



BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE

CONVENTIONS :		PROJECT TITLE :	
<input type="checkbox"/> BC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> SYN		Training and capacity-building activities to enhance the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention at the national and regional levels: pesticides programme	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National	Developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are parties to the Rotterdam Convention
Project start date: 01/01/2016		Project completion date: 31/12/2017	Total duration: 24 months
LEGAL BASIS AND MANDATE			
Activity 15 (RC): Training and capacity-building activities to enhance the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention at national and regional levels RC-7/7: Technical Assistance			
BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PROJECT JUSTIFICATION			
<p>The Secretariat, 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 from Parties, and the mandate of COP-7 form the basis for the Secretariat to assist parties to strengthen their capacities to implement the Rotterdam Convention.</p> <p>The present concept note focuses on needs expressed by parties in terms of capacity-building and training related to pesticides.</p>			
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES			
<p>The project would allow for the implementation of a number of activities that address regional, sub-regional, national, and specific technical issues, with a focus on pesticides.</p> <p>The activities will involve Designated National Authorities (DNAs) under the Rotterdam Convention, as well as other key stakeholders in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, including national authorities responsible for the Stockholm and Basel conventions, the Minamata Convention, and SAICM. The following specific activities will be implemented:</p> <p>Training on implementation of the Rotterdam Convention:</p> <p>Upon ratification, new parties are obliged to submit all import responses for Annex III chemicals. As a first step, the Secretariat will provide to such new parties very specific training on the obligations under the Rotterdam Convention, and on the operational aspects of it.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparation of concept notes, meeting flows and draft agendas for each individual type of meeting; 2. Contacting and identifying target countries (for sub-regional meetings: 4 countries / approximately 15 DNAs; for national meetings: 1 country and approximately 25 participants); 3. Organization of logistics of the meetings, travel arrangements for participants; 4. Preparation and updating of practical training materials for individuals and working groups, of workshop materials on overview, obligations and benefits of the Rotterdam Convention; 5. Development, review and update of national action plans (2 countries). This will include exchange of information, preparation of notifications and importing country responses for pesticides, and monitoring and reporting of severely hazardous pesticide formulations. <p>Additional Training Sessions on the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention with focus on pesticides:</p> <p>This activity would allow to add to a related workshop a few additional training sessions on the Rotterdam Convention, or add some additional days to a workshop funded from another source, for DNAs and other key stakeholders. Focus of the additional sessions would be on the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, specifically on pesticides and on Article 5 - Notifications of Final Regulatory Action (NFRA) – and Article 6 – Severely hazardous pesticide formulations (SHPF).</p> <p>The following specific activities will be implemented:</p>			

1. Preparation of concept notes, meeting flows and draft agenda for a training workshop focusing on Article 5 and establishing a programme under Article 6 of the Rotterdam Convention;
2. Contacting and identifying one target country and a larger workshop to add-on;
3. Organization of logistics of the meetings, travel arrangements for participants;
4. Preparation and updating of practical training materials for NFRA, SHPF and pesticide issues, including case studies, examples from other countries;
5. Preparation of two add-on workshop training sessions dedicated to setting up and establishing a national SHPF programme, and on pesticide issues, including collection of relevant information and preparation and submission of NFRA.

Input and advice provided by experts in certain areas of pesticide management such as alternatives

This activity will provide for experts providing inputs and advice in certain areas of pesticide management such as alternatives to pesticides covered by the Rotterdam Convention.

The project would allow for experts in pest and pesticide management to provide advice on issues related to the Rotterdam Convention to assist a Party's DNAs and other key stakeholders in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, with special focus on pesticides and alternatives. The following specific activities will be implemented by experts on pesticide issues:

1. Review the country's pesticide regulatory system, including legal basis for bans and severe restrictions, and operational procedures;
2. Training on specific aspects of implementation of the Rotterdam Convention;
3. Provide guidance and advice on feasible alternatives and alternative pesticides to those covered under the Rotterdam Convention;
4. Compile a list of pesticides banned and severely restricted by national final regulatory action;
5. Develop technical material related to national plans or new notifications required;
6. Review the import responses provided or failures to provide such by the Party;
7. Advice and assist in collecting relevant information required to complete import responses, notifications of final regulatory actions, proposals for severely hazardous pesticide formulations, and export notifications and their acknowledgement;
8. Advice and assist in completing and submitting import responses, notifications of final regulatory actions, proposals for severely hazardous pesticide formulations, and export notifications;
9. Carry out survey and prepare a document on the different definitions of the term pesticide.

National Action Plans:

Focus will be on assisting new parties and those with outdated implementation plans in the preparation of such plans, and to assist parties addressing specific issues:

1. Prepare concept notes, meeting flows and draft agendas for national workshops to identify elements and prepare national action plans;
2. Develop and apply criteria for selection of recipient countries from among the Parties that solicited technical assistance;
3. Contact and identify 2 target countries (for national meetings: 1 country and approximately 25 participants);
4. Organize logistics of the meetings, travel arrangements for participants;
5. Prepare workshop materials on overview, obligations and benefits of the Rotterdam Convention; general implementation of the Convention for new DNAs and pesticides subject to the Rotterdam Convention;
6. Prepare short presentations for each of the key obligations under the Convention;
7. Prepare working group materials to facilitate the preparation of national action plans;
8. Prepare guidance to assign responsibilities, timelines and resource requirements to the draft national action plan.

Support parties in addressing specific needs:

Support will be provided upon specific request from a Party. DNAs which have identified in their national implementation plan the need for specific assistance will be offered the following specific activities:

1. Strengthen the capacity of countries to manage pesticides and reduce associated risks;
2. Develop and update national action plans with emphasis on pesticide management and related issues;
3. Implement specific activities at national level to address the elements identified in the national action plan.

Establish programmes for severely hazardous pesticide formulations (SHPF):

In order to strengthen the national capacities related to pesticides and to establish programmes for severely hazardous pesticide formulations (2 countries), the following specific activities will be implemented:

1. Develop a national pilot programme on SHPF monitoring and reporting;
2. Develop and apply criteria for the selection of countries from among the Parties that solicited technical assistance;
3. Organize and convene an inception workshop facilitated by the Designated National Authority and the

Secretariat to bring together key stakeholders, identify pilot regions and crops, and prepare the training content and survey methodology;

4. Training of health monitoring staff;
5. Collect pesticide poisoning data through monitoring of pilot regions during one cropping season;
6. Organize and convene an evaluation workshop, determine appropriate means of risk mitigation and prepare reports on pesticide poisoning.

Assess alternatives to pesticides and severely hazardous pesticide formulations and support implementation of national action plans:

Two main activities are proposed: support two countries in the implementation of their national actions plans or support development or strengthening of adequate infrastructure to comply with notification requirements under the Rotterdam Convention, the project would also support two proposals prepared by countries to assess alternatives to pesticides and Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations.

1. Support to national action plans and notifications:
 - (a) The main activity will be to development, review and update the national action plans of 2 countries. This will include a workshop to review the general obligations under the Rotterdam Convention including nomination of Designated National Authorities, provision of import responses to Annex III chemicals, proposing severely hazardous pesticide formulations, etc. The emphasis of the activity will be on preparation and submission of Notifications of Final Regulatory Actions.
2. Alternatives to pesticides and pesticide formulations will be assessed in 2 countries:
 - (a) Identification of the quantities of Annex III pesticides and severely hazardous pesticide formulations used in the country, with particular focus on those pesticides causing problems, and the major crops to which these pesticides are applied;
 - (b) Identification of any adverse effects on human health and of the environmental impact of these pesticides in the target countries;
 - (c) Review the crop-pest-pesticide management practices;
 - (d) Organize and convene a national workshop to elaborate alternative strategies and disseminate information on these pesticides, their alternatives and alternative methods;
 - (e) Development of training and awareness raising material on alternatives;
 - (f) Organize demonstration plots, convene farmer field schools on resistant crop varieties, and monitor and evaluate alternative strategies;
 - (g) Pilot testing of selected combinations of chemical and non-chemical alternatives for crop-pest complexes with high significance;
 - (h) Verification of bio-efficacy of safer alternatives under different agro-ecological situations to create a database on alternatives.

FAO regional and sub-regional officers cooperate with DNAs, provide technical backstopping during the field-monitoring phase, and promote established partnerships in the countries.

The activity also aims at fostering cooperation among DNAs from the same sub-region in order that they might learn from each other through sharing their experience in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention and in the identification of SHPF proposals and identification of solutions to common problems or challenges. DNA from developed countries should be invited to share his experience with developing countries.

RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED

Expected results:

1. DNAs and key stakeholder trained in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention and other MEAs;
2. Capacity strengthened in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention with focus on pesticides;
3. Capacities strengthened on certain areas of pesticide management such as alternatives;
4. Elements of National Action Plans identified and implementation plan prepared;
5. Parties supported in addressing specific needs;
6. Monitoring and reporting programmes for SHPF established;
7. Alternatives to pesticides and severely hazardous pesticide formulations assessed and implementation of national action plans supported;
8. A guidance document on the different definitions of the term "pesticide".

Indicators of success:

1. Developing country parties trained (DNAs and key stakeholders);
2. Countries increased their number of Import Responses;
3. Report analyzing the country situation with regard to pesticide formulations;
4. National Action Plan to implement the Rotterdam Convention shared with key stakeholders;
5. Proposal for an SHPF submitted by a Party;
6. Countries developed alternatives and alternative methods for pesticides listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention.

Means of verification:

1. Proceeding of the sub-regional/ regional/ national meetings;
2. Import responses submitted;
3. Notifications of Final Regulatory Action submitted;
4. Reports of SHPF programmes and of measures to mitigate risk.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AND REPLICABILITY

The activity is designed as a capacity-building activity. Designated National Authorities under the Rotterdam Convention and other stakeholders will receive training and capacity building (human, knowledge and skill sets) to sustain the benefits of the project. The activities will assign responsibilities at national level to continue work, and thereby ensuring sustainability.

Risk mitigation measures focusing on the pesticide formulations identified as causing poisoning incidents will be taken. This should ensure that users are at less risk from hazardous pesticides.

Participants will share the outcomes through national follow-up seminars with a larger group of key players at national level to maintain the institutional support needed, and as a means of upscaling.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Evidences show that some groups are mostly vulnerable to pesticide poisoning such as women of childbearing age, particularly expectant and breastfeeding mothers, children, but also migrant, seasonal and casual workers. These groups form a relatively large proportion of agricultural workers.

On average, 20 to 30% of the waged 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.

In the project activities special attention will be paid in social issue and gender equality, considering specific risks linked to certain vulnerable groups.

OUTREACH AND INFORMATION SHARING

Detailed information on the projects' outcome will be posted on the web site of the Convention, including the dates and venue of meetings. The results will be published in relevant proceedings of the 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	143,400
CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	10,700
TRAVEL	699,000
EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, FURNITURE	-
OTHER OPERATIONAL COSTS	8,000
GRANTS OUT	-
DIRECT PROJECT COST OPERATIONAL BUDGET	861,100
<i>Programme Support Costs (PSC) 13%</i>	<i>111,943</i>
TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET	973,043