



SAFEGUARDING AND DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE PESTICIDES IN ERITREA

At the time of project formulation, Eritrea had undertaken a significant amount of preparatory work to characterize the hazards posed by pesticides, and to develop a communication strategy and legislative framework to address these. In 2008, an FAO project identified 400 tonnes of obsolete and unknown pesticides, around 1 400 m³ of contaminated soil, 12 000 empty containers and 5 400 contaminated sprayers. The current project was conceived to safeguard and soundly dispose of the stockpile of obsolete pesticides and highly contaminated materials, held in 294 stores scattered across the country. In addition to the environmentally sustainable disposal of the inventoried obsolete pesticide wastes, the project aimed to strengthen the life cycle management of pesticides in Eritrea, to reduce risks to human health and the environment, and to guard against the further accumulation of obsolete pesticide stocks. The project was implemented in conjunction with the GEF funded project “Prevention and Disposal of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Obsolete Pesticides in Eritrea - Phase II” (GCP/ERI/014/GFF), which has complementary objectives.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project was successful in the disposal of obsolete pesticides, with 364 tonnes of an anticipated 400 tonnes shipped to the United Kingdom for high temperature incineration. A total of 70 tonnes of obsolete Actellic dusts and an estimated 1 500 m³ of soil were earmarked for local disposal. A locally trained team of 14 people successfully completed safeguarding operations for around 90 stores scattered across the country, some of which were in a very critical state. The approach proposed by this project to clean and locally recycle associated plastic wastes was approved by the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, and a small trial for the local cleaning and recycling of empty plastic pesticide containers was successfully piloted. The project also strengthened national capacities for pesticide life cycle management through new legislation and various training initiatives. Finally, a robust communication strategy was developed to increase public awareness of the risks associated with the use of hazardous pesticides.

IMPACT

The project successfully reduced exposure to harmful pesticides among farmers, consumers and the public, as well as building capacity in the agencies responsible for pesticide control. A major success story of the project was the stabilization of the store in Dekemhare, where pesticides were leaking to living quarters located in the same building complex. The project safeguarded the premises, shipped away the stocks and stabilized the site. As a result, the living quarters were made safe and the residents’ quality of life was significantly improved. In terms of capacity-building, the safeguarding team created under the project is a national asset that can be instrumental in South to South cooperation where similar expertise is required. New pesticide legislation and an Integrated Pest Management approach could effectively prevent re-accumulation of obsolete pesticides.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 1 485 468

Duration

March 2012 – December 2017

Resource Partners

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Government of Japan

Partners

Ministry of Land, Water and Environment (MoLWE); Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); Ministry of Health

Beneficiaries

Policy-makers, national authorities, technical staff involved in pesticide management, farmers and members of rural communities, and consumers

ACTIVITIES

- 363.98 tonnes of obsolete pesticides shipped to a facility in the United Kingdom for high temperature incineration.
- Around 720 contaminated metal drums cut, cleaned and safely stored at Daeropoulos pesticide store.
- Trial for local cleaning and recycling of empty plastic pesticide containers successfully piloted.
- 70 tonnes of obsolete Actellic dusts and an estimated 1 500 m³ of soil earmarked for local disposal.
- New pesticide legislation translated into Arabic and Tigrinya, and submitted to the Government.
- An officer from the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment completed postgraduate Diploma in Pesticide Risk Management at University of Cape Town, with financial support from the project.
- 66 members of the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture trained in pesticide stock and store management.
- 67 participants involved in Integrated Pest Management farmer field school training workshops.
- 25 extension workers trained as Integrated Pest Management farmer field school facilitators in season-long training.
- Two national Integrated Pest Management farmer field school workshops conducted.
- Integrated Pest Management farmer field school established in Mendefera with 25 farmers (including nine women).
- Integrated Pest Management farmer field schools established in five regions throughout the country, involving at least 105 farmers and with oversight from facilitators trained under the project.
- Study tour organized for policy-makers to Jordan.
- Knowledge, attitude and practices survey conducted in preparation for communication strategy.



Project Code

FAO: GCP/ERI/017/JPN

Project Title

Safeguarding and Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides

Contacts

FAO Office in Eritrea

FAO-ER@fao.org

Elisabetta Tagliati (Lead Technical Officer)

Elisabetta.Tagliati@fao.org



Business Development and Resource Mobilization Division
Marketing, Outreach and Reporting Unit

Reporting@fao.org