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Improved pesticide and chemicals management in the former
Soviet Union

***Pesticide quality in the countries of the former
Soviet Union – challenges and opportunities
identified in a recent FAO survey on pesticide
management***

**CIPAC SYMPOSIUM
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in partnership with the Global Environment Facility, Blacksmith Institute,
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EU-funded Project EU/FAO project GCP/RER/040/EC initiated 2013 – Outcomes

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- Outcome 1: Management of obsolete pesticides
- **Outcome 2: Pesticide lifecycle assessment**
- Outcome 3: Cross cutting activities
- Outcome 4: Project management
- Outcome 5: Monitoring and evaluation



Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

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Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan (FAO SEC countries)

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— “Baseline Study”

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2.1 Review of **Pesticide** legislation

2.2 Analysis of **Pesticide life-cycle** – based on
FAO/WHO Code of Conduct on Pesticide
Management;

2.3 Promotion of lower risk alternatives to
Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs);

2.4 Development of **Communications and Awareness**
materials for use at national level



Outcome 2

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- **Sustainability** of selected arable crops based on a model (DEXiPM)
- **implementation of the Code of Conduct** and regulatory status of **highly hazardous pesticides** assessed.
- Regulatory status of **highly hazardous pesticides (WHO class Ia and Ib)**

Forms and questionnaires filled by national consultants.
Needs assessment and **recommendations** endorsed by National Governments and stakeholders.

• **Status reports** revealed significant differences & communalities in the profiles of the countries. Numerous challenges were encountered. ...



The “Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management” - 2013

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- Provides the **framework** for a management landscape of pesticides throughout life-cycle;
- Addresses **all areas of pesticide management**, through supporting manuals and guidelines (production, product quality, distribution, sale, use and disposal);
- Provides, through standard-setting, a **point of reference**, in particular for governments and the pesticide industry;
- Applies to **all public and private entities** involved in pesticides matters;



Code of Conduct, 2013

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Article 1. Objectives of the Code.....	2
Article 2. Terms and definitions	4
Article 3. Pesticide management.....	8
Article 4. Testing of pesticides.....	10
Article 5. Reducing health and environmental risks	12
Article 6. Regulatory and technical requirements	15
Article 7. Availability and use.....	17
Article 8. Distribution and trade	18
Article 9. Information exchange	20



Objectives of the Code Include...

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- Risk reduction, protection of human and environmental health;
- Adherence to relevant Conventions (Stockholm, Rotterdam...) and international standards;
- Fosters responsibilities of the major stakeholders, i.e. governments and pesticide industry;
- Encourages alternative pest management approaches, eg by IPM



Countries need to **implement** the Code in their national legislation

FAO, WHO and UNEP to monitor observance

Format: **CoC questionnaire** covering Art. 3 to 11
with 10 to 30 questions each

HHP questionnaire

to be filled by National consultants and evaluated



Evaluation of Answers Provided

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4.1.16 In your country, does pesticide industry conduct **residue trials prior** to marketing, in order to provide a basis for establishing **appropriate maximum residue limits** (20)?

Definitely yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rather yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	More less	or	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rather no	X	Definitely no	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.1.17 In your country, does pesticide industry conduct **residue trials** prior to marketing, at

Quantitative evaluation: Definitely yes → 4 points
Definitively no → 0 points



Challenges

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- Working in a multilingual, multicultural environment (FAO, National consultants, International consultants)
- Identifying National consultants
- Translations back and forth needed (ENG → RUS → ENG)
- Need to find common language - some terms not known to National Consultants and Government officials



Observance of the Code – Main Findings & Communalities

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- „Country profile“ with degree of implementation (expressed as %) for Articles 3 to 11 (Pesticide Management to Advertising)
- Significant communalities & differences between countries identified



Pesticide Management & Testing (Art. 3 & 4)

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- Some pesticide Registration in place in all countries
- IPM Development and testing of spray equipment scored very low
- Inadequate capacities & expertise for evaluating registration documents
- Laboratories for official residue monitoring and quality control of pesticides in all countries but...



Laboratories outdated...

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Huge Challenges in Strengthening Official Quality Control Laboratories I

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- Shortcomings in legal provisions for pesticide registration
- Concepts for optimal use of a QC laboratory are not well developed
- Existing laboratories: infrastructure, expertise of staff



Huge Challenges in Strengthening Official Quality Control Laboratories II

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- Operational manuals for laboratories are inexistent
- International networking (CIPAC, FAO and WHO programmes on pesticide risk reduction) is weak to nonexistent



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Needs identified are used for
formulating projects to improve the
situation



The Way Forward: “Hard Facts”

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Mobilizing funds for

- Technical update of laboratory infrastructure
- Trainings and twinnings



The Way Forward: “Soft Facts” I

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- Strengthening pesticide registration and legal situation for better defining pesticide quality
- Strengthening official inspection services



The Way Forward: “Soft Facts” II

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- Licensing system for import, storage and distribution of pesticides
- Operational Manuals for official quality control needed
- Lowering language barriers and international exchange
- Training, training, training...



Sustainability of Projects

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- Financing of laboratories
- Autonomy status for retention of trained staff and budget
- Accreditation needed
- Synergy with residue laboratories



More soft challenges...

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- Identifying sufficiently experienced QC experts for training
- Language barriers
- Introduction of suitable quality assurance schemes



Conclusions

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- Survey results confirm the strong interdependence of pesticide management with quality control
- Strengthening official quality control in Eastern European countries will:
 - reduce substandard and counterfeit pesticides
 - contribute to risk reduction while safeguarding protection of crops and vector control



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Thank you for your attention!

