
From: Mcfarland Janis USGR
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2002 1:02 PM
To: Shaw Jennifer USGR; Wells Jerry USGR; Pastoor Tim USGR; Carter Kay USGR; Ford Sherry USGR; Licata John USGR
Cc: Dickson Gary USGR; Alventosa Vince USGR
Subject: FW: HEADS UP: PAN Calls on Syngenta to stop paraquat production

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Jennifer, could you set up an issues sub-team meeting to discuss the NAFTA paraquat issues strategy and linkage with the global strategy-Thanks for your help-Mac -----Original Message-----

From: Carter Kay USGR
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2002 8:48 AM
To: Mcfarland Janis USGR; Mack Mike USGR; Capps Jan USGR; Carroll Beth USGR; Pastoor Tim USGR; Licata John USGR; Captain Lori USUW; Sandbach Peter CHBS; Wilson OPatrick CHBS; Stopford Michael CHBS; Von Mielecki Rainer CHBS; Diriwaechter Georg CHBS; Dickson Gary USGR
Subject: FW: HEADS UP: PAN Calls on Syngenta to stop paraquat production
Importance: High

fyi, the campaign has now reached the US.

Kay

-----Original Message-----
From: Cheryl Byrne [mailto:cheryl.byrne@V-FLUENCE.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2002 1:55 PM
To: Ford Sherry USGR
Cc: Jay Byrne
Subject: HEADS UP: PAN Calls on Syngenta to stop paraquat production
Importance: High

Picked up from our monitoring

P A N U P S

Pesticide Action Network Updates Service

=====

Action Alert: Call on Syngenta to Stop Production of Paraquat

October 1, 2002

A new campaign is underway to pressure Syngenta to stop production of paraquat, one of the world's most deadly pesticides. Syngenta markets this broad-spectrum herbicide in more than 100 countries under the brand name Gramoxone. Paraquat is applied to bananas, cocoa, coffee, cotton, palm oil, pineapple, rubber, and sugar cane on large plantations as well as small farms.

The herbicide is highly toxic, with no known antidote. Less than one teaspoon, if ingested, is fatal. Skin contact alone can cause systemic damage. Even at very low levels of exposure, paraquat can cause, among other symptoms, severe dermatitis, second degree burns, a rash all over the body, and discolored or itching hands. Paraquat's extreme toxicity makes protective clothing such as rubber aprons, rubber gloves, full face shields and rubber boot coverings essential for mixers and applicators. But in reality the herbicide is extensively used in warm and humid climates where such clothing is intolerable or unavailable. In these conditions paraquat poses an unacceptable threat to worker health and safety.

Interviews in March 2002 with women on Indonesian palm oil estates describe routine exposure through leaking knapsack sprayers, spray drift, and walking through sprayed vegetation. They link the spraying of paraquat every second day to their symptoms of blurred vision, breathing difficulties, skin damage and diarrhea.

Several substitutes for paraquat exist. Chiquita and the Fair Trade Organizations have already banned paraquat from their production. A new report published by several members of the campaign against paraquat includes case studies in developing countries in which crop rotation, mulching, intercropping (planting cover crops) are effectively employed for sustainable non-chemical weed control.

Eleven countries have banned or severely restricted paraquat. Syngenta has recently established a new paraquat factory in China, indicating an intention to continue production of this dangerous pesticide. An international coalition of organizations has launched an effort to increase pressure on Syngenta to take this product off the market.

Action:

Support the international campaign by sending a letter or email to the chairman of the board of directors of Syngenta, asking him to stop production of paraquat. To send a letter and stay in touch with the campaign, visit the Berne Declaration Web site (a Swiss-based organization for sustainable development) <http://www.evb.ch/> <<http://www.evb.ch/>> . (Note: to use the automatic email form, you will need to register at the Web site.)

Sources:

PAN Pesticide Database <http://www.pesticideinfo.org/> <<http://www.pesticideinfo.org/>> ; Paraquat: Syngenta's controversial herbicide, Berne Declaration (Switzerland), Foro Emaus (Costa Rica), Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Asia Pacific (Malaysia), PAN UK (UK) and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (Sweden), April 2002, <http://www.evb.ch/> <<http://www.evb.ch/>> ; Poisoned and Silenced: A study of pesticide poisoning in the plantations, Tenaganita and PAN Asia and the Pacific, Malaysia, March 2002; Paraquat in developing countries, Central American Institute for Studies on Toxic Substances (IRET), Universidad Nacional, Heredia, Costa Rica, International Journal of Occupational Health, 24 July 2001.

Contact: PANNA

PANUPS is a weekly email news service providing resource guides and reporting on pesticide issues that don't always get coverage by the mainstream media. It's produced by Pesticide Action Network North America, a non-profit and non-governmental organization working to advance sustainable alternatives to pesticides worldwide.

You can join our efforts! We gladly accept donations for our work and all contributions are tax deductible in the United States. Visit <http://www.panna.org/donate> <<http://www.panna.org/donate>> .

=====

To comment, send an email to:

panna@panna.org

To subscribe, send a blank email to:

PANUPS-subscribe@topica.email-publisher.com

Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA)

49 Powell St., Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94102 USA

Phone: (415) 981-1771

Fax: (415) 981-1991

Email: panna@panna.org

Web: <http://www.panna.org> <<http://www.panna.org/>>

=====