"
Gr. 2A: "Probably carcinogenic …"
Gr. 2B: "Possibly carcinogenic …"
Gr. 3: "Unclassifiable as to carcinogenicity in humans"
Gr. 4: "Probably not carcinogenic …"
~ 870 agents tested, about half of them are pesticides

For more detailed information: http://www.pesticideinfo.org

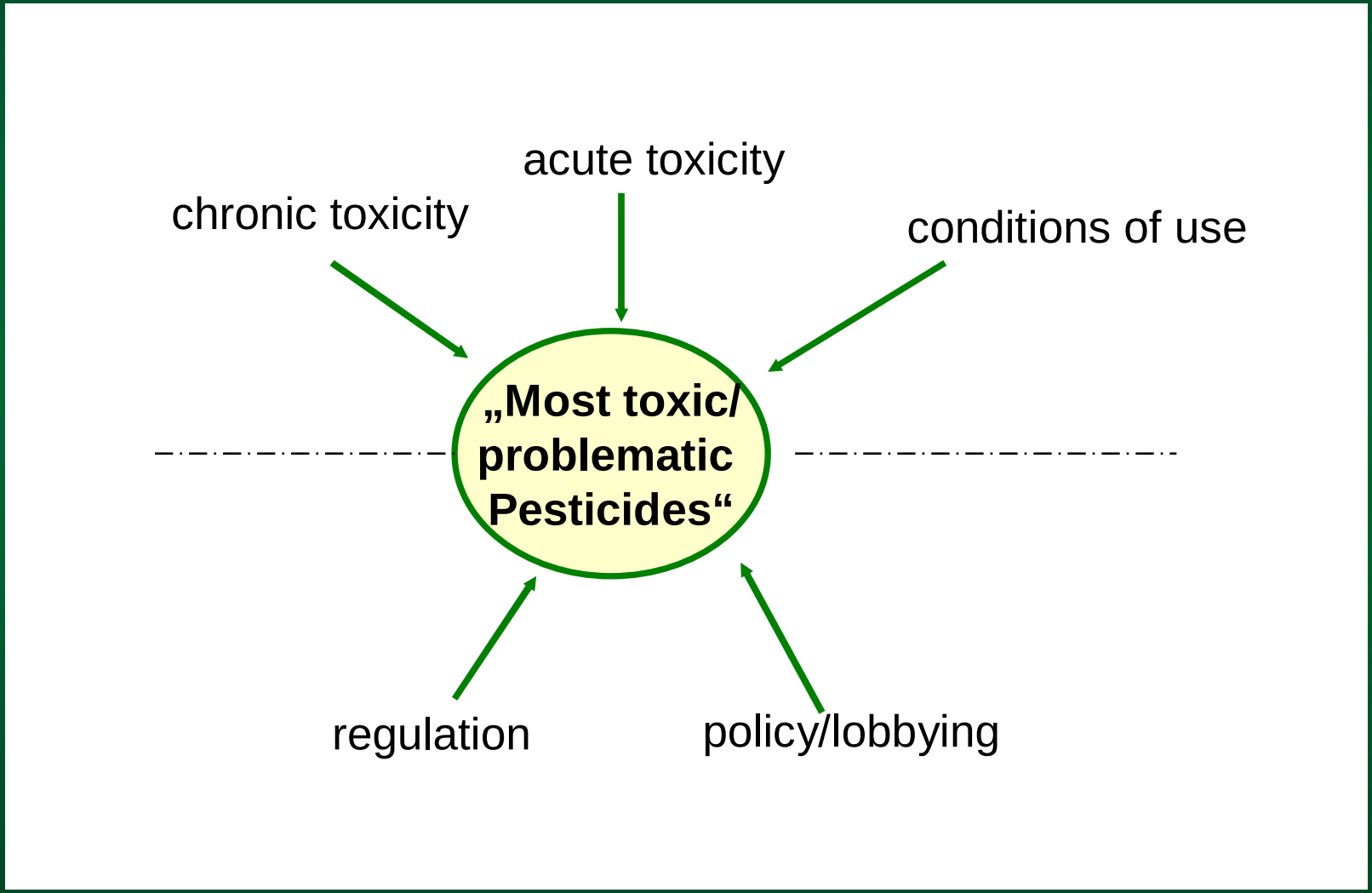
“Most toxic pesticides” in Cotton production

Insecticides	WHO Class	Mass (Metric tonnes)	Value (US$ million)
Malathion	III	12,600	164
Aldicarb	Ia	3,650	112
Parathion	Ia	3,625	60
Acephate	III	1,920	51
…			
…			
Endosulfan	II	?	?

Source: taken of “The deadly chemicals in cotton” 2007, Environmental Justice Foundation in collaboration with PAN UK on the bases of Data for 2002, from Agranova Alliance (2003) added by PAN Germany

→ What makes a pesticide become most problematic?

What makes a pesticide „problematic“?



Most problematic pesticides – the example of endosulfan

Endosulfan classification

- EPA Ib: highly toxic
- Highly toxic to fish, birds, bees, toxic to wildlife
- WHO II: moderately hazardous
- Suspected being an endocrine disruptor
- Linked to congenital physical disorders
- Volatile and persistent (especially its degradation products)

Endosulfan is easily absorbed by the stomach, by the lungs and through the skin.

Policy and pressure strategies – how to get rid of dangerous pesticides?

PAN Strategies:

- targeting pesticides & corporations
- targetting policies
- supporting grass root initiatives
- campaigning for alternatives
- NGO co-ordination & mobilization

- PIC Convention
- POPS Convention
- FAO Code of Conduct

Current policy and pressure to get rid of hazardous pesticides

Rotterdam Convention: (PIC)	Early warning system for specific pesticdes (not for elemination)
Stockholm Convention: (POPs)	Aim: global elimination of specific pesticides
FAO Code of Conduct:	Comprehensive approach für all pesticides

Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC)

Objective: Shared responsibility between exporting and importing countries to protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of certain hazardous chemicals

What is PIC?
PIC is an early warning system for certain hazardous pesticides
adopted in 1998, entered into force in 2004

PIC means: Prior to export countries can decide wether to accept or reject the import of certain pesticides and chemicals

➢ Pressure example: PAN lobbyed for including endosulfan to the PIC Convention. Since the last meeting of the Chemical Review Committee in April 2007 endosulfan is one step closer to being listed: The experts gave the 116 governments that have ratified the Rotterdam Convention a clear mandate to definitively add endosulfan to the PIC list in November 2008.

Stockholm Convention on persistant organic pollutants (POPs)

POPs are toxic and long-lasting organic pollutants.
POPs interfere with the hormonal balance, can cause cancer and skeletal abnormalities and may impair the immune system.

- **Objective:** To eliminate certain extremely hazardous persistent pollutants globally
- Signed in 2001, came into force 2005
- Chemicals that are included in Annex A are to be globally eliminated or banned (specific exemptions are still granted for a certain period of time).

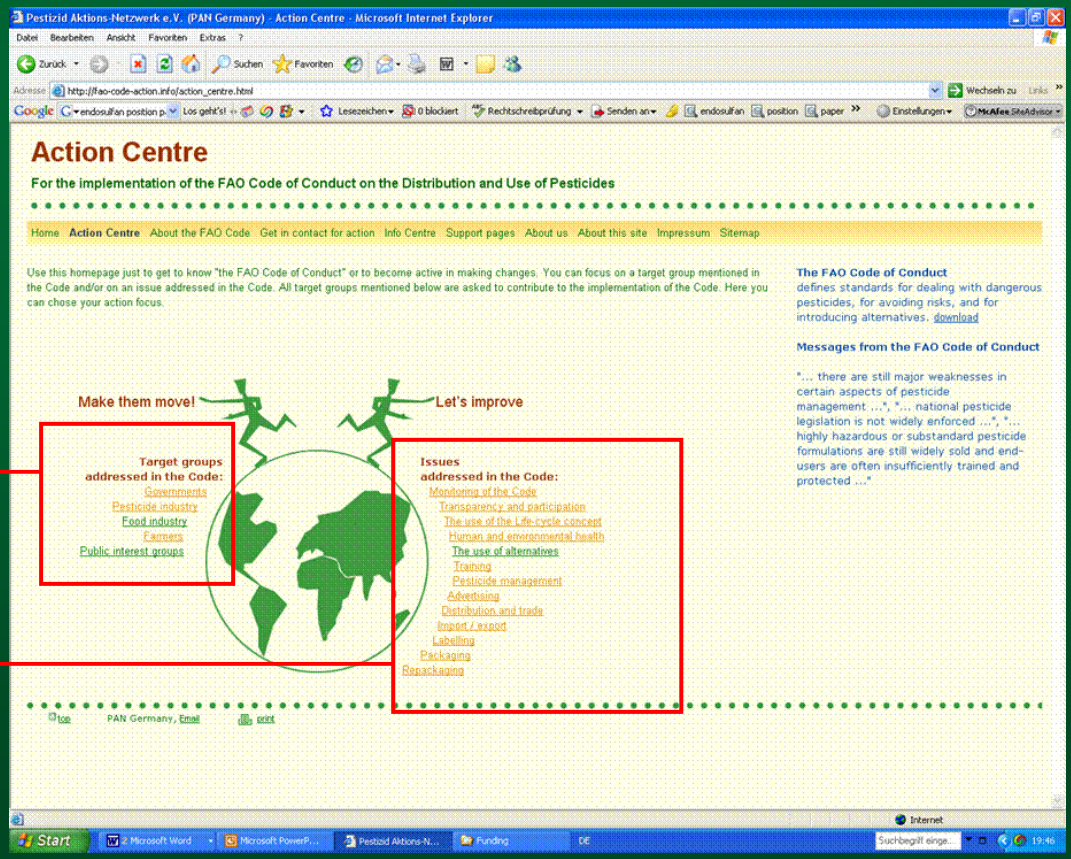
➢Pressure example: PAN lobbies for endosulfan being listed to the POPs convention. Lobbying is done by members of the international PAN working group “pesticides and corporations” coordinated by PANNA. PAN will be present with numerous people at the next meeting of the parties in Dakar 30.4. – 4.5.2007 to promote this.

The FAO Code of Conduct

"International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides"

- The Code represents a global standard for pesticide management.
- The Code contains voluntary standards for all public and private entities engaged in, or associated with, the distribution und use of pesticides
- adopted in 1985, last revision in 2002

www.fao-code-action.info



The FAO Code of Conduct

Article 3.5 states: *"Pesticides whose handling and application require the use of personal protective equipment that is uncomfortable, expensive or not readily available should be avoided, especially in the case of small-scale users in tropical climates."*

Article 3.9: *"Governments, with the support of relevant international and regional organizations, should encourage and promote research on, and the development of, alternatives posing fewer risks: biological control agents and techniques, non-chemical pesticides and pesticides that are, as far as possible or desirable, target-specific, that degrade into innocuous constituent parts or metabolites after use and are of low risk to humans and the environment".*

The FAO Code of Conduct

Pro‘s

- Guidance for all pesticides
- Target specific
- Calls on governments, pesticide and food industry and NGOs to implement the Code
- Inclusion of alternatives
- Explicit recognition of the importance of addressing environmental risks in addition to health
- Introduction of collection systems for empty pesticide containers

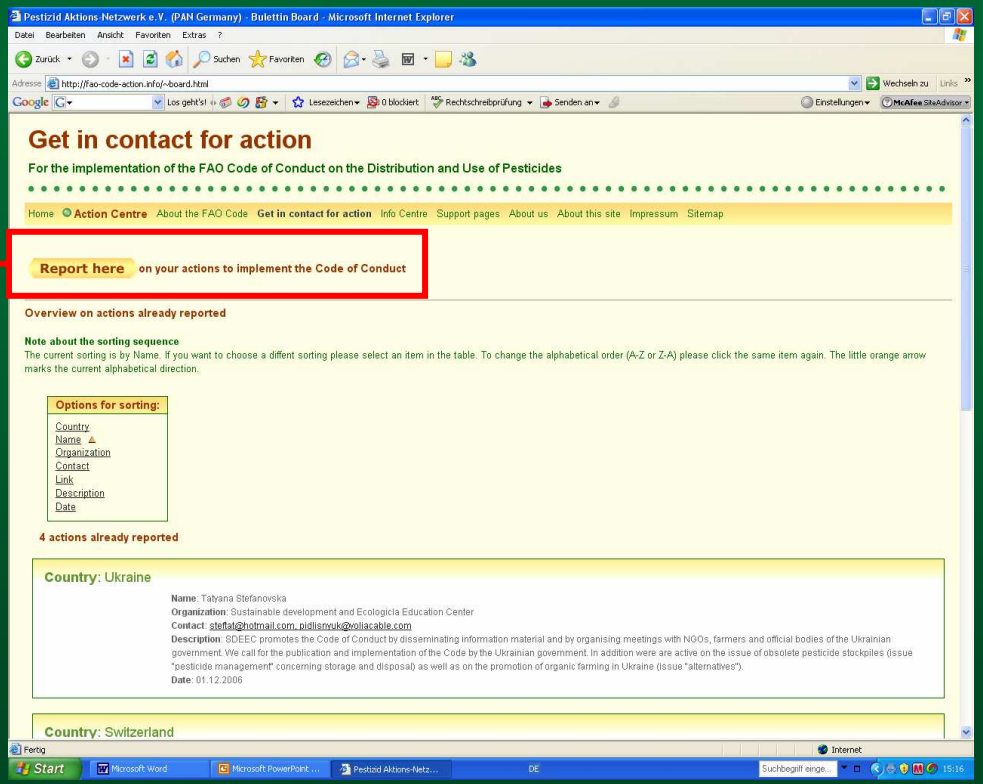
Con‘s

- Voluntary (not binding)
- Limited recommandation on comprehensive support for sustainable agricultural production systems which are not dependent on chemical plant protection (like organic)
- No recommendation for implementation of national pesticide use reduction programmes with clear targets, timeframes and indicators

➢Future Pressure example: Strengthen the promotion of organic agriculture as a sustainable alternative under the FAO Code of Conduct. Include missing target groups like fibre industry.
➢ Success in the past: Two technical guidelines had successfully been added to the FAO Code of Conduct based on PAN papers.

Possibilities to join in and get active

1. **Become a „supporting organisation“**: Visit www.fao-code-action.info
2. **Document pesticide misuse, incidences and violation of the FAO Code Make it known** via the www.fao-code-action.info: „report here “



Thank you