

*Scaling up Experience in Improvement of
Chemical Safety to Contribute to Poverty Reduction
in Rural Armenia*



Start up meeting

Arnika – Toxics and Waste Programme, Czech

*Armenian Women for Health and Healthy
Environment, Armenia*

EC supported project

29 March, Yerevan, 2010



ԱՌՆԻԿԱ – թունանյութերի և թափոնների
ծրագիր և ՀԿՀԱԱՇՄ ՀԿ
Եվրահանձնաժողովի ծրագիր

ՀԿՀԱԱՇՄ

*Հայաստանի գյուղական
համայնքներում աղքատության
կրճատմանը նպաստելու նպատակով
քիմիական անվտանգության
բարելավման ոլորտում ձեռք բերված
փորձի տարածում*

ԵՐԵՎԱՆ 2010

Problem

- Continuous growing risk to human health and the environment of obsolete pesticides exposure contributes to aggravation of poverty
- Limited knowledge of Armenian rural population about potentially hazardous sites in their neighborhood
- Lack of access to information
- Few environmental NGOs deal with POPs issue
- Low experience with chemical safety advocacy campaigns

Objectives

- Strengthening the international NGO cooperation in order to strengthen the position of civic society in environmental policy-making processes on international level.
- Development of a national strategy for cooperation of NGOs working on chemical safety issues.

Objectives

- Transmission of skills and experiences with environmental policy processes and public participation in them from EU member state to non-member state
- Raising the level of awareness of local NGOs, civic society organisations and local authorities about national and international policies on chemical safety

Objectives

- Estimation of environmental impact of selected hazardous waste hotspots (major deposit sites of obsolete and banned pesticides in Ararat province) and raising public awareness about this impact
- Raising public participation in critical environmental decision making processes

Obsolete Pesticides Burial Site

- Constructed in 1982
- Contains more than 500 tones of pesticides with more than 50% of persistent organochlorines
- Located in active landslide area
- Located on the top of the hill, 800 meters away from two villages and holiday village
- Currently belongs to Yerevan district

Results

- Out of 150 samples of the soil, water, vegetations 35,3% contained DDT, DDE, HCCH in levels from 3 to 1000 times exceeding “permitted” levels

2005, AWHHE

Achievements

- The Government of Armenia made the decision on ensuring of pesticides burial safety April, 2004

Results

- The fence is installed
- The drainage is restored
- Drying out the local wetland on the top of the burial site

Current situation. March, 2010

- The site is destructed by unknown persons
- The measures undertaken by Government following the resolution were temporary and ineffective
- The need of sound solution dealing with contaminated sites is the problem of a great concern and requires urgent solution

Visiting of obsolete pesticides stockpiles



Burial threatens the neighboring settlements



Current situation



Landslides in burial area



Landslides in burial area



Broken storm drains



Bogging of burial site's head



Meeting with the representatives of Emergency Agency



In the result of the Decree adopted by the Government

The area of the
burial site has been
fenced in



The drains have been built



Drying out the local wetland on the top of the burial site



The storm drains were renewed



Meetings with the representatives of “Tredi” company, France



Visit of the pesticides burial site with representatives of Emergency Agency May, 2007



The drains are out of order



Bogging is going on



Fresh traces of the landslide



Conclusions of the last visit

- The landslide has been dislocated in different sections about 11,5m
- The cracks in the right and the left lateral sides of the burial site have been broadened out 0,2-0,5m

Cracks in the tongue of the landslide have become deeper and wider



Traces of tractor



AWHHE expert monitors the burial site. March, 2010



Obsolete chemicals on the surface of site. March, 2010



Thank you for attention!