

The South African Retrieval Scheme – A Brief History and Future Plans Summary

by Gerhard Verdoorn, Poison Working Group, South Africa

Summary: The national retrieval scheme for obsolete pesticides in South Africa resulted from a partnership between government, the agrochemical industry and a NGO. On the basis of a survey conducted by industry in 1994 it was estimated that about 850 tonnes of obsolete stocks existed in South Africa. The Agriculture Department funded the scheme with ZAR 11.5 million and the project was executed by the Crop Protection and Animal Health Association (AVCASA), and the Poison Working Group. The project started in 1998 and was concluded in 1999 with 1,060 tonnes of stocks disposed of. Main barriers experienced included complacency on the part of government and farmers, and lack of local incineration technology. However, project participants remain optimistic about opportunities to address future accumulation of obsolete stocks in South Africa as a result of local enthusiasm, technical expertise, infrastructure, government funding and industry's commitment.