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THE WORKING PARTY ON CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**REPORT OF THE SEMINAR ON PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION THROUGH EDUCATION /  
TRAINING THE TRAINERS**

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**REPORT OF THE SEMINAR ON PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION  
THROUGH EDUCATION / TRAINING THE TRAINERS**

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Series on Pesticides

No. 45

**REPORT OF THE SEMINAR  
ON PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION THROUGH  
EDUCATION / TRAINING THE TRAINERS**

15 November 2007, Mexico City, Mexico

**IOMC**

INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

A cooperative agreement among **FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO and OECD**

Environment Directorate

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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*OECD Guidance for Country Data Review Reports on Plant Protection Products and their Active Substances-Monograph Guidance* (1998, revised 2001, 2005, 2006)

*OECD Guidance for Industry Data Submissions on Plant Protection Products and their Active Substances-Dossier Guidance* (1998, revised 2001, 2005)

*Report of the Pesticide Aquatic Risk Indicators Expert Group* (2000)

*Report of the OECD Workshop on the Economics of Pesticide Risk Reduction* (2001)

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*Report of the [1st] OECD Workshop on Pesticide Risk Indicators* (1997)

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## FOREWORD

This document is the report of the OECD *Seminar on Pesticide Risk Reduction through Education / Training the Trainers* that took place on 15 November 2007, in Mexico City, Mexico. It was hosted by the Mexican National Institute of Ecology and the Mexican Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources. It was chaired by Dr. Wolfgang Zornbach of the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection.

This was the eighth in a series of Seminars organised by the OECD Pesticide Risk Reduction Steering Group, a sub-group of the OECD Working Group on Pesticides. These Seminars focus on key issues in pesticide risk reduction of concern to OECD governments. The Seminars are intended to provide an opportunity for OECD governments to discuss the issues together with non-governmental stakeholders and to develop recommendations for further OECD activities.

After a series of presentations on governments' and other stakeholders' approaches with education and training of the trainers (copies of all presentations are in Annex 3), the Seminar discussed the various aspects of training programmes for the trainers, such as qualification & quality of trainers as well as communication & economic aspects, and recommended that countries develop national training strategies. The Seminar recommended that the OECD conduct a survey on education, training and training the trainers related to agricultural pesticides in member countries (this survey was carried out in 2009).

The draft report of the Seminar was approved by the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Pesticides that took place on 4-5 November 2008.

The Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology of the OECD agreed that this document be unclassified and made available to the public. It is being published on the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD.

**THE 8<sup>TH</sup> RISK REDUCTION STEERING GROUP SEMINAR**

**REPORT OF THE SEMINAR  
ON PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION THROUGH  
EDUCATION / TRAINING THE TRAINERS**

**15 November 2007, Mexico City, Mexico**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the results of an OECD Seminar on ways to achieve pesticide risk reduction through education/training the trainers.

2. The Seminar was hosted by the Mexican National Institute of Ecology and the Mexican Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources, in Mexico City, Mexico, on 15 November 2007. It was chaired by Dr. Wolfgang Zornbach of the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection.

3. This was the eighth in a series of Seminars organised by the OECD Pesticide Risk Reduction Steering Group, a sub-group of the OECD Working Group on Pesticides. These Seminars focus on key issues in pesticide risk reduction of concern to OECD governments. The Seminars are intended to provide an opportunity for OECD governments to discuss the issues together with non-governmental stakeholders and to develop recommendations for further OECD activities. The reports from these Seminars are available on the OECD public web site:

<http://www.oecd.org/env/pesticides>, under “Risk Reduction.”

4. The members of the Risk Reduction Steering Group selected ‘Education/Training the Trainers’ as the topic of this Seminar considering its significance for pesticide risk reduction in the fields of human health (worker protection) and the environment. The importance of training the trainers was noted during earlier OECD Seminars and workshops (i.e., the Seminar on Better Application Technology (2005) and the User Compliance workshop (2006)).

5. With particular concern of the safe use of pesticide application equipments, the Seminar on Better Application Technology also addressed the importance of training the trainers. That is, if those speaking with farmers are not up-to-date in their knowledge about equipment and techniques, or are providing the wrong information, the training can actually be counter-productive. With respect to who trains the trainers, and how, one country indicated that trainers in their country are associated with universities, and the universities routinely exchange the latest information amongst themselves. Some participants suggested that suppliers and extension officers should also be trained.

6. The importance of training of inspectors and other assistance providers was also highlighted during the User Compliance workshop, for example having doctors training or giving advice on health issues.

## PARTICIPANTS

7. People attending the Seminar included representatives of:

- The pesticide regulatory authorities of various countries;
- CropLife International (the international association of pesticide manufacturers);
- The World health Organisation (WHO); and
- The International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP).

8. A participant list is attached as Annex 2.

## **PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SEMINAR**

9. The main objectives of the Seminar included:

- to identify key issues concerning pesticide risk reduction through better training of the trainers;
- to get a better overview of national and international legislative and non-legislative activities for training the trainers to reduce risks from handling and using agricultural pesticides;
- to exchange information of OECD countries' current activities in the areas of education and training of the trainers;
- to suggest options of further steps for OECD countries and key stakeholders in OECD and non-OECD countries to address the identified issues;
- to recommend possible further steps for OECD

In particular the following issues were discussed during the Seminar:

- Training for extension officers (private and tax paid)
- Training for pesticide dealers
- Certification of trainers and users
- Financing of training sessions, private/governmental funding
- How to measure the efficiency of training?

The Seminar did not deal with the training of farmers and applicators as this issue had been reviewed during the previous Seminar on "Worker Safety and Training."

## **STRUCTURE OF THE SEMINAR**

10. The first part of the Seminar was devoted to presentations from government representatives and other stakeholders. The second part was devoted to round table discussions, conclusions and recommendations to the OECD.

## **GOVERNMENT AND STAKEHOLDER EXPERIENCE WITH EDUCATION/TRAINING OF THE TRAINERS**

11. Government representatives of Australia, Germany, Mexico and USA presented their experiences with education/training the trainers in their own countries or in neighbouring countries. In addition, a representative of ILO gave a presentation on the *WHO/UNEP Resource Tool on Sound Management of Pesticides and Diagnosis and Treatment of Pesticide Poisoning*. Representatives of industry (CropLife International and the Mexican Association of Phytosanitary Industry, A.C. (AMIFAC)) presented their actions in terms of training the trainers and a representative from the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) presented the farmers' concerns. Presentations are available in [Annex 3](#).

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

12. After the presentations reviewing existing training schemes for the trainers and portraying perspectives of various stakeholders, the floor was opened to all Seminar participants for a roundtable discussion. They reviewed the various aspects of training programmes for trainers and the main areas for improvements. Finally they made recommendations on what the OECD could do to help improve the evaluation and hence the future efficiency of training of the trainers (and pesticide users) in OECD countries.

***Qualification and qualities needed from trainers***

13. It was stressed that trainers do not need to have a university degree but rather a competence in the subject taught and the ability to teach. Farmers themselves can become very good trainers. In addition, different levels of training and trainers can be defined.

14. Trainers need to communicate about risk and to convince users what training will bring them, the environment and the society benefits.

15. Trainers also need to find the right way to communicate with various target audiences. For example, in some cases, the performance of small farms plays is a very good way to communicate messages.

***Economic aspects related to education/training the trainers***

16. The Seminar participants discussed who should bear training costs. They were of the view that costs should be shared by the various types of stakeholders and not borne by tax payers only. The US representative explained that, in her country, a legislation had been recently enacted that establishes a fee paid by pesticide registrants. A part of the fee is used to finance training on pesticide use.

17. Some participants felt that industry could put the emphasis on training those people who use their products and governments could put the emphasis on public health issues.

***Overall conclusions***

18. An overall training strategy should be developed by countries. The strategy could first include a risk evaluation to define in which areas training is more useful, according to the country needs, and then the definition of the training programme per se and their possible impact on human health and on the environment. They could develop and use indicators of training efficiency. It was felt rather easy to develop indicators on outputs (e.g. number of containers on the market / number of containers retrieved) but much more difficult to develop indicators on the outcome of training, i.e. on the impact of training on pesticide user behaviour and finally on the improvement of the environment and of human health.

19. In a nutshell, the issue to resolve was considered to be “what are the cost-effective types of training that can achieve the desirable outcomes.”

**RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS**

20. The group considered what could be the role of OECD. They thought the OECD could try to evaluate national training programmes (of both trainers and pesticide users). As a first step OECD should conduct a survey on training and training the trainers in member countries.

21. The evaluation could also include information on the best cost-effective way to do training because effective training can be expensive (e.g. farmer field schools work well but it is not affordable to organise them for all farmers).

ANNEX 1

**Seminar Programme**

	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose and structure of the Seminar</li> <li>• Tour de table to introduce participants</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Government Experience and Perspectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Germany:</b> <i>Education and Training of Plant Protection Advisors and Trainers in Germany</i> (Dr. Bernd Freier, Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry, Institute for Integrated Plant Protection)</li> <li>• <b>Australia :</b> <i>Welcome – Australian Agricultural Chemical Training Programs and Accreditation Standards for Trainers and Practitioners</i> (Mark Pace/ Andrew Hewitt, Director, Centre for Pesticide Application and Safety, University of Queensland)</li> <li>• <b>USA:</b> <i>U.S. EPA Worker Safety Train-the Trainer Projects in Central America</i> (Jay Ellenberger, Associate Director, Field and External Affairs Division, Office of Pesticide Programs)</li> <li>• <b>Mexico:</b> <i>Mexican Experience on Agricultural Workers Training</i> (Biól. Norma Enríquez Baldazo, Project Head, Reduction of Worker Exposure/Pesticide Use, &amp; Ing. Raúl Arcos Vargas, Executive Subdirector of Training, Federal Commission for Protection against Sanitary Risk, Ministry of Health)</li> </ul>
	<p>Coffee</p>



	<p><b>Stakeholder Experience and Perspectives</b></p> <p><b>Industry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CropLife International:</b> <i>Industry - Training of Trainers: Activities and Impacts</i> (Keith Jones, Stewardship &amp; Sustainable Agriculture, CropLife International)</li> <li>• <b>Mexican Association of Phytosanitary Industry, A.C. (AMIFAC)</b>  <i>Strategies and activities undertaken by AMIFAC to achieve the safe and responsible use of pesticides and its wastes (containers) in Mexico</i> (Ing. José Luis Lara de la Cruz, Coordinator of the "BUMA" Campaign, AMIFAC)  <i>Actions of the Toxicological Information Service (SINTOX) of AMIFAC</i> (Dr. Gabriel Díaz Izeta, Toxicological Information Service (SINTOX) Coordinator, AMIFAC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Farmers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>International Federation of Agricultural Producers:</b> <i>Vision of the Argentinian agricultural sector: Situation and perspectives for pesticide use</i> (Ernesto Ambrosetti, Producer, Economic Studies Institute of the Sociedad Rural Argentina)</li> </ul> <p><b>Intergovernmental International Organisations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>World Health Organisation :</b> <i>WHO/UNEP Resource Tool on Sound Management of Pesticides and Diagnosis and Treatment of Pesticide Poisoning</i> (Nida Besbelli, WHO)</li> </ul>
	Lunch
	<p><b>Round-table Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recipients / Education for each recipient type (training for extension officers (private and tax paid); training for pesticide dealers; certification of trainers and users; training for medical staff (to deal with prevention of accidents)</li> <li>• Regulatory requirements that exist in different countries, and existing guidance and other voluntary measures concerning education of trainers</li> <li>• Economic aspects: how to finance training sessions, with private or governmental funding?</li> </ul>
	Coffee

	<p><b>Round-table Discussion (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good practices and innovative approaches: how to ensure the efficiency of training? How to ensure coordination? How to ensure a follow-up?</li> <li>• Barriers to and solutions for meeting the objectives of trainer education</li> <li>• Recommendations for OECD countries and key stakeholders in OECD and non-OECD countries to address the identified issues (e.g. development of an OECD guidance document)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Summary of the Discussion, Ideas for Follow-up, Recommendations for possible further OECD work</b></p>
	<p>End of the Seminar</p>

## ANNEX 2

## Participants List for Seminar

<b>Dr. Andrew HEWITT</b>	<b>Australia/Australie</b>
	<i>Director, Centre for Pesticide Application and Safety University of Queensland</i>
<b>Mr. Mark PACE</b>	<i>Director, Vocational education Centre School of Land Crop and Food Sciences Faculty of NRAVS</i>
	<b>Germany/Allemagne</b>
<b>Dr. Wolfgang ZORNBACH</b>	<i>Plant Protection Unit Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV)</i>
	<i>Institute for Integrated Plant Protection Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry</i>
<b>Bernd FREIER</b>	<b>Japan/Japon</b>
	<i>Associate Director of Agricultural Chemicals Office Plant Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</i>
<b>Ms. Atsuko HORIBE</b>	<i>Deputy Director Agricultural Chemicals Control Office, Environmental Management Bureau Ministry of the Environment</i>
	<b>Korea/Corée</b>
<b>Mr. Masanobu KIMURA</b>	<i>Head of the Residues Assessment Lab National Institute of Agriculture Science &amp; Tech</i>
	<b>Mexico/Mexique</b>
<b>Yang-Bin IHM</b>	<i>Deputy Director Health Regulation Ministry of Labour</i>
	<b>Jesús ZEPEDA VERA</b>
<b>Matiana Ramirez AGUILAR</b>	COFESPRIS/SSA
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<b>Federico Ibarra CARRILLO</b>	STPS DGSST
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<b>Rosa Maria Arroyo GARCIA</b>	<i>Ministry for Social Development - SEDESOL</i>
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<b>Cuevas Garcia HUMBERTO</b>	<i>SEMARNAT</i>
<b>Gilberto Bolanos MONROY</b>	<i>STPS DGSST</i>
<b>Juan M. Flores MORENO</b>	<i>SEMARNAT SFNA DGI</i>
<b>Citlali PAZ</b>	<i>COFEPRIS/SSA</i>
<b>Silvia Victoria RAMIREZ</b>	<i>COFEPRIS/SSA</i>
<b>Ernesto Nava SANCHEZ</b>	<i>Director Ejecutivo de Fomento Sanitario COFEPRIS/SSA</i>
<b>Tomaso Leon SANCHEZ</b>	<i>SEMARNAT</i>
<b>Margarita Prado YANEZ</b>	<i>STPS DGSST</i>
<b>United States/États-Unis</b>	
<b>Jay ELLENBERGER</b>	<i>Associate Director, Field and External Affairs Division Field &amp; External Affairs Division US Environmental Protection Agency</i>
<b>Ms. Jane HOPKINS</b>	<i>Field and External Affairs Division Office of Pesticides Programs, 7506PY US Environmental Protection Agency</i>
<b>Ms. Susan LEWIS</b>	<i>Branch Chief, Special Review and Reregistration Division US Environmental Protection Agency</i>
<b>Ms. Anne LINDSAY</b>	<i>Deputy Director for Programs Office of Pesticide Programs, 7501PY US Environmental Protection Agency</i>
<b>Argentina/Argentine</b>	
<b>Ernesto AMBROSETTI</b>	<i>Sociedad Rural Argentina</i>
<b>Nicaragua/Nicaragua</b>	
<b>Lesbia Aguilar GONZALEZ</b>	<i>MARENA</i>

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**Keith JONES** *Manager  
Stewardship and Sustainable Agriculture  
CROPLIFE International*

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Syngenta, Crop Protection AG*

**World Health Organization (WHO)/Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS)**

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World Health Organisation Regional Office for  
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**Mr. Richard SIGMAN** *Principal Administrator  
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**Gabriel Diaz IZETA** *Coordinator  
AMIFAC*

**Raul Arcos VARGAS** *COFEPRIS/SSA*

**Rodriguez NORMA** *UMFFAAC*

**Miriam VILLAMIL** *UMFFAAC*

ANNEX 3

**Seminar Presentations**

1. Education and Training of Plant Protection Advisors and Trainers in Germany (*Bernd Freier, BBA, Institute for Integrated Plant Protection, Germany*)
2. Welcome – Australian Agricultural Chemical Training Programs and Accreditation Standards for Trainers and Practitioners (*Mark Pace/Andrew Hewitt, University of Queensland, Australia*)
3. U.S. EPA Worker Safety Train-the Trainer Projects in Central America (*Jay Ellenberger, Office of Pesticide Programs, USA*)
4. Mexican Experience on Agricultural Workers Training (*Norma Enríquez Baldazo, Mexico*)
5. Industry - Training of Trainers: Activities and Impacts (*Keith Jones, CropLife International*)
6. Strategies and Activities undertaken by the AMIFAC to Achieve the Safe and Responsible Use of Pesticides and its Wastes (containers) in Mexico (*José Luis Lara de la Cruz, AMIFAC*)
7. Actions of the Toxicological Information Service (SINTOX) of AMIFAC (*Gabriel Díaz Izeta, AMIFAC*)
8. Vision of the Argentinian Agricultural Sector: Situation and Perspectives for Pesticide Use (*Ernesto Ambrosetti, Economic Studies Institute of the Sociedad Rural Argentina*)
9. WHO/UNEP Resource Tool on Sound Management of Pesticides and Diagnosis and Treatment of Pesticide Poisoning (*Nida Besbelli, WHO*)