

Pesticide

Safety

UNACOH

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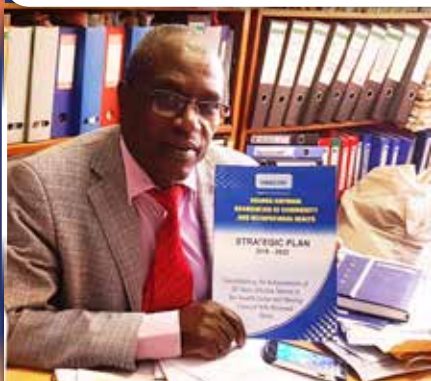


PHE Uganda Project

Pesticide Use, Health & Environment

UNACOH

"Health for All and By All"



Foreword

Dr. Deogratias .K. Sekimpi
Executive Director,
UNACOH

college of Health Sciences and WHO with Ebola Run in Solidarity with Ebola victims in West Africa, Typhoid run and solidarity with typhoid victims in Kampala. Additionally, UNACOH has been involved in safety promotion and injury prevention, promotion of the Village Health Team strategy, Tobacco Control, Alcohol Control, Public Private Partnership for Health (PPPH) and pesticides safety among others. This issue of the newsletter therefore while highlighting the activities of PHE Project which has been running since 2010, wishes to inform our readers that UNACOH is interested in all other areas of health concern.

Feel free to contact us in case of any idea which you would wish to share in order to improve the health of Ugandan as we know, there have been very many health initiatives in Uganda which have remained unsung and therefore lost because of lack of exposure.

In restitution, UNACOH through this Pesticides Safety Newsletter and any other publications and communications, is ready to work with anyone willing to promote the health and safety of Ugandans as our motto goes, "Health for all and by all "

*I wish you nice reading,
alutumcontinum!*

Our dear readers, you're once again welcome to 8th semi-annual issue of Pesticides Safety Newsletter.

Formed in 1987, registered by NGO board under the NGO Act in 1991, UNACOH is a leading agency on promotion of pesticides safety in Uganda. It is a member of the Uganda national NGO forum, the African Federation of Public Health Association and the World Federation of Public Health Association. Our motto is "Health for All and by All" and every Ugandan is welcome to be a member.

If you are interested in promoting a positive health culture and influencing healthy public policies, interested in health research, health awareness and advocacy aimed at maximizing the health sector contribution to economic productivity and development, then you are a good candidate for UNACOH membership.

UNACOH has been involved in a number of activities including the Annual scientific health conferences in collaboration with Makerere University

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UNACOH

A word from the EDITOR



Mr. Sekabojja Daniel Mubiru
Advocacy and Information Officer
PHE-Project Uganda

Dear our esteemed reader, I greet you in your befitting capacity, with a tune of promoting pesticides safety and happy New Year 2019.

To you, our new reader, allow me to kindly let you know that this Newsletter is produced bi-annually by UNACOH with overall aim of sharing information on pesticides with a general aim of promoting sustainable safe use.

In this issue we bring you highlights from the year 2018 of the Pesticide Use, Health and Environment (PHE) Project; one of the project under UNACOH.

At the start of the year, UNACOH signed Memoranda of Understanding with up to 15 District Farmer Associations (DFAs), through their umbrella association of Uganda National Farmers' Federation (UNFFE).

The PHE Project's interventions and advocacy is based on documented evidence and facts generated through a robust research process. In the first half of the year 2018 therefore, in partnership with 17 DFAs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Directorate Government Analytical Laboratory (DGAL), Pesticide Residue Laboratory, conducted two research studies to document the prevalence of pesticide residues in tomatoes, cabbages and community water sources. You will find more details on one of these studies in this newsletter and the other in the following issue 9.

As our motto 'Health for all and by all' goes, UNACOH reached out to and conducted public lectures on pesticide toxicity, poisoning and case management in six nursing institutions across the country in May, 2018, during which 982 nursing students and 32 health tutors were engaged. Our Assistant Project Coordinator brings you details from these lectures.

In August 2018, UNACOH conducted technical capacity building workshops in 17 partner districts of Adjumani, Nebbi, Kitgum, Gulu, Masindi, Kamwenge, Bushenyi, Ntungamo, Rakai, Sembabule, Wakiso, Kayunga, Bugiri, Budaka, Pallisa, Kumi and Kapchorwa. About 700 DFA staff and farmers representing 200 Sub Counties across the country were trained on responsible pesticide use and handling, these highlights are elaborated by the project contact person from Masindi District Farmers' Association (MADFA).

From the two studies mentioned earlier, UNACOH organized district level

dissemination conferences in 15 districts across the country during which over nine hundred (900) stakeholders (district political leadership, district technical leadership, religious leaders, sub county chairpersons, extension officers, Community Development Officers and representatives of local Civil Society Organization received the findings from the research studies undertaken, were sensitized and called upon to play an active role in promoting pesticide safety in their respective districts. As a result, stakeholders resolved to establish a District Pesticide Steering Committee to spearhead this health promotion initiative. Herein the Bugiri District Agricultural Officer who is a member of the Bugiri District Pesticide Steering Committee shares his experience on role and initiatives being undertaken by the committee in his district.

As a race to advocacy, the project is now a member of the Uganda Farmers Common Voice Platform (UFCVP), an advocacy platform under Caritas Uganda. It is through this platform that the project will strategize to influence policy makers towards enactment of policies concerning sound management, handling and use of pesticides as elaborated by the article herein by Caritas Uganda.

Not forgetting partners at national level, CropLife Uganda, our long term partner since the start of this project has been doing a great deal of work on protecting consumers and the environment from effects of pesticides by training Spray Service Providers with support from USAID.

Feel blessed as you enjoy reading and keep updated with the project activities and plans through our social media (links at the back page of this newsletter).

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Agriculture and Water Pollution:

Are our water sources contaminated by pesticide usage in farming?

By: Stephen Anguria,
Project Assistant,
PHE Uganda Project



Pesticides are used worldwide in agricultural production to control pests so as to guarantee food production to meet the demand of the ever increasing human population (Mateo-Sagasta, Zadeh, Turrall, & Burke, 2017). Compared to other continents like Europe, Asia and the Americas, pesticide import value for Africa as a continent is still relatively low but misused as evidenced in methods of pesticide

mixing, spraying techniques, pesticide wastes and container disposal amongst Ugandan smallholder farmers. These unsafe practices expose farmers to acute and chronic health effects as well as environmental health. Apart from the aforementioned potential forms of direct exposure, there is potential intake of pesticide residues in food and drinking water (Jørs, Neupane, & London, 2018).

Gaps in sound management of the pesticide life cycle, for instance indiscriminate disposal of empty pesticide containers maybe attributed to limited knowledge, weak

institutional frameworks, lack of support from the authorities and unwillingness by pesticide companies to recycle containers (Mateo-Sagasta et al., 2017 and Jørs et al., 2018). Such practices result in pesticide pollution of ground and surface community water sources through runoffs and leaching among others (Safe Drinking Water Foundation, 2017).

It is against this background that the Pesticide Use, Health and Environment (PHE) Uganda Project undertook a study to assess for presence of pesticide residues in eighty six (86) community water sources in seventeen

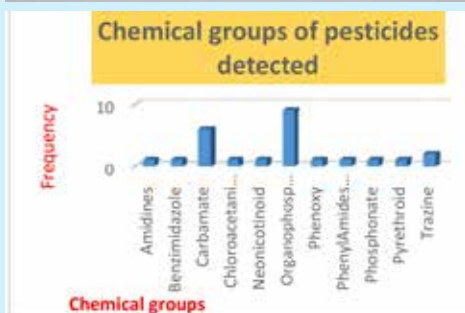
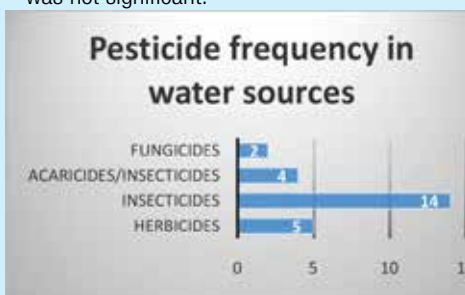
(17) districts across the country. Between 4-7 water points were selected in each district in partnership with the District Farmer Associations under the Umbrella of Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE). These water sources included an equal number both surface and ground water sources, that is; open wells (fetch ponds), streams, protected springs, boreholes, shadoofs, taps, and a lake. In collaboration with a team of scientists from the Pesticide Residue Laboratory under the Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratory (DGAL), Ministry of Internal Affairs, the eight six (86) water points were sampled twice, that is, April 2018 (start of 1st cropping season) and June 2018 (end of 1st cropping season). These water samples were then analyzed in the laboratory.

Preliminary results have shown that in general, a total of twenty five (25) different pesticides were detected. Of these, only seven (7) pesticides were detected in April while 25 were detected in June. In terms of water points, the individual pesticides that were detected in the most number of different water sources include: Atrazine (25 water sources), Chlorpyrifos (23), Profenofos (22), Glyphosate (21), Aldicarb (20), Dichlorvos (17), Diazinon (16) and 2,4-D (14). In terms of residue levels, Dichlorvos and Glyphosate were the pesticides with consistently high concentration levels. Overall, pesticide residue levels in approximately 72.1% (62/86) of the water sources were exceeding a European Union standard limit of 0.1ug/l. Notably Dichlorvos levels were exceeding a European Union acceptable standard limit of 0.1ug/l in all the 17 water sources where it was detected.

More than 55% of the detected pesticides were insecticides, while others included herbicides, acaricides and fungicides. According to the chemical grouping, organophosphates followed by carbamates were the groups most detected.

In general surface water sources (such

as fetch ponds and streams) had higher numbers of pesticides detected compared to ground water sources (such as boreholes and protected springs), however this difference was not significant.



To further put these findings into context, it should be noted that there is a chemical category of pesticides known as Organochlorines. These chemicals persist for a long time in the environment and build up along the food chain hence posing health risks to consumers, as they attach to fatty tissues in one's body and bio accumulate to higher concentration levels. However, there is no Organochlorine that was detected in the water sources studied. The detected chemical groups (Organophosphates, Carbamates and others) were found to degrade relatively fast. This is evidenced from the results which clearly show that the concentration levels of the few pesticides which were detected in April were higher than in June (for those specific individual pesticides in the same water points).

Results from our study clearly show that the

observed pollution levels can be attributed to pesticide application in agriculture, as noted from the difference in pesticide residues detected at the start and end of the season; which can be attributed to the relatively higher spraying frequency in the period between start and end of season, especially applying insecticides against insect pests. It can be noted that use of acaricides on livestock also contributes to the pollution of community water sources.

Pesticides ending up in community water sources may be due a number of mechanisms such as runoffs (especially when it rains after one has just sprayed and worse still spraying upstream), leaching (water percolating into ground water especially if the area is sandy and the water table is high), drifting (in case when is applying pesticides close to a water source), direct disposing of empty pesticide containers in water ways.

In conclusion, this study shows us the unregulated usage of pesticides among the Ugandan farming fraternity compromises the quality of community water sources thus putting the life of humans and aquatic organisms at risk.

UNACOH has already taken a moral responsibility to use these results to raise awareness, and call duty bearers to action. Between October and November, 2018, UNACOH organized dissemination conferences in 15 Districts (out of 17) where water samples were collected. Tentative results were shared and recommendations made to a total of about 900 stakeholders that included Lower local government leadership, farmers, religious and opinion leaders, and agro dealers among others.

Moving forward, UNACOH will in the coming months organize a national level dissemination workshop, short television documentaries to sensitize the public and strengthen advocacy efforts towards better regulation of pesticides, disposal of empty pesticide containers and surveillance of pesticide residues.

"TOGETHER WE CAN PROMOTE SAFE PESTICIDE USE"

Sembabule District Farmers' Association (SEDFA) in collaboration with UNACOH is implementing Pesticide Use, Health & Environment - PHE Project in Sembabule District. In this partnership, we have organized numerous sensitization and awareness meetings with different stakeholders including farmers, district officials, religious leaders, media fraternity, agro in-put dealers, SEDFA staff and board members, and other NGOs within Sembabule.

Below are a few issues that transpired during and after the feedback dialogue meeting with district leaders in which the results from the study conducted on water and tomatoes in Sembabule district were disseminated.

Constituting a steering committee chaired by Mr. Byarugaba Simon - District Agricultural



By: Mr. Tegawa Abudallah Kasim
Secretary Steering Committee / Project
Focal Person PHE - SEDFA/ Sembabule

Officer and other 11 members was appointed by members present in the feedback dialogue meeting. In the first Steering committee meeting we co-opted 1 member from National Water and Sewerage Cooperation (NWSC) in the effort to fulfil the project goal of preventing pesticides' negative effects to human and environmental health".

WHAT WAS YOUR THOUGHT ABOUT THE RESIDUES IN WATER AND TOMATOES BEFORE AND AFTER THE FEEDBACK MEETING?

Before this feedback meeting I never put much emphasis on the effects of pesticides in vegetables. For example, Mancozeb, Lambda-cyhalothrin, Malathion, chlorpyrifos, metalaxyl, Dichlorvos, Profenofos, and Cypermethrin which are commonly used in tomato growing are the leading cause of goiter disease. In

addition, water sources like boreholes and piped water are perceived to be safe from chemicals. However, the findings of the study done in Sembabule showed presence of Diazinon, 2,4-D, and Glyphosate in these water sources. The ponds were similarly the ponds were contaminated with Acetamiprid, Profenofos, Chlorpyrifos, and Dichloruus.

The results of the study were crucial to Sembabule DFA members and the relevant stake holders in understanding the importance of safe pesticide use and handing within Sembabule district. Personally, I thought washing tomatoes with cold water was enough to remove the Mancozeb residues (whitish coating on harvested tomatoes). However from the results presented washing with warm water and peeling off the outer coating is more effective in eliminating the pesticide residues. Such information needs to be shared widely in communities to promote consumption of foods with less or no pesticide residues.

TO WHAT EXTENT IS THE DISSEMINATION OF SAFE PESTICIDE USE AND HANDLING ACQUIRED IN THE FEEDBACK MEETING

After dissemination of the results, a radio talk show was organised by National Water and

Sewerage Cooperation (NWSC) to sensitise people about the findings and what we expect from people in Sembabule in regard to safe pesticide use and handling.

With knowledge on pesticide residues in water and food, a committee that aims at promoting safe pesticide use was constituted and plans to make this information reach a wider population including young generation in schools and community. Radio talk shows and spot messages will also be avenues of sharing this knowledge, use of religious places to sensitize masses on safe pesticide use and handling, monitoring disposable places by the district, also agro input dealers to be more responsible by helping their clients know the right procedures of using pesticides. We are planning this because our people are at great risk of being harmed by the pesticides exposure due to lack of knowledge regarding the likely short and long term effects of these pesticides.

WHY ALL THIS EFFORT?

Pesticides find their way to the environment (into soil, air, water) and to the food we eat ending up in our body. School children are continuously being exposed to pesticides from adjacent or neighboring farms; therefore Sembabule Steering Committee plans to

focus on schools in spreading awareness about pesticide use and handling.

If everyone can look back home, we can now confess that really we are sitting on a timing bomb in our societies resulting from improper chemical use. Let us join our hands to fight unsafe pesticide use and handling as it results in health effects like birth defects, reduced IQ, Autism, increase risk of cancer, respiratory diseases, Leukemia, loss of biodiversity among others which affect everybody. Participants in Sembabule district were happy to know that the levels for some products (tomatoes) were high, but NONE of the levels were exceeding Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) safe water standards set by the World Health Organization. Also the research found that no Organochlorines were detected. The chemicals detected were mainly Organophosphates and Carbamates which don't persist in the environment.

We acknowledge the collaboration between SEDFA and UNACOH to sensitize people in Sembabule District about pesticide use and handling. Special thanks go to all stakeholders within Sembabule that are devoted towards promoting safe pesticide use and handling.

A snap short of Pesticides handling in Kumi District.



Qn.1 Briefly tell us who you are and about Kumi District?

Ans: I am Hon. Christine Apolot, the District Local Council 5 Chairperson for Kumi District Local Government but also recently elected as a Chairperson of Kumi District Pesticides Committee.

Located in Eastern Uganda, Kumi District is a flat, arable and productive land, making Agriculture the main activity for house hold livelihood with main crops grown including; Groundnuts, Cassava, Sweet potatoes, Cowpeas, and Maize as basic food crops for consumption and some is sold for other home financial needs. The district also grows a lot

of citrus (fruit trees) such as improved orange and mangoes varieties, for sale and these commercial enterprises have greatly attracted the location of Teso tropical fruit processing factory in Soroti.

Qn.2 As a District Political Head of Kumi district, do you think addressing the issue of proper pesticides handling is of any importance to the community?

Ans: Absolutely Yes, because in Kumi district, farmers have embarked on commercial fruit and vegetable production, where there is massive use of the Agro-chemicals indiscriminately to control pests and diseases on crops and on animals. So the problem is much bigger than what we may know.

Qn.3 What measures has Kumi district put in place to address the issues raised above?

Ans: As of now, UNACOH under PHE Uganda project constituted a District Pesticides Committee of which I am the chairperson. The committee is to spearhead the sensitization aspect of proper pesticides handling in the community, beginning from villages, Parish, SubCounty and district level with an objective of enlightening the farmers/communities of the dangers associated with irresponsible use of

pesticides to our health including enactment of laws governing safe pesticides use. So I think this is a step in the right direction.

Qn.4 Do you think profiling of Agro input Dealers in Kumi district and make them attend Safe Pesticide handling trainings organized by Makerere University and MAAIF shall address the problem of curbing sale of counterfeits in the district? If yes how?

Ans: Yes, because our community water sources are getting contaminated with these chemicals. (Source; UNACOH research findings 2018 in Kumi district in collaboration with Kumi DFA), It is important for farmers to use these chemicals with technical guidance of the Agricultural Extension Officers at the sub-county level and buying these chemicals with advice from trained and registered agro-dealers not from those hawked under sun or usually sold in the open and sunny markets. So as a district, we welcome the idea of profiling all Agro input dealers operating in Kumi district in order to have an updated Database of all people dealing in this enterprise, it becomes very easy for the Department of production and marketing of Kumi District Local Government to monitor and supervise their trading.

By: **HON. APOLOT CHRISTINE**

Chairperson LCV

Kumi District Local Government

Capacity building of DFAs in promotion of Safe Pesticides Handling



By Bagambaki Doreen

Filed coordinator

Masindi District Farmers Association
(MADFA)"

Agriculture being the backbone of the country, employing over 75% of Ugandan Households, contributing over 78% of export earning, and over 27% of the country's GDP qualifies everyone to be a farmer directly or indirectly. Masindi District Farmers Association a member of Uganda National Farmers Federation in conjunction with Masindi District Local government under a theme "Empowering a farming community in the greater Masindi" have played a vital role in transforming subsistence farming to semi-commercial level and the results can prove their efforts.

In modernizing agriculture, various innovations have become inevitable among which is chemical usage aiming at minimizing production costs and attaining improved productivity. However the poverty and illiteracy levels among the farming community has laid a fertile ground for illegal trading of counterfeit agro in-puts and negligence in chemical handling which has resulted into ill health and pollution of the environment.

It is against this background that the district was blessed with the entry of UNACOH a Non-Governmental Public Health organization implementing Pesticides Use, Health and Environment project entered into partnership with Masindi District Farmers Association (MADFA) in implementing a three year project in the district, sensitizing farmers on the safe pesticides handling.

In August 2018, PHE Uganda project in conjunction with Masindi District Local Government organized a one day training workshop in Masindi district, where by farmers from greater Masindi attended including those of Kiryandongo, and Buliisa) respectively. The trained farmers were equipped with knowledge about pesticides handling from

buying, transportation, storage, mixing, application and disposal of empty containers. After, the days training, participants were now expected to act as change agents in the sub counties they represent.

UNACOH under their slogan "health for all and By All" has uncovered the dangers of pesticide mishandling to both humans and environment through PHE Project. Interventions made so far on ground, shows that farmers have been committing suicide silently thus an immediate need for change.

The District Leaders have made a strong commitment to advocate for safe use of pesticides at all levels through integrated chemical safety messages in their routine programs.

The trained DFA staff and members have also mobilized their fellows on how to minimize the dangers of pesticides poisoning. Miss. Kusiima Sunny a farmer in Kaharambi Sub County said that, "If we begin seeing wrong things happening without acting, by the time we realize their effects, it will be late to act". The media has joined the efforts in broadcasting chemical safety usage, generally; the efforts to spread the message on safety chemical usage and handling. Pesticides safe handling now is every body's concern because everyone falls a victim of circumstance in the chemical world.

Just like a mustard seed story, the efforts to raise awareness on responsible chemical use seem to have fallen on a fertile ground in Masindi district.

To consolidate on this, regulatory mechanism need to be put in place to curb illegal importation of hazardous chemicals and control the sale and distribution of counterfeit products on our markets.

Qn.4 Your final word on proper pesticides handling in Kumi and Uganda as a whole?

Ans. I call upon the government of Uganda, under relevant ministries especially MAAIF, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of Tourism and Trade, Ministry of Water and Environment and various stakeholders to engage PHE Uganda project under UNACOH and make efforts to integrate the issue of safe pesticides handling in the national budget framework for the benefit of the community and to boost the country's economy.

On behalf of Kumi District Local Government and Kumi District Farmers Association (KUDFA), I appeal all the concerned stakeholders to embrace this project, for the good of their livelihoods and the environment surrounding us.

All in all, the right way to save our communities from this chemical danger, is what is currently under implementation by UNACOH, under the PHE-PROJECT in Kumi district in partnership with Kumi District Farmers Association (KUDFA), my appeal is that let our people embrace this project, for the good of their lives and general health.

Introducing "The Uganda Farmers Common Voice Platform (UFCVP), an advocacy platform, for the invisible grass root farmers



ABOUT CARITAS UGANDA

Warm regards from Caritas Uganda/Uganda Farmers' Common Voice Platform.

Caritas Uganda (CU) is the social pastoral arm of the Uganda Episcopal Conference and one of the Commissions at the Uganda Catholic Secretariat coordinating development activities in all the districts of Uganda throughout the 19 Catholic Dioceses.

Caritas targets the rural poor communities to improve their economic status and wellbeing guided by the values of the Church, Uganda's National Development Programs/ Plans and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Caritas Uganda (CU) in partnership with Central Archdiocesan Provincial Caritas Association (CAPCA), Eastern Archdiocesan Development Network (EADEN) and Community Integrated Development Initiative (CIDI); with support from Caritas Denmark / DANIDA are implementing a joint programme, "The Uganda Governance and Poverty Alleviation Programme (UGOPAP)" with the major aim of improving livelihoods through Civil Society strengthening and good

caritas

governance, and increased food security and incomes through sustainable, market oriented agricultural production and advocacy.

CARITAS MANDATE AND OPERATIONAL BRANCHES

In the above partnership CU is mandated with a responsibility to champion advocacy activities at the National Level with the other three partners taking on different thematic areas as stipulated in their programme at the grassroots level. One of the strategies put in place to achieve effective national level advocacy is the formation of the "Uganda **Farmers Common Voice Platform (UFCVP)**", a loose coalition of like-minded civil society organizations and farmers working on critical issues affecting farmers in Uganda. Established in June, 2012 as an indigenous, non-profit Platform; the UFCVP mainly focus on advocating for critical issues affecting Small Holder Farmers in Uganda. It was set up at the national level to act as a common voice speaking on behalf of Civil Society and Farmer organizations as well as engaging in policy research issues affecting small-

holder farmers with the aim of improving and influencing policy formulation and review of policy gaps (with special bias) on agriculture sector and to create awareness, raise advocacy issues to the policy makers for redress, and to monitor small holder farmer benefiting policies developed by government to ensure poverty alleviation.

UNACOH BENEFITS FROM THE PLATFORM

UNACOH is part of the 18 CSO membership organization and 66 farmers' organizations forming the platform which is divided into four regional chapters (The Northern Chapter coordinated by Caritas Lira, The Eastern Chapter coordinated by Community Integrated development initiative (CIDI), Central chapter coordinated by CAPCA and the Western Chapter coordinated by Caritas Mbarara).

PLATFORM ACHIEVEMENTS IN LINES OF ADVOCACY

The platform has addressed different issues affecting farmers through lobby meetings to influence key policies in Uganda especially the GMO Bill, national dialogues to disseminate

study findings and advocate to the key stakeholders for change especially under Agricultural Credit Facilities (ACF), extension service delivery and commitments under the Malabo declaration by government; media engagements through radio talk shows where the platform engages in topics like GMO, access to ACF and extension service delivery, etc.

Platform achievements through the above mentioned strategies include; policy influence on the GMO bill, Organic policy, public finance allocation e.g. under extension, and ACF etc. As a new member, UNACOH will benefit by tapping into the human resource that compose the platform, gaining advocacy skills through different capacity building sessions, and dissemination of Pesticides Use Health and Environment (PHE) Project study findings using platform existing structures up to the grassroots level as well as use of the human resource that composes the platform to facilitate PHE dialogues though with some facilitation, and PHE may also benefit from the different recommendations made by the platform.

CropLife-Uganda strategy and interventions on reducing pesticide pollutions in the environment.



Compiled By
Betty Atto
Executive Secretary
CropLife Uganda
Email: Crop.life48@gmail.com



The SSP Concept

In agricultural areas, pesticides can enter receiving water bodies by means of agricultural runoff and pollute these systems which threaten water quality and aquatic communities.

CropLife Uganda is a national membership association of importers and distributors of Crop Protection Products and a voice leading advocacy for the plant science industry in the country.

CropLife Uganda is devoted to ensuring human and environmental safety through promotion of good steward practices e.g. trainings of the Spray Service Providers.

CropLife Africa Middle East has developed the Spray Service Provider (SSP) concept to improve access to quality pesticides and the correct application of these resulting in higher yields. An SSP is a farmer who has received special training to apply pesticides, is directly linked to member companies of the local CropLife association, and who hires out his services to (fellow) farmers to spray their lands. This implies that untrained farmers will no longer handle pesticides, and that this application will only be undertaken by those who are properly trained and certified.

Pesticides used correctly can control pests and weeds that would inhibit proper growth of crops. The safe use of pesticides in Uganda is still insufficient when compared to the developed world. An important reason for the low use of agro inputs is that input supply systems are inadequate. There is a need to improve the accessibility of good

quality agro inputs in the agricultural sector in Uganda and increase the safe and responsible use of pesticides. As observed in other countries, it is not enough to train agro dealers and simply link them to farmers. Although accessibility to agro inputs may increase, it will create problems concerning application, storage, transport and disposal. Because it is virtually impossible to train all farmers in pesticide and fertilizer application, Handling of pesticides by only those that are trained (SSPs) reduces risk towards human health and the environment; the correct pesticides are used at the correct time and in right quantities thus ensuring efficient and effective control of pest and diseases, The dosage of the products used will be correct, Maximum Residue Levels and certification requirements will be observed, the purchase of pesticides will be better planned, so less obsolete pesticides will accumulate, and empty pesticide containers will be triple rinsed, punctured and collected leading to possible container management schemes. Therefore, an established network of Spray Service Providers will be highly beneficial.



Nursing Institutions Interface And Knowledge Sharing

By: Nabankema Victoria
APC, PHE Project



Session at Rakai Community School of Nursing – Rakai District

Open lecture sessions at six Nursing Institutions

Nurses play a major role in management of pesticides poisoning chiefly at the lower level health facilities before patients interface with a medical doctor.

Training nurses on management of acute pesticide poisoning has a positive effect on reduction of morbidity and case fatalities at the health facility and in the communities.

Nursing institutions are one of the academia to which pesticide information is disseminated through lectures.

During the month of May 2018 (22nd -30th), PHE project team embarked on engaging nursing students in a 1 day open lecture at *Ntungamo Health Training Institute in Ntungamo, Lacor School of Nursing and Midwifery in Gulu district, Kumi School of Nursing and Midwifery in Kumi, Alice Anume Memorial School of Nursing and Midwifery in Pallisa, Iganga School of Nursing and Midwifery in Iganga and Rakai Community School of Nursing in Rakai*. The purpose of these lectures was to encourage students in documentation studies, and integrating project's information materials in their academic teaching/learning. The selection of institutions was based on regional location in the districts involved in Phase

III. In total six nursing institutions, **982 students and 32 health tutors were involved of these lectures.**

This was the second time the PHE project engaged academic institutions and students participated in the lecture sessions on diagnosis, and treatment of pesticides poisoning at their respective Schools. After an introduction of the PHE Phase III to the students, the lecture focused on management and first aid of acute pesticide poisoning. According to the questions raised by Students after the session, they were interested in knowing the procedure for gastric decontamination of pesticides, management of chronic effects of pesticide exposure, how pesticides contribute to infertility in humans, mode of action of certain pesticides and their clinical identification. Apart from treatment according to different classes of pesticides, Recognizing Health effects of acute pesticide poisoning (basing on signs and symptoms), first aid and not giving un safe fluids like urine, milk, were some of the lessons picked on by students. Most of this was summarized in the presentations made accordingly. After the session, a small sample of

students was highlighted on the lessons learnt. Previously, during phase II, mainly agricultural institutions were involved.

Open lectures on pesticide poisoning can continuously be carried out at the health institutions to interest students to take up research studies in this area and also mainstream current training materials on poisoning in the academia.



Session at Ntungamo Health Training Institute

Birth of the

Bugiri District Local Government with support and collaboration with Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health (UNACOH) and Bugiri District Farmers' Association formed a 10 member District Pesticide Steering Committee in the different 15 district of project implementation with the committee chairperson elected by members present during the results dissemination on pesticides residues in water and tomatoes

For Bugiri District, the Agricultural Officer was elected as the chairperson for the Pesticides Steering Committee. This committee is to spearhead all activities related to Project objectives. The committee sits quarterly to report on previously carried activities and plan for activities in the next quarter all activities being funded by UNACOH.

- As from the other 14 districts, the committee is composed of representatives from Civil Society organization, subcounty

Bugiri District Pesticides Steering Committee

By: Peter Ndamuzungu
District Agricultural Officer
Bugiri District Local Government.



leaders, District Local Government officials, Bugiri District Farmers Association staff and members, among others.

Steering committee mandate is:

- To present pesticide safety issues in council and other relevant district structures, district executive committee, technical planning committees and other relevant committees.
- To spearhead initiatives towards increased awareness on pesticide safety in Bugiri district.
- To spearhead advocacy efforts aimed at passing ordinances or by laws to better regulate pesticide trade, usage and disposal in Bugiri District.
- To spearhead efforts to mobilize resources to supplement the project's budget
- To review the project's quarterly work plans and reports.

- To advise the project on methodology and approaches to be used in executing different activities.

Planned activities for the committee include;

- Support Bugiri District's efforts to regulate pesticide trade and promote responsible pesticide use in the district.
- Lobby for resources and incorporate pesticide safety promotions in district work plans.
- Regular backstopping and supervision of agro dealers' activities in the district to ensure that they work in the specified guidelines as provided for by MAAIF.
- Updating Bugiri District Local government and Bugiri District Farmers' Association websites and social media pages with pesticide safety messages.
- Develop and print IEC materials such as manuals, posters, flyers, flip

Birth of the Bugiri District Pesticides Steering Committee

charts) to support Bugiri District Farmers' Association efforts in spearheading pesticide safety promotion in Bugiri District.

- Conduct Sub County level sensitization meetings on pesticide trade, safety, handling, usage and disposal.
- Hold quarterly Bugiri district pesticide committee meetings to report on

achievements and set targets for the next quarter.

- Developing, recording and running educative radio messages on local radio stations and media.

LOBBYING AN ADVOCACY GOALS

The committee shall lobby for funds

from government departments and other stakeholders to help execute the committee functions and responsibilities as well as lobby support, guidance, funding and decision making from the council, district executive committee, technical planning committee and other district relevant committees.



Agriculture and Consumer protection, the role of Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) in Uganda

Major Philip Esau Esogu

Qn.1 Briefly tell us who you are and what you do?

I am Major Philip Esau Esogu, the District Coordinator, Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) Pallisa district. As a District OWC Coordinator, my roles include among others to plan, coordinate and supervise OWC activity implementation in the district. I am also mandated in ensuring that all necessary planned Agro inputs /planting and breeding materials, animals and other inputs are secured in time and distributed on a timely basis to the intended beneficiaries. I am also a member of Pallisa District Pesticides Committee (DPC).

Qn.2 When was OWC launched in Uganda and what are some of its roles?

Ans: Operation Wealth Creation is a government of Uganda Initiative that was inaugurated by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Gen. Y.K Museveni in Luwero district in July, 2013. OWC replaced National Agricultural Advisory Board (NAADS) that was also implemented countrywide.

Qn.3 Do you think the issue of Pesticides is of a National concern? If yes why?

Ans: Indeed, it is very true, basing on the case in point last year there was an outbreak of Fall Army Worm. The nation experts, scientists and farmers responded with a call for intensive use of Agro

chemical to kill the pests which affects Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs). So if we are thinking of exporting our farm produce in foreign countries abroad, are we mixing these pesticides in the recommended quantities as indicated on the pesticide label? If not, all your consignment will be destroyed. I plea that we embrace the strategy of this project which is Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to reduce on these loses.

Qn.3 As a Coordinator OWC in Pallisa district, how can PHE Uganda Project pattern with OWC in sensitizing farmers at the grassroots and in Uganda as a whole?

Ans: OWC welcomes such partnerships to work with open hands. Why should OWC work in isolation? If it means pooling resources together to facilitate the sensitization aspects of our farmers at the grass root, distributing IEC materials, participating in Radio talk shows let us impleore and brainstorm on how to mobilize resource for doing this.

Qn.4 Your final word on proper pesticides handling in Uganda?

Ans: I kindly appeal the relevant Ministries and other stakeholders to take pesticides handling very serious and should engage PHE Uganda project under UNACOH in chatting the way forward. I salute PHE Uganda project for the job well done in sensitizing the communities most especially the farmers who are the backbone of our motherland Uganda.