

Reduction and Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in China

Improvement of Production Technology of Dicofol from DDT and Introduction of Alternative Technology including IPM Technology in Leaf Mites Control in China

The Challenge

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, accumulate in living organisms, and are toxic to humans and wildlife. Due to their persistence and mobility in the environment, they can circulate globally and negatively impact the environments they are found in.

In May 2001, China signed the Stockholm Convention, a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs, and committed to eliminate the manufacture and use of all intentionally produced POPs (i.e. industrial chemicals and pesticides). While the production and consumption of most POPs pesticides have been prohibited in China, China still produces 4 POPs pesticides – DDT, HCB, Chlordane and Mirex – for domestic use and export. In China, 80 percent of total DDT production was used as an intermediate for the production of the pesticide dicofol, and residual DDT remaining in the product is one of the main sources of DDT pollution in China through use of dicofol for pest control. It is estimated that about 300 metric tons of DDT is applied to farmland each year, due to dicofol usage in China.

The Response

To address the key issues relating to reduction and elimination of DDT, this UNDP/GEF project, "Improvement of Production Technology of Dicofol from DDT and Introduction of Alternative Technology including IPM Technology in Leaf Mites Control in China" aims to improve the production technology of dicofol to reduce residual DDT levels to acceptable trace contaminant amounts. The project will also introduce alternative technologies and approaches including integrated pest management (IPM) for leaf mite control in three major income-generating export farm crops in China's agriculture sector: apple, orange and cotton.

Achievements

During the Preparatory Phase (PDF-B) in 2006 and 2007, the following activities were completed: preparation of implementation plan to improve dicofol production technology; selection of demonstration areas and information collection in these areas; assessment of management framework and preliminary assessment of social, economic and environmental impacts; and development of financing and operation mechanisms and a monitoring and evaluation plan.

This critical information will contribute to implementing the full project to be launched in 2008 for demonstration at three selected counties. The results of the demonstration project will in turn validate the selection of appropriate alternative technologies, eliminating the need for DDT usage as an intermediate in dicofol production. Lessons learned of the demonstration phase will facilitate full replication in all regions of China in the final phase.

At a Glance

Start Date: 2005
End Date: 2007

Implementing Partner: State Environmental Protection Administration

Project ID: 00047973

UNDAF: Outcome 9 - Key UN conventions promoted through improved capacity to fulfill their obligations

MDG: Goal 7 – Ensure environmental sustainability

CPAP: Outcome 5 - Within the framework of international norms, conventions, and their mechanisms, and of the Global Compact, China's role in the international arena is enhanced

Total Budget: US\$460,000
Donor (GEF): US\$295,000
Government: US\$145,000
Donor (GEF IA): US\$20,000

To contribute to this initiative, or to find out more about the project, please visit our website or contact us at 86-10-8532 0800 or registry.cn@undp.org

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