



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS, GENEVA

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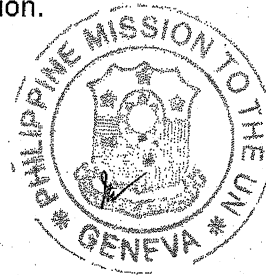
The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has the honor to transmit the attached response of the Philippines to the questionnaire from Ms. Hilal Elver, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines in Geneva kindly requests the OHCHR to transmit the attached document to Ms. Elver that will be used for the SR's annual report on the implications of the widespread use of pesticides on the right to food during the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council in February-March 2017.

For information, the soft copy of the inputs has been sent as requested to [srfood@ohchr.org](mailto:srfood@ohchr.org) and [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 10 January 2017



**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

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**Philippines' Inputs on the Questionnaire from  
Ms. Hilal Elver, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food,  
for reporting during the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council in 2017**

- On Questions 3 and 5 on preventing and mitigating the detrimental impacts of pesticides on health and examples on how to ensure that pesticide users and consumers are informed of the hazards and risks of pesticide used in food production, the Philippines' Program Beneficiaries Development (PBD) provides season-long trainings and teaches Natural Farming System in their Farmer Field Schools (FFS). The course also teaches the effects of harmful chemical fertilizers and pesticides on the farmers and their produce.
- For questions 6 and 7 (good practices on mitigating risks of exposure to hazardous pesticide and examples of efforts to reduce the use of pesticides in agriculture), the Philippines adopted the Integrated Pest Management Training Program of the Department of Agriculture and implemented safeguards against Pest Management to comply with the safeguard policies of the WB, ADB, JICA, IFAD and other foreign donors.

The Second Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP II) and the Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agriculture Development (MINSAAD) are two programs assisted by the Asian Development Bank and JICA, respectively, which supports natural farming systems. The projects provide training on the use of natural or organic fertilizers and pesticides which have now been adopted by more than 200 farmers in several provinces in Mindanao.

- On question 10 (challenges of the government in preventing and mitigating the adverse impact of pesticides), the Philippine government provides technology trainings to farmers and creates farm-to-market linkages to encourage organic farming practice and to prevent/mitigate the adverse impact of pesticides and abuse or misuse of fertilizers.
- The Philippine government promotes natural farming among rural communities by initiating activities and programs to increase awareness about the benefits of naturally grown products. The Philippines also supports large-scale production of organic fertilizers to make these affordable for small-scale farmers.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
**FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY**

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**Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food  
Questionnaire for Government to inform her report to the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
Human Rights Council**

1. List any laws (both domestic and international) that are being enforced by the Philippine Government to regulate the use of pesticides.

Domestic Laws:

**Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 1144 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations**

Section 9 of P.D. No. 1, Series of 1977, all pesticides intended for commercial use in the Philippines shall be registered with the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA).

Article II, Section 1; states that "No pesticides shall be imported, exported, manufactured, formulated, repacked, distributed, delivered, sold or offered for sale, transported, delivered for transportation, or used unless it has been duly registered with the Authority or covered by a numbered provisional permit issued by the Authority for use in accordance with the conditions stipulated in the permit. Separate registration shall be required for each brand and formulation of pesticides."

**Republic Act No. 106611 - Food Safety Act of 2013** - an act to strengthen the food safety regulatory system in the Philippines to protect consumer health and facilitate market access to local foods and food products, and for other purposes.

Section 16 (f) Article V, states that "the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) is responsible for pesticides and fertilizers use in the production of plant and animal food.

**Republic Act No 10068 – Organic Agriculture Act of 2010** – an act to promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines that will cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the soil, increase farm productivity, reduce pollution and destruction of the environment, prevent depletion of natural resources, protect the health of the farmers, consumers and the general public and save on imported farm inputs.

### **International Laws/Commitments/Agreements/Treaties**

- Codex Alimentarius – collection of internationally adopted food standards presented in a uniform manner with the aims to protect consumer's health to ensure fair practices in food trade.
- Prior Informed Consent/ Rotterdam Treaty
- Persistent Organic Pollutants/Stockholm Treaty
- Globally Harmonized System on classification and labeling of chemicals
- WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary – Maximum Residue Limits (MRL)
- ASEAN Harmonization of MRL's
- Montreal Protocol

### **2. What are the successful and unsuccessful measures taken by the Philippine Government to prohibit, ban, restrict and phase-out pesticides that are harmful to human health?**

#### **Measures taken by the Philippine government:**

##### **A. Successful**

- Requires registrants to report to FPA any information on observed adverse effects of pesticides particularly during commercial uses
- Strict enforcement of policies on product stewardship
- Strict enforcement of the pesticide registration, licensing and monitoring policies
- Periodic review of pesticide with latest information on adverse effects to human health and the environment
- Strictly implements the FPA Pesticide Regulatory Policies and Implementing Guidelines (Green Book)
- Enforcement of P.D. 1144; rules and regulations and implementing policies and guidelines
- Banned and restricted pesticides for adverse effects on health and the environment

##### **B. Unsuccessful**

Control on smuggling of banned, restricted and unregistered pesticides from neighboring countries due to the geographical condition of the country

**3. Explain the efforts undertaken by your Government to prevent and mitigate detrimental impacts of pesticide on the health of these vulnerable groups.**

Included in the review of toxic data during registration process through monitoring (product registration)

- **Product quality and adherence to safety** – in collaboration with the government product standard agencies, the agency designs and implements quality control standards for pesticide products. It also monitors safe handling, use, application and compliance with the health and safety standards for manufacturing and formulation plants. Impose penalties and sanction for violation of the set of rules and regulation particularly occupational health and by-standers' safety.
- **Institutionalization of pesticide product stewardship program** – pesticide industry and end-users, manufacturers, sellers and buyers are enjoined to adopt and undertake a cradle to grave approach to pesticide management, by way of training of handlers and the public on the safe and judicious use of pesticide and dissemination of information materials. The program is required for every pesticide product wherein the registrants are made primarily responsible for the conduct of stewardship program for their products and in coordination/cooperation with other members of industry organization for issues and concerns involving industry stakeholders.
- **Conduct of trainings and accreditation programs** for handlers of pesticide products that involves: pesticide dealers and distributors, mango contractors, pesticide applicators (agricultural pest exterminators and fumigators) and pesticide researchers for the conduct of field-testings and experimentations to support product registration.
- **Promotion on use of organic chemical inputs** – comprehensive government program for the promotion of community based organic agriculture systems which include farmer- produced purely organic pesticides and fertilizers and other farm inputs, coupled with a nationwide education and promotional campaign for their use and processing, as well as the adoption of organic agriculture system as a viable alternative have been undertaken.

- The foregoing groups are extension arms of EPA in educating users/applicators and consumers in the proper use of pesticides

**4. Have any studies have been conducted with the support of the Philippine government, using disaggregate data to differentiate and detect impacts on the above-mentioned vulnerable groups?**

Aerial spraying in the banana plantation done by the DOH-commissioned medical toxicologists.

**5. Examples of how the Philippine government has ensured that pesticide users and consumers are informed of the hazards and risks of pesticides used in food production.**

- Pesticide labels are approved by the Authority to include precautionary measures, signs and symptoms of poisoning, treatment in case of poisoning, etc.
- Continuously educating the farmers, pesticide handlers, plantation personnel and public through trainings on proper and judicious use of pesticides, product campaign, brochures, flyers, etc.
- Enforcement of the requirements on product stewardship.

**6. Provide any good practices that your government has initiated to assess, monitor, prevent and mitigate the risks of exposure to hazardous pesticides and what further efforts could be undertaken.**

- Development and implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- Pesticide Product Stewardship Program
- Establishment of Maximum Residue Limits
- Enforcement of occupational health and safety standards
- Maintenance of a pool multidisciplinary experts to evaluate pre & post registration data on toxicology, residues and fate in the environment data
- Stringent licensing of handlers/institutional users, including imposing required trainings on safe use of pesticides
- Implementation of pesticide monitoring programs such as monthly pest control operation (agricultural exterminator), annual key farmer pesticide use, licensed dealer, distributor, manufacturer, importer and other pesticide agricultural handlers. The data to be collected are the popular types of pesticide used, reports on incidence of pesticide poisoning presence and/or use of banned chemicals, reports on pollution of the environment e.g. bird kill, fish kill, contamination of

surface water, and other pesticide manifestations of pesticide effects on public health and the environment. The data generated in the monitoring activities shall be used as a basis for renewal/revocation of licenses and product registrations and/or filing of cases in court.