



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



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Santander

Dear delegates,

We welcome you to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), a United Nations led council with the objective of ending world hunger, guaranteeing food security as well as an international access to an abundant, quality and proper nutrition. The chairs of this council (Laura Morales as president and Jaime Robinson as moderator) are eager to receive you the following March 2023.

FAO Council will be addressing the following topics:

- The use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) such as DDT in Low income countries and its impact in the global fight for sustainability
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- Implications of the Ukrainian war in agricultural commerce and security

Delegates should have in mind the importance of developing intelligent and innovative solutions for both topics of discussion, given that 193 million of people were registered as food insecure in 2021 (2022 Global Report on Food Crises). The FAO Council carries the potential, throughout profound debates, and discussions on topics such as food insecurity or agricultural commerce, to mitigate hunger and guarantee food sustainability and abundancy in an international matter.

We thank you for your commitment to FAO Council and we are glad to receive you the following March 2023.

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Topic 1 – The use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) such as DDT in Low income countries and its impact in the global fight for sustainability

DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) is a pesticide that was widely used in the mid-20th century to control malaria and other insect-borne diseases. It is highly effective at controlling these diseases and was responsible for significant reductions in malaria transmission and mortality in many parts of the world. However, DDT is also toxic to many non-target species and can have negative impacts on the environment.

The use of DDT has been banned or severely restricted in many countries due to these concerns. In low-income countries, DDT may still be used as a means of controlling malaria and other diseases, particularly in areas where other control methods are not available or not effective. This can be a difficult balancing act, as the benefits of using DDT to control diseases may outweigh the potential negative environmental and health impacts in some cases. However, it is important that the use of DDT and other hazardous pesticides is carefully monitored and regulated to minimize any negative impacts on human health and the environment.

The global fight for sustainability includes efforts to reduce the use of hazardous pesticides such as DDT and to find more sustainable and safe alternatives for controlling disease-carrying insects. This may include the use of integrated pest management strategies that rely on a combination of measures, including biological control, physical barriers, and the use of less toxic pesticides. It is important to continue researching and developing safer and more sustainable ways of controlling disease-carrying insects in order to protect human health and the environment.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) code of conduct (FAO and WHO in 2013) and the Guidelines on Highly Hazardous pesticides (FAO and WHO 2016) adopted the following definition:

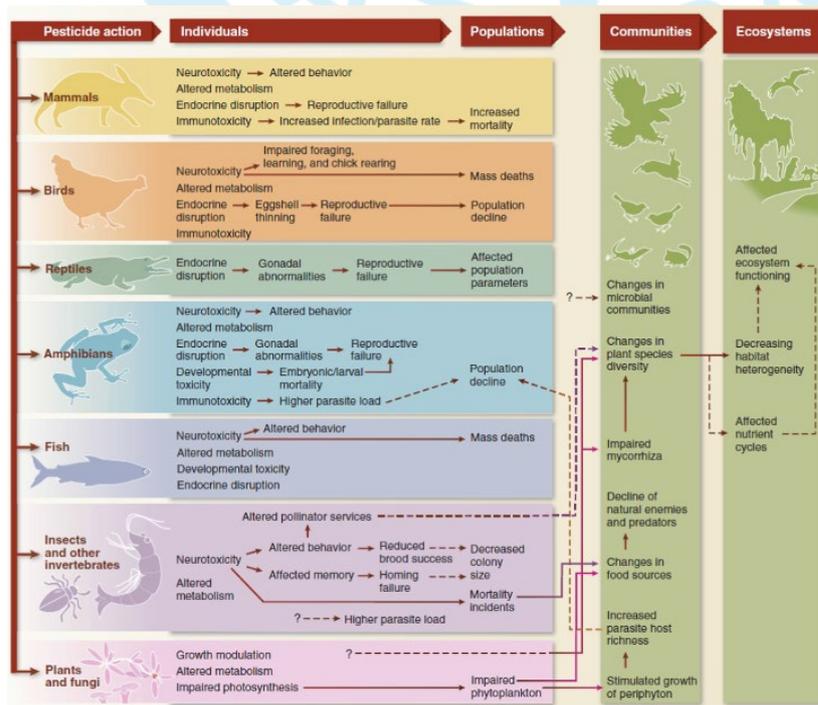
“Highly Hazardous Pesticides means pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or environment according to internationally accepted classification systems such as WHO or Global Harmonized

System (GHS) or their listing in relevant binding international agreements or conventions. In addition, pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous”.

Hazardous pesticides (HHPs) are pesticides that are highly toxic or persist in the environment and can cause harm to humans, wildlife, and the environment. They may be carcinogenic, neurotoxic, endocrine disruptors, or have other harmful effects on human health or the environment. These pesticides are often used to control pests that transmit diseases, such as malaria, or to protect crops from insects, diseases, and weeds.

The use of HHPs can have negative impacts on human health, including cancer, neurological effects, birth defects, and other health problems. They can also harm non-target species, including birds, bees, and other insects, and can have negative impacts on the environment, including contaminating water and soil and disrupting ecosystems.

The use of HHPs has been regulated and restricted in many countries due to these concerns. Some HHPs, such as DDT, have been banned in many countries, while others are restricted to certain uses or are subject to special handling and disposal requirements. There is ongoing research and efforts to find safer and more sustainable alternatives to HHPs for controlling pests and protecting crops.



Global production and use of DDT, has declined over the past several years. India has been the largest producer and user of DDT, which is used to control diseases such as malaria and leishmaniasis. However, some countries have stopped using DDT due to resistance in malaria vectors to the pesticide, or in compliance with the Stockholm Convention, which aims to reduce the production and use of DDT and other harmful chemicals. Many countries have put in place legal measures that prohibit or restrict the production, import, export, and use of DDT. However, there are limitations in achieving the objectives of the Stockholm Convention with regard to DDT, including insufficient reporting by countries and deficiencies in reporting to the DDT Register.

The chairs warn the delegates that the situation is dire as a global food crisis is forging developing nations are struggling more than ever.

The FAO Council should envision the following objectives to be reflected in a future resolution:

- To aid developing countries measures must be taken, and they must be taken quick. DDT may kill of malaria, yet it may also become hazardous in other aspects. Developing nations are held from other pesticides for they are too costly, yet the food crisis is raring over
- Promote measures in order for developing countries to survive the famine yet maintain sustainability

Recourse Links:

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb9997en/>

<https://www.fao.org/pesticide-registration-toolkit/information-sources/hazard-classifications/en/>

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/219887/Pesticides%20health%20and%20food.pdf>

<https://malariajournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12936-017-2050-2>