



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION'S
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

**STRENGTHENING
COUNTRIES' CAPACITIES
THROUGH GLOBAL
INFORMATION-SHARING**

01.

INTRODUCTION



The technical assistance programme of the Rotterdam Convention provides support to developing countries or countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Convention. The implementation of this programme responds to **Parties' needs** and plays a catalytic role **to support national governments in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention.**

The dissemination of information and success stories is a fundamental part of the work of the Secretariat, to illustrate the benefits of the use of information and to facilitate lessons learned and experience sharing dialogue among countries. To maximize the impact and usefulness of information, the Secretariat uses various communication channels and electronic platforms in a visual and interactive format, to inform national governments and other stakeholders of the accomplishments of technical assistance.

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention at FAO facilitates numerous activities in the form of training workshops, consultation meetings and projects aimed at strengthening national capacity. As a result, significant progress and achievements have been attained in countries, which have benefited from technical assistance for the implementation of the Convention.

An **Information Fair** held during the Conference of Parties of the three main chemicals and waste conventions in May 2019 provided a great platform to promote and inform about ways to facilitate the implementation of these conventions. **It reached out to about 1 400 participants, from 180 countries.**

02.

ACTIVE AND INTERACTIVE MEANS TO GET THE MESSAGES ACROSS

PIC REGIONS

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Near East
- North America
- Southwest Pacific



A.

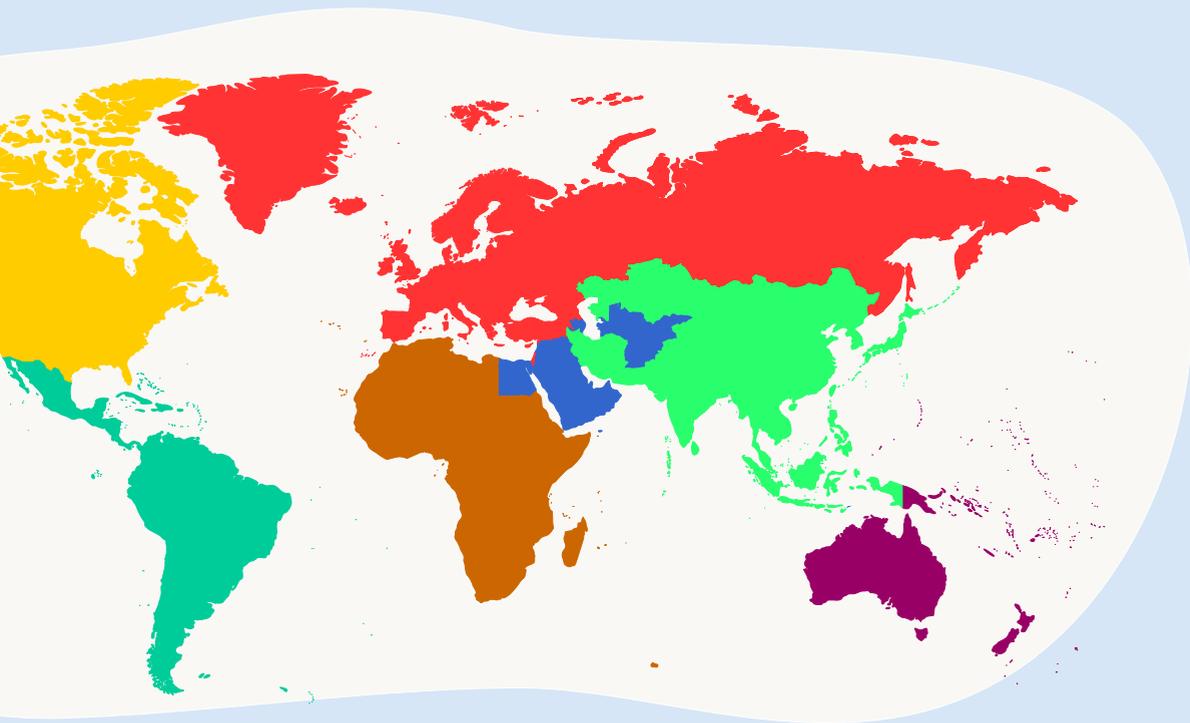
INTERACTIVE MAP

ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The interactive map, which is available online and on touchscreen devices, provides a [visual overview of the technical assistance of the Convention.](#)

The map allows users to explore the activities implemented in the PIC regions, compare areas, figures and activities and learn from other realities in order to have a comprehensive overview of the work of the Rotterdam Convention.





THE INTERACTIVE MAP,

CONCEIVED AS A LIVING WORKING TOOL, AIMS TO SHOW DATA FOR ALL THE **7 PIC REGIONS** ON:

PARTIES

THAT HAVE RATIFIED THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

161

COUNTRIES RECEIVED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

107

WORKSHOPS

DELIVERED WORLDWIDE

64

PARTICIPANTS TRAINED,

DISAGGREGATED BY GENDER

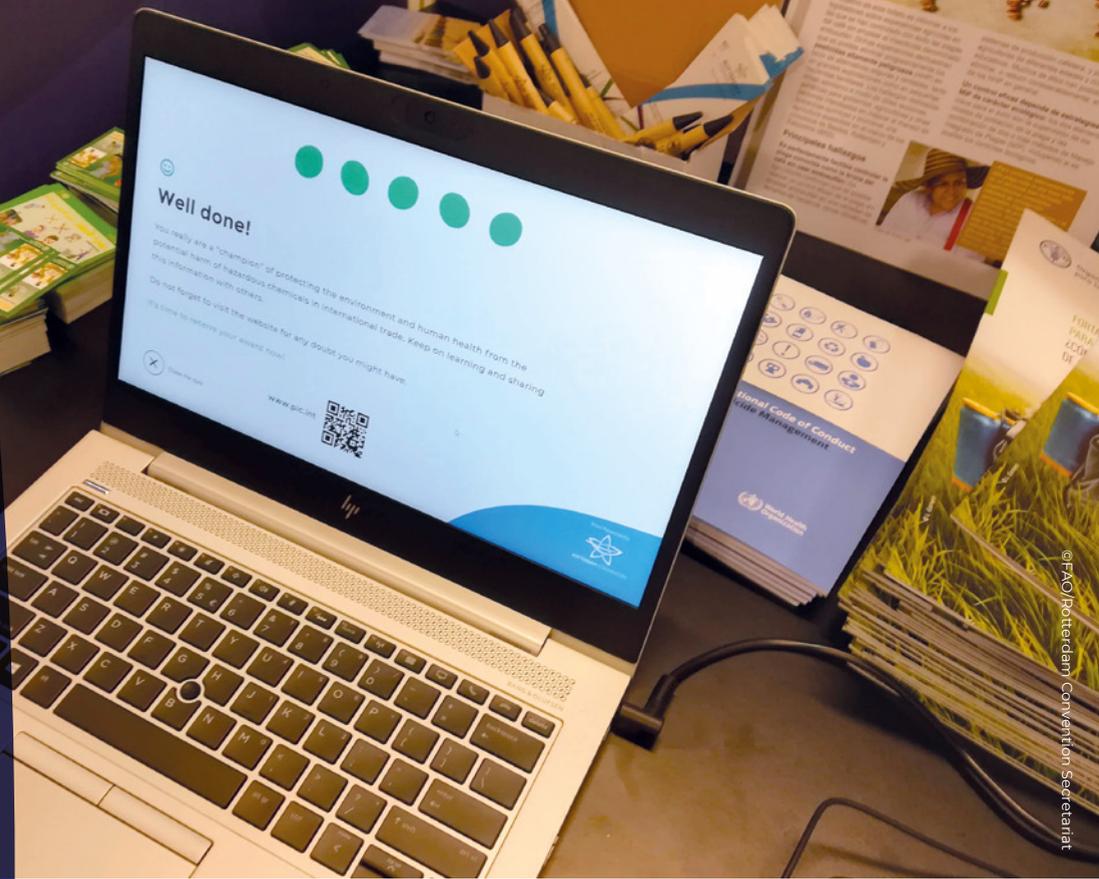
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THEMATIC AREAS ADDRESSED

THROUGH ACTIVITIES AT NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

- # 7
- Fostering the process of ratification;
 - Implementation and obligations of the Rotterdam Convention: import responses, notification of final regulatory actions, export notifications;
 - Strengthening legislative framework on pesticide management;
 - Promoting alternatives to the use of hazardous chemicals;
 - Monitoring pesticide poisoning cases and Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations;
 - Elaboration of a national action plan to implement the Rotterdam Convention;
 - Trade provisions.



B. QUIZ

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION?

An electronic quiz was developed to test people's knowledge of the Rotterdam Convention. During the Information Fair, participants were masked to randomly answer five hidden questions (out of 50 total) about the Rotterdam Convention's implementation.

This was a good way for people to learn and engage in the FAO booth's activities.

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION QUIZ

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



How much do you know about the Rotterdam Convention?

Test your knowledge by taking our 5-question quiz and become a "champion" of protecting the environment and human health from the potential harm of hazardous chemicals in international trade. Read each question carefully and choose the response(s) that you consider is (are) right. After completing the test, if all answers are correct, you will receive an award for your efforts.

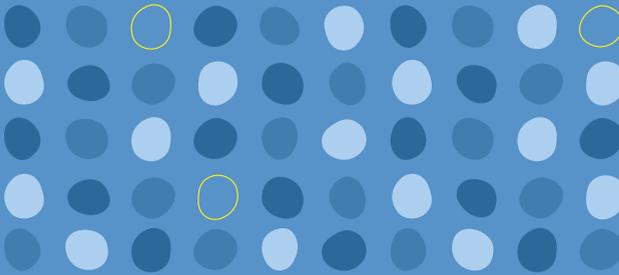
Have fun and discover!

YOUR NICKNAME



CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS

PLEASE CLICK 5 BULBS AND START THE QUIZ



What is one of the objectives of the Rotterdam Convention?

- A To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm
- B **To ban and severely restrict hazardous chemicals**
- C To evaluate the risks posed by hazardous chemicals



What is one of the objectives of the Rotterdam Convention?

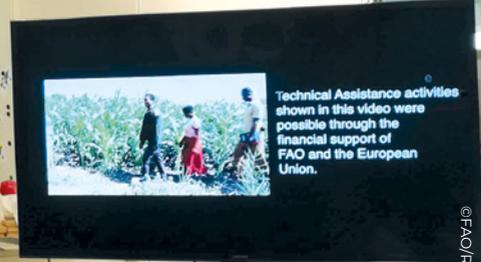
- A **To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm**
- B **To ban and severely restrict hazardous chemicals**
- C To evaluate the risks posed by hazardous chemicals



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OUT OF
98 PEOPLE
WHO TOOK THE TEST
DURING THE
INFORMATION FAIR.

16 PEOPLE
OBTAINED THE
PERFECT SCORE BUT
MANY MANAGED TO GET
4 OUT OF 5
CORRECT ANSWERS.



C. VIDEO

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION: DELIVERING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A short video produced for the COP of the Rotterdam Convention (RC) focused entirely on the topic of Technical Assistance (TA): what it is, in which context it is delivered, who can receive it, the different types of technical assistance offered, and how is it implemented through face-to-face training workshops, online learning and projects carried out in collaboration with partners.

The video also highlights the crucial importance of working together with partners and promoting cooperation with international, regional and sub-regional organizations in chemicals management.

The video includes short interviews with Rotterdam staff who provided concrete examples of TA in all PIC Regions.

The interviews cover the following topics:

- A brief overview of the nature of the TA and why it is a priority for RC and Parties;
- How the TA is delivered (working with local and regional partners);
- What the impact of the TA is;
- What lessons are to be learned from delivering the TA and what are the next steps.

D.

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION TALKS

EXPERIENCES WORTH SPREADING

Informal talks in front of the FAO booth and on a dedicated stage during the Information Fair were delivered by experts, staff and focal points of the Rotterdam Convention in order to **share information and tangible experiences and provide clarifications to the audience on specific topics:**

- *Alternatives to hazardous chemicals: experiences from the Caribbean Island States.*
- *Bridging information of pesticide risk evaluation.*
- *Notifications of Final Regulatory Actions for banned and /or restricted chemicals – basic information requirements.*
- *Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations and Highly Hazardous Pesticides – what is the linkage? And how to support parties in phasing out HHPs?*
- *Technical assistance – funding and delivery modes, a public dialogue between the President of the Conference of the Parties, Mr Osvaldo Álvarez-Pérez and a Rotterdam Convention staff member.*



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION EXPERTS GIVING DETAILED PRESENTATIONS ON THE CONVENTION'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON CERTAIN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

THIS HELPED TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE VARIETY OF TOPICS COVERED BY THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION.

03.

SUMMARY AND MAIN IMPACTS



The information provided at the FAO booth during the Information Fair was tailored to the main needs of the currently **161 Parties** to the Rotterdam Convention – who are **all also FAO Member States**. It was disseminated in various active and interactive ways using different media and thus addressing a whole range of diverse communication preferences. This was proven by plenty of positive feedback received, many dialogues initiated by visitors, numerous requests for technical assistance received by RC Parties (and by non-parties who want to join the Convention), multiple visits, spreading the word and visitors bringing colleagues to the booth - and last but not least many happy and interested faces.

The tools developed for this Information Fair will be updated regularly and used to further trace progress in the delivery of capacity building activities and to continuously increase awareness.

This activity **increased FAO's visibility** in general and the understanding of FAO's important role in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. **Parties acknowledged FAO's leading role and expertise in pesticide risk reduction** and the substantial technical assistance it provides to its member countries. This actively helps countries to build their capacity towards a life-cycle management of chemicals and wastes thus contributing to a sustainable agriculture. Parties welcomed the **continuous financial support (1.5 Million USD/biennium), in-kind and technical support FAO provides** to the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention including through its worldwide offices.

The Conference of Parties has adopted its Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 and encouraged FAO to continue its important support to developing countries and countries with an economy in transition through its financial contributions and highly valuable expertise.



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

For more information see the website of the Rotterdam Convention

WWW.PIC.INT

For queries please contact **pic@fao.org**



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