

FAO completes pesticide safeguarding training in Cape Town.

The Pesticide Risk Reduction Group at FAO has successfully completed the training of 30 delegates from eleven countries. The training took place in Cape Town in South Africa from 1 to 10 December 2010. The participation of country delegates were funded through GEF support to existing Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP) projects and the FAO component of the EC project on Capacity Building for the Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) in the ACP countries (Africa, Caribbean & Pacific). FAO would like to thank to the EC, GEF and other donors for supporting delegates to attend this training.



The sessions were facilitated by international consultants, representatives from CropLife International and experts from the waste management industry. Lecturers from the University of Cape Town and Wits University in Johannesburg were also involved in the course.

Through the training, Pesticide Risk Reduction Group had an opportunity to present a series of new tools which have been developed, to assist countries in the development of strategies for safeguarding and disposal of obsolete pesticides and to implement the strategies on safe sound based on international best practice. The Environmental Management Tool Kit (EMTK) series have been consolidated and developed into volumes 3 and 4 and will be published early 2011. (see [related publications](#))



The training on the EMTK - Volume 3 examined how to develop an objective safeguarding strategy; and based on risk identification and development of mitigation plans that can be implemented at national level. Volume 3 then looks at how projects should approach the issue of environmentally sound management (ESM) of the waste and how to ensure that the treatment of wastes such as containers and contaminated soils is based on local solutions provided standards of implementation can be maintained. Tool I under Volume 3 then shows how the strategies can be consolidated in a simple to use format to provide an Environmental Assessment and Environmental Management Plan. Interest was so high that an additional session in development of tender specifications for safeguarding and disposal operations was placed on Saturday morning 4th December 2010!

The second week of the training (6-10 December 2010) focused on how to apply the tools presented in Volume 4 of the EMTK series. The sessions were based on a hypothetical scenario for which the country teams were asked to complete pro-forma outputs in the areas of risk assessment, standard operating procedures, selection of equipment, work planning and the development of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan. The training was concluded by each country team and presented their findings in open session with all other partners able to pose questions.

The timing of the training could not have been planned better. The 3 ASP Phase 1 countries that attended the training (Ethiopia, Mali and Tanzania) are all in the process of developing tender specifications, appointing contractors and assessing technical submissions. The training will provide them with the tools necessary not only to assess contractor submissions but also to adequately supervise contractors once implementation begins. The other countries (Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Swaziland and Vietnam) are all about to start EC, CLI, FAO and GEF funded projects where the use of these tools will be essential.

The training organiser, Dr Kevin Helps (Senior Officer for pesticide disposal) commented after the training that he was very grateful to the participants for their enthusiasm and energy throughout the long sessions. "The dedication of the participants throughout the time was amazing. I am sure the project implementation will now be a great success." An independent evaluation of the course organized through and M&E specialist from Wits University confirmed that all participants found the materials and sessions of great value and interest. As always more time was requested to allow finalisation of exercises and assignments but this will be provided in a planned series of 1-to-1 follow up sessions at national level in the coming year as projects reach the implementation phase. The training will now allow the finalisation of Volumes 3 and 4 of the EMTK series with publication planned for early 2011 when they will be posted on this web site. Video clips of the training will also be used in course materials for the Masters course on Pesticide Risk Reduction which will take the first group of students in March 2011.