



BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE

CONVENTIONS :		PROJECT TITLE :	
<input type="checkbox"/> BC <input type="checkbox"/> RC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SYN		Farmer Field Schools and Demonstration Plots	
FUNDING OPTIONS:		TYPE / LOCATION	TARGETED COUNTRIES:
<input type="checkbox"/> Funding in full <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partial funding possible		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> National	Developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are parties to the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions
Project start date: <i>01/01/2016</i>		Project completion date: <i>31/12/2017</i>	Total duration: <i>24 months</i>
LEGAL BASIS AND MANDATE			
Activity 18 (S4): Partnerships for technical assistance RC-7/7: Technical Assistance			
BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PROJECT JUSTIFICATION			
<p>The Secretariat of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, in late 2013, collected information from developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition on their needs in terms of technical assistance and capacity-building. In addition to this needs assessment, the Secretariat also took into consideration the assistance already provided, and feedback and requests for technical assistance received from parties. The needs assessment, the requests, and the mandate of the two COPs form the basis for the Secretariat to assist parties to strengthen their capacities to implement the Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention, specifically through sub-regional and regional training activities with a focus on pesticides. Endosulfan is subject to both, the Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention. During the previous biennium (2014-2015), the Secretariats of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, with limited financial resources from one donor country, developed an approach and implemented a programme on Farmer Field Schools and Demonstration Plots in two specific countries. Based on the experience gained with Farmer Field Schools to replace use of endosulfan in cotton, and driven by the strong demand of other countries for assistance in developing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches to pesticides, severely hazardous pesticide formulations (SHPF) in Annex III, and other pesticides under consideration within the procedures of the Rotterdam Convention, the Secretariat can upscale the activities to meet countries' needs.</p>			
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES			
<p>The activity proposed is highly relevant to the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions. It will be implemented in close cooperation with pertinent entities in FAO with expert input from the Rome based part of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention and in collaboration with the Designated National Authorities under the Rotterdam Convention and Focal Points of the Stockholm Convention.</p> <p>The project would allow for the organization of 4 activities that include Farmer Field Schools and Demonstration Plots to promote Integrated Pest Management approaches for pesticides covered by the Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention. The Secretariat will implement the activities in close cooperation with partners such as FAO Regional and Subregional Officers, FAO country Representatives and Ministries of Agriculture, other regional entities, or NGOs.</p> <p>The following activities will be carried out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify key crops where pesticides considered under the Rotterdam Convention are of great concern; 2. Organize Demonstration Plots on target crops in one agro-ecological zone; 3. Convene four Farmer Field Schools targeted to the key crop and its local varieties being grown by the farmers; 4. Monitor and evaluate alternative strategies that include; 5. Pilot testing of selected combinations of chemical and non-chemical alternatives to pesticides of concern under RC, for the crop-pest complex identified; 6. Verification of bio-efficacy of safer alternatives to the pesticides of concern under the identified agro-ecological situation to create a database on its alternatives; 			

Demonstration Plots:

The Demonstration Plots will allow to:

1. Determine the main crop- pest complex and pesticides used;
2. Identify more appropriate crop varieties;
3. Develop alternative pests and disease control strategies for the target crops;
4. Pilot test selected combinations of safer chemical and non-chemical alternatives for the crop-pest complexes with high significance, taking into account information available on alternatives;
5. Verify bio-efficacy of safer alternatives under three different sites in the identified agro-ecological zone to create a database on alternatives.

The Demonstration Plots will also help to have a better knowledge on possible impacts on economic, health and environmental aspects in relation to use of pesticides of concern. The Demonstration Plots will be used for the Farmer Field Schools as their classroom. Farmer groups will study and compare local practices with IPM, guided by facilitators.

Farmer Field Schools:

The FAO Plant Production and Protection Division has vast experience and field programmes on Integrated Pest Management. FAO, jointly with the Secretariat of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and other key players, including District Local Government Extension Services and National Agricultural Research Organizations, will identify an experienced entity, which has ongoing Farmer Field Schools in the selected pilot region.

The entity will nominate facilitators to prepare the curriculum and implement and organize on a weekly basis the Farmer Field Schools. The Farmer Field Schools will cover one complete cropping season

RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED**Expected results:**

1. Technical capacity strengthened by experience sharing;
2. Crop productivity will be enhanced and production costs reduced;
3. The Farmer Field Schools concept and practice will become a regular extension tool to promote IPM at community level. Through a better understanding and management of their agro-ecosystems, farmers will be better prepared to cope with pest problems in other crops;
4. Overuse of pesticides in major crops will be reduced and alternatives to newly listed chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention will be introduced on a need basis. This will lead to reduced use of pesticides, lower environmental contamination and less health risks for producers and consumers.

Indicators of success:

1. 4 developing country parties convened Farmer Field Schools on crops of concerns;
2. Number of farmers trained in Farmer Field Schools;
3. Number of Demonstration Plots established per country.

Means of verification:

1. Reports of Farmer Field School trainings and reports of local Demonstration Plots.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AND REPLICABILITY

The activity is designed as a capacity-building activity. Designated National Authorities under the Rotterdam Convention will play a key role in ensuring that farmers are trained through Farmer Field Schools and Demonstration Plots in alternatives to pesticides of concern. Other stakeholders will receive training and capacity-building (human, knowledge and skill sets) to sustain the benefits of the project. Experience gained in the pilot Farmer Field Schools will be used and multiplied in other districts, and thereby ensuring sustainability. Ministries of Agriculture will assume responsibilities to scale up.

Farmers trained in IPM will share their experience with other farmers, through other field schools and with other key players at national level, as a means of upscaling.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Some groups are particularly vulnerable to pesticide poisoning such as women, particularly expectant mothers and those who are breastfeeding, and children. These groups form a relatively large proportion of agricultural workers and they are exposed to pesticides directly or indirectly being part of family farming rural society. On average, 20 to 30% of the waged rural workers are women worldwide and, in the context of family farming, large numbers of unwaged women are actively involved in agriculture. According to FAO, women represent 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force worldwide.

It is estimated that over two-thirds (70%) of all working children are found in agriculture (ILO IPEC, 2000). Since many children below the age of employment live on farms, the risk of accidents and pesticide exposure is relatively high.

The project activities will put special emphasis on analyzing gender specific risks and will address them specifically. Discussions on problems caused by severely hazardous pesticide formulations will explicitly determine the risks to vulnerable groups.

OUTREACH AND INFORMATION SHARING

Detailed information on the project will be posted on the web site of the Convention, including the dates on venue of meetings. The results will be published in relevant proceeding of the sub-regional and regional meetings, as reports of training workshops, or reports of national follow up seminars. A local communication plan will be developed in close co-operation with the counterparts hosting the activities.

BUDGET [USD] FOR 2016-2017

STAFF PERSONNEL	126,200
CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	1,150
TRAVEL	185,000
EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, FURNITURE	-
OTHER OPERATIONAL COSTS	-
GRANTS OUT	60,000
DIRECT PROJECT COST OPERATIONAL BUDGET	372,350
<i>Programme Support Costs (PSC) 13%</i>	<i>48,406</i>
TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET	420,756