

# **Sub-regional multi-stakeholder workshop for Pacific Island countries on alternatives to newly listed and candidate pesticides under the Rotterdam Convention**

***“A Pacific without paraquat”  
“Living without paraquat in the Small Island States”***

**Rarotonga, Cook Islands  
University of South Pacific, Avarua Campus**

**08 – 11 August 2016**

## **25 endorsed Recommendations<sup>1</sup> clustered under the following headings:**

1. Implementation of Rotterdam Convention & National Regulations
2. Monitoring of pesticides use & impacts on human health
3. Proposed awareness-raising activities
4. Proposed subregional capacity-building about reducing pesticides use

### **Implementation of Rotterdam Convention & National Regulations**

1. All Pacific Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) countries need to become parties to the Rotterdam Convention in order to be protected against unwanted pesticides and chemicals. (1)
2. After Pacific SIDS have ratified the Rotterdam Convention and become parties, the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention need to be integrated into their national legislation, including nomination of an Official Contact Point (OCD) and a Designated National Authority (DNA) for the Rotterdam Convention. (2)
3. Pacific SIDS to build capacity, strengthen national regulatory processes for pesticides, initiate regional cooperation for the assessment and management of pesticides and establish synergies with all relevant conventions, such as the chemicals and waste conventions (Basel-, Rotterdam-, Stockholm Conventions), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). (3)
4. Pacific SIDS that are parties to Rotterdam Convention should participate in the Ministerial Meeting at Pacific SPC in 2017 in order to raise awareness at a higher level, including high-level participation from FAO and a side event by the Rotterdam Convention. (4)
5. Rotterdam Convention to strengthen regional co-operational by supporting regional projects with technical assistance. (5)
6. Remove subsidies on hazardous pesticides and include economic and social costs of health and environmental impacts into the cost of using pesticides. (22)

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<sup>1</sup> Original number of recommendation as endorsed during the meeting in brackets.

7. All Pacific SIDS to consider regulatory action to phase out paraquat and other hazardous pesticides. (23)
8. All Pacific SIDS parties to the Rotterdam Convention to consider support listing of SHPF paraquat dichloride into Annex at the COP of the Rotterdam Convention in May 2017 with one voice. (24)

### **Monitoring of pesticides use & impacts on human health**

9. Monitoring of pesticide impact on human health should be carried out in a structured way in order to build the evidence on which kind of pesticides are causing adverse effects. (10)
10. Assess, monitor and document where pesticides are used, which ones are used, and in what volumes. (11)

### **Awareness raising**

11. Involve all stakeholders in the management of pesticides and the implementation of agroecological alternatives including Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Environment, Education, Customs, as well as pesticide importers, NGOs, civil society, farmers, farmer organisation, medical practitioners, other health professionals, and academia. (6)
12. Close the knowledge and information gaps on paraquat, glyphosate and other highly hazardous pesticides and their alternatives among farmers, communities and between Pacific SIDS and strengthen voices of those who want to change to sustainable agricultural /agroecological practices, such as organic farming. (7)
13. Promote a community as well as a family approach, recognizing and increasing women's participation in all areas of sustainable agriculture including decision-making, access to land and markets and financial resources. (8)
14. Create and promote educational programmes to raise awareness on sustainable agriculture, and inspire children and youth, harness their full potential, change their perceptions and get them interested in sustainable agriculture as an honourable profession with a secure future. (9)
15. Further explore, document and raise awareness of already available knowledge on nonchemical alternatives to hazardous pesticides. (12)

### **Subregional capacity-building about reducing pesticides use**

16. Focus on agroecology and ecosystems services such as IPM, parasitic wasps, practices under organic standards amongst others, building capacity for the integration of biological control of pests and weeds including the weed-soil interaction. (13)
17. Trial a range of available traditional sustainable systems of food production under the diverse local conditions of the Pacific SIDS. (14)

18. In the Pacific subregion, phase out hazardous pesticides such as paraquat and replace them with non-chemical/agroecological methods as a first priority, or use less hazardous pesticides. (15)
19. In general, apply locally-made and -owned solutions in order to improve horticultural practices and farmers livelihoods. This could include manual weeding, mulching such as use of coconut-tree fronds to suppress weeds and conserve water, brush-cutting, mixed-cropping / intercropping, cover crops such as mucuna, and weed “managers” such as goats, and ducks. (16)
20. Increase availability of appropriate biological inputs (including permitted organic inputs) and use e.g. weeds as medicine or as a resource for soil repair (compost making) instead of filling landfills and creating methane (greenhouse gas). This will also create a great business opportunity and increase employment. (17)
21. Recognize the risk of paraquat (and glyphosate) and raise awareness among all stakeholders about these risks. (18)
22. Acknowledge availability of less hazardous alternatives to the use of paraquat and other hazardous pesticides. (19)
23. Source and promote the use of less hazardous alternatives in the Pacific SIDS. (20)
24. Create enabling environment to change to alternatives to hazardous pesticides in the Pacific SIDS. (21)
25. Design and develop a regional programme that supports all of the recommendations to promote the alternatives to hazardous pesticides and to support sustainable agriculture, e.g. the Australian Landcare model through a multi stakeholder process facilitated by FAO SAP, the Pacific Community and POETCom. (25)