



Agence canadienne de
développement international

Canadian International
Development Agency



REGIONAL WORKSHOP

SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

Venue: Hotel Las Mercedes, Managua, Nicaragua

Date: October 3 – 5, 2007

Participants: Representatives of MARENA and authorities of the Nicaraguan Government
Representatives of SICA/CCAD
National Coordinators of the CIDA/OAS Project
Representatives of Cooperation and Financing Agencies
Members of the Regional Technical Comité of Chemical Security
Representatives of the Regional Internacional Organism of Agrarian Sanitation (OIRSA)
Regional Centre of the Basel Convention for Central America and Mexico (CRCB-CAM)
Representatives of MERCOSUR
Regional and international Experts
Representatives of the producers of the San Juan Basin, Nicaragua
Representatives of DSD/OAS

Background:

Central American countries are among the biggest importers of pesticides. The average use of these substances has been growing fast which, combined with the use of other hazardous products known (PCB, mercury, etc.), has caused serious problems that threaten the sustainability of agrarian and ecological systems, biodiversity and the quality of life.

The growing global compromise to protect human health and the environment of hazardous chemical substances has been a catalyst for action in many countries and sectors. Due to the intersectorial nature of the management of chemical substances and to the interests of several governments and actors in this area, coordination and management at the national and regional level is necessary to reach the highest impact possible with

the limited resources available. This approach for the sound management of chemicals is also mentioned in chapters 19 and 20 of Agenda 21, by the International Forum of Chemical Security and by the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States DSD/OAS, through its project "Trade and Environment in the Americas", co-financed by the Canadian Agency for International Cooperation (CIDA), is supporting the discussion of priority themes in the Central American region related to the management of chemical substances. The themes were identified through a consultative process with the governments and regional organisms related to the trade of toxic substances, including the problem of illicit traffic, and the implementation of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR).

Objectives:

- Discuss regional priority themes with respect to the use of pesticides and other persistent toxic substances
- Exchange of information and experiences between countries.
- Advance in the draft of a Regional Policy of Chemical Security

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

FIRST DAY

8:30 am Registry of Participants
9:00 am National Hymn
Inaugural speech: Mrs. Juana Argeñal, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA)
Mr. Marco González, Executive Secretary, CCAD
Mr. Pablo González/Mrs. Michela Miletto, Principal Especialist, DSD/OAS

Morning Session THEME: Legal and institutional framework on pesticides in the Central American countries

TIME	THEME	SPEAKER
9:45	Pesticidas Law	Mrs. Rosa Palma, Director of Registry of Pesticides, MAGFOR, Nicaragua

10:00	National Policy on the Management of Hazardous Wastes and Residues	Mrs. María Teresa Castellanos, Manager of Hazardous Materials, MARN, El Salvador
10:15	National Committee for the Management of Chemical Substances and Hazardous Residues	Mrs. Danelia Sabillón, General Director, CECC, Honduras
10:30	The Regional Centre of the Basel Convention for Central America and Mexico	Mr. Italo Córdova, MARN, El Salvador
10:45	The Regional Policy of Chemical Security	Mrs. Leyla Zelaya, Coordinator, CCAD

Coffee break

11:15 **Discussion** among others: the possibility of harmonize the legislation at the regional level and future advances in the Regional Policy of Chemical Security

Moderator: Mrs. Hilda Espinoza, Director of Environmental Quality, MARENA

Lunch

Afternoon session THEME: Customs Regulation and illicit traffic of chemical substances

TIME	THEME	SPEAKER
14:00	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of chemical products; Codes of the Globally Harmonized System	UNITAR Expert
14:20	Registry of Chemical Substances	OIRSA/MAGFOR
14:20	Harmonized Customs Code: an application example	Rep. MERCOSUR/ Consultora OEA
14:40	Central American Uniform Customs Code (CAUCA) and its Reglamentation	
15:00	Interconnected Customs System	

Coffee break

15:30 **Discussion** among others: Adoption of the GHS in the management systems in Central America

Moderator: Italo Córdova, CRCB

SECOND DAY

Morning session THEME: Information management

TIME	THEME	SPEAKER
9:00	Information mechanisms that reach the local level (nacional web pages and others)	Mrs. Guerda Barreto, SINIA-MARENA
9:15	Pollutant Release and Transfer Registry in Mexico	Mr. Mauricio Limón, SEMARNAT, México
9:30	Presentation of the Preliminary Report of the Consultancy: an Analisis of the Regional Situation to implement a Regional Pollutant Release and Transfer Registry	Consultant CCAD
9:50	The Portal on Persistent Toxic Substances and Heavy Metals – OAS	Andrea Salinas, Luisa Castillo OAS
10:10	Epidemiological information refered to persistent toxic substances	Jesús Marin, Nicaragua/ Xiomara Jiménez, Costa Rica

Coffee break

10:45 **Discussion** among others: implementation of measures to generate the different types of information necessary for the management of PTS

Moderator: Leyla Zelaya, Coordinator, CCAD

Lunch

Afternoon session EVENT

15:00 **Meeting** with agricultural producers of Lake Nicaragua, organized by MARENA and PRO CUENCA SAN JUAN

Exchange of experiences related to the management of pesticides and chemical fertilizers

THIRD DAY

9:00 – 12:00 **Morning session** Recomendations of the participants for future activities, agreements and for the conclusions of the workshop

Moderator: Pablo González/Michela Miletto (DSD/OAS)

Coffe break

12:20 **Closing remarks** Mr. Raomir Manzanares, Secretary General of MARENA or Mr. Helio Zamora, Director of Chemical Security

Expected products of the workshop:

- 1) Proposals to implement regional projects of interinstitutional cooperation on:
 - Transfer of data related to trade of persistent toxic substances among central american countries
 - Options to eliminate/stop the illicit traffic of chemical substances
 - Replication of successful experiences on the discussed themes, in the central american countries, and knowledge transfer mechanisms between countries.
- 2) Proposals for the adoption of a PRTR system at the regional level
- 3) Agreements to advance in the definition of the Regional Policy of Chemical Security