



FORUM V
Chemical Safety
for Sustainable Development
IFCS
Budapest, Hungary
25-29 September 2006

Plenary Information/Discussion Session on Tools and Approaches for Applying Precaution in the Context of Chemicals Safety

Information Request for Background Paper

Dear Colleague,

A Forum V Plenary Open Information/Discussion Session has been organized to advance open dialogue and understanding about how precaution is applied in practice with regards to chemical safety to protect health and environment and implementation of goals identified in IFCS declarations and recommendations and the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy (OPS). A Forum V Thought Starter paper presents the rationale, objectives and organization of the session.¹

Through a series of practical case examples, the session will explore tools and approaches for applying precaution in chemical safety decision-making as well as commonalities and differences in these approaches. Following these presentations, guided discussion with delegates will occur, with the goal of identifying some key commonalities and differences in approaches and providing practical next steps for the future.

To ensure adequate thinking occurs in individual countries before the start of Forum V and thoughtful discussion at the Forum, an Information Background Document will be provided to delegates in advance of Forum V. This Background Document will summarize information collected on how governments and other organizations domestically apply precaution in chemicals management including:

- A collection of structured information requested from governments and organizations to provide examples of tools and frameworks for how they have applied precaution in the context of domestic chemicals safety efforts.
- Interviews with selected active members in IFCS to understand differences in how precaution is applied and some of the controversies in its application; how they are applying precaution in chemicals management including tools and approaches and the types of tools and processes that would support precautionary decision-making in the context of chemicals management.

¹ Thought Starter: Forum V Plenary Open Information/Discussion Session On Tools And Approaches For Applying Precaution In The Context Of Chemicals Safety, Prepared By: Forum Standing Committee (IFCS/FORUM-V/01-TS
http://www.who.int/ifcs/documents/forums/forum5/meet_docs/en/index.html)

Information Request

The purpose of this structured information collection process is to collect examples of tools, approaches and frameworks for applying precaution (or making decisions in the face of uncertainty) with regards to national chemical safety efforts. The goal is to understand similarities and differences in how precautionary decisions (or decisions in circumstances of uncertainty) are made across countries; what tools and approaches countries use to apply precaution in chemicals management; how policy, regulatory and scientific processes support precautionary decision-making in the context of chemicals management; the challenges and needs for applying precaution in the context of chemicals management; and varying perceptions with its application.

This information will be collected via the template questionnaire (Annex) which consists of specific and more open-ended questions. We ask that you fill in the template as thoroughly as possible. *Please provide any links or additional supporting materials that provide information on particular policies, tools, or activities.*

Process of soliciting information

The request for information submissions is being sent to the entire IFCS mailing list. Submissions are welcomed from everyone and government staff are encouraged to coordinate submissions through the IFCS National Focal Point (see IFCS website for list of designated NFP: <http://www.who.int/ifcs/focalpoints/en/>).

We ask that submissions be returned by **20 July 2006**. Please return completed form to:

IFCS Secretariat
Email: ifcs@who.int
Fax: +41 22 791 4875

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Joel A. Tickner, ScD
Special Advisor, IFCS
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Judy A. Stober, PhD
Executive Secretary, IFCS
Email: ifcs@who.int

Annex

IFCS Forum V
Plenary Information/Discussion Session on Tools and Approaches for
Applying Precaution in the Context of Chemicals Safety

Information Request for Background Paper

Structured Questionnaire

Background Information

Country: Tanzania

Ministry/Agency/Institute/Organization: IRTECO (Training, Planning and Economic Empowerment NGO)

Contact Person: Mwadhini O. Myanza

Contact Details:

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For telephone and fax numbers, please indicate country and city codes:

Tel : +255 744 583242

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Please submit completed questionnaire by 20 July 2006 to:

IFCS Secretariat
Email: ifcs@who.int
Fax: +41 22 791 4875

Please note: Unless you indicate otherwise in your response, these submissions will be posted on the IFCS website.

Please provide any links or additional supporting materials that provide additional information on particular policies, tools, or activities.

National chemicals policy or management:

1. How is the concept of precaution explicitly or implicitly (in terms of decision-making under conditions of uncertainty) incorporated in national chemicals policy or management in your country/organization?

Please check all that apply.

- In the country constitution?
- In legislation?
- In agency/ministry/organization policy?
- In specific guidance documents for risk assessment or risk management?
- Applied in specific cases but no particular policy?
- Not applied at all?

Please provide greater detail (1 para).

Constitutionally, the national flag of four colors - blue (water), yellow (natural resources), green (environmental beauty) and black (the citizens) is a symbol of sustainable life, peace and environment.

This is associated with legislative clauses on sustainable precaution chemicals use and management related to environmental protection and health e.g. DDT and malaria, regulations of dangerous pesticides and indigenous pesticides.

This approach guides ministries such as agriculture and food security, health, livestock development, water, natural resources etc to prepare policy documents include livestock diseases and their treatments (drugs and vaccination measures farming System research and safety for children, green and breeding services, forestry and killer strikes , food quality and sovereignty etc

The concept of precaution is widely applied and encouraged to be monitored at low levels where majority of population lives.

Tools and approaches for applying precaution:

2. What are some of the key tools and approaches used by your country/organization in applying precaution (or making decisions in circumstances of uncertainty) in the context of chemicals safety?

*Some **tools** applied include participatory poverty assessment and open space technology that sometimes going in the framework of 6 box model in assessing the capacity of involved groups in managing related chemicals in the areas as an entry point for options.*

*Participatory Research Extension, Participatory technology development and Participatory Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation are broad integrated **approaches** applied in my organization.*

- a. Is there a defined approach to applying precaution or decision-making under uncertainty?

Yes No

If yes, can you outline the elements of that approach or provide references to it?

N/A

- b. Is precaution integrated in other decision-making processes, tools and approaches such as;

Please check all that apply.

- Data collection?
- Prioritization of substances for risk management actions
- Uncertainty characterization?
- Socio-economic analysis (e.g., social impact, proportionality/cost-benefit assessment, trade concern)?
- Risk assessment and risk management options?
- Screening, comparison of alternatives, informed substitution?
- Stakeholder and Public involvement?
- Other

For those boxes checked, please briefly provide greater detail or links to additional information.

Apart from National Statistical Bureau for National Plans, under health leading ministries there are crosscutting departments for strengthening and concretizing the precaution of chemical management plans.

In 1984 National Conservation Strategy for sustainable development formed to facilitate the integration of environment including risky health development plans. Policies and legislation are carefully followed and evaluated.

This acts as a prioritization catalytic processes by majority to take care of precaution but until 2001 the poverty monitoring was weak.

Then it was decided by the government to come up with the poverty monitoring master plan for a total integration process of which precaution is one of the elements to be

considered.

The process allows risk assessment and comparison of alternatives to the entire stakeholders and public. It is through this process that NEMC - National Environment Management Committee was introduced to play active roles in collaboration with CSOs and public institutions on precautionary matters.

It is through this process that MKUKUTA that incorporates MDGs is actively implemented in Tanzania in achieving the 2015 goals and ultimately TDV 2025.

c. How are gaps in knowledge addressed?

Please check all that apply.

- Though conservative risk assessment assumptions
- Through safety factors
- Through modeling techniques
- Through an assumption that lack of information is indication of potential harm
- Through requesting additional research
- Gaps are not addressed

For those boxes checked, please briefly provide greater detail or links to additional information.

Already some gaps have been addressed through different ways.

Encroachment into the riverine forest and riverbank protection that associates with illegal tree cutting that lead to difficulties in managing chemicals application in agriculture

Diversifying of river and stream flows and pollution of the same, which associates with poor land use, environmental management and poor utilization of resources in managing chemicals in agriculture

Lack of participatory communication in stockpile clean up and low knowledge on appropriate soil and water conservation measures in linking production, processing, marketing and policies.

Lack of concrete technical advises to small-scale farmers at grassroots level in addressing the National environmental plan (1994) and National Environmental Policy 2003.

IRTECO is training its target groups on application of precaution in chemical management through field learning and guide, identify and apply best practices, familiarize farmers innovations through open dialogue at field level levels.

3. Please provide details of a particular case (or example) where precaution was applied (or decisions made in the face of uncertainty) in the context of chemicals management?

a. What stimulated/initiated the precaution process/action?

Please check all that apply.

- Government concern over hazards and/or exposures
- Stakeholder concerns over the particular threat
- International policy requirements/pressures

- Negative impacts/experience(s) from not acting on a previous chemical risk
- Other

For those boxes checked, please briefly provide greater detail or links to additional information.

Emphasizing re-introduction of indigenous plants that can be used as local pesticides in agriculture and livestock activities has becoming a big achievement in IRTECO working areas.

As a health and ecology practice most of rural population and small number of urban dwellers fighting diabetes and blood pressures diseases by applying the herbs including Mlonge.

As part of precaution chemical strategies, most of involved people has managed to minimize the total flow of matter and energy by providing equivalent services, reducing and eliminating the dependence on no-renewable services of energy and optimizing the use of resources.

b. What process was used to make the decision? (please briefly describe the process or tools used to make the decision)

THE CASE OF MLONGE: *Farm System Research and Training process:*

This is a seed production tree of cholesterol free edible oils.

The powder from crushed kernel is used as a natural flocculent in water purification and removes 90 - 99% of bacteria present in water.

It is nitrogenous plant and therefore it has a useful use in ally cropping.

The crop by-products (crushed leaves) were also sent to trade fairs and draws attention to most of people.

Most of free parts (leaves flowers and pods) are used as vegetables and have medicinal effects.

It has economical benefits, which can be realized in the second year of growth as it grows and result into bearing during the first year after planting. It is also environmental friendly crop. (Documents and leaflets available for display)

c. Were there positive or negative impacts of this process/action?

Please check all that apply.

<u>Positive</u>		<u>Negative</u>	
Ecological or Health benefits	V <input type="checkbox"/>	Ecological or health impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic benefit	V <input type="checkbox"/>	Economic impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved government/industry image	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitutes/alternatives did not work	V <input type="checkbox"/>
Improved government/public morale	V <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative public reaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improvements to scientific tools/decision processes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other?	V <input type="checkbox"/>
Other?	<input type="checkbox"/>		

For those boxes checked, please briefly provide greater detail or links to additional information.

Positive impacts are mainly on application of education and communication tools trained to young farmers, land and water management, temperature moderation and sustainable agriculture and traditional medications.

Positive research activities including soil testing, pest and diseases control, crop hybriding, markets and water conservation and disseminate findings.

Most of solutions and suggestions or achievements among the poor rural population in country.

Mlonge, muarubaini and other herbal trees have been introduced through research and harmonization of national legislation on pesticide registration and existing IPM strategies are currently in operational.

Integration of government departments, mass media, pesticides manufactures and distribution.

Negatively, the modern traditional clinics are poorly supported and inspite of all these efforts, POPs are widely present in human food and increase incidence of diabetes, transferability of POPs form mother to infant.

[Reference, Mapping Health Related Civil Societies Organizations in Tanzania, supported by the UNCSDH through HAI Africa and executed by IRTECO Tanzania - Myanza May 2006)

d. Were there any unintended consequences from this process/action?

Positive – please describe

Introduction of country SDH policies - the health sector reform policy, the TDV 2025, the NGPRS 2002, the national food security policy 2003, the national gender policy 2001 and the national HIV/AIDs Policy 2001. The positive side of all these include the promotion of indigenous agricultural food crops for nutritional purposes, the discouragement of consumption of breeding chickens etc

Negative - please describe

Encroachment research activities including soil testing, pest and diseases control, crop hybriding, markets and water conservation and disseminate the findings, solutions and suggestions or activities among the poor rural population in Tanzania

[Reference: Annual performance Report of IRTECO 2005 and Report on the mapping Health Related CSOs in Tanzania May 2006]

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4. Are there any particular cases in your country/organization where precaution was not applied (decisions not made in the face of uncertain chemical risks) resulting in adverse impacts?

Yes No

If yes, briefly describe if and how decision-making processes have been modified as a result.

Pollution of riverine stream by wattle factory in Lushoto area and clean up stockpiles from inputs support by the government to villages. No concrete action is taken so far on these areas.

5. Does your government have processes in place to re-examine decisions made based on precaution or made in the face of uncertainty as additional data are available?

Yes No

If yes, briefly describe the process and how this process may be used to modify decisions, decision-making process, or tools.

The green sector promotion by TBS especially at local level through club meetings, individual members, producers and cooperatives and consumer groups. The case of Unseen cyclical poison - a silent killing. Reference Mzunguko wa Sumu isiyoonekana, a training book for students and farmers. Other areas are in Food Sovereignty, land and democracy, food storage and simple technologies.

[Reference, report on the Mapping Health Related Civil Societies Organizations in Tanzania, supported by the UNCSDH through HAI Africa and executed by IRTECO Tanzania - Myanza May 2006)

Lessons Learned from applying precaution in chemicals management

6. What are some of the biggest challenges to your country's (organization's) application of precaution in the context of chemicals management or in chemicals management decision-making in the face of uncertainty?

Please check all that apply.

- Scientific capacity
- Lack of scientific information
- Legal challenges
- Technical challenges
- Financial challenges
- Trade Challenges
- Other?

For those checked boxes, please briefly indicate what were the implications of these barriers and how have they been addressed or if not yet addressed, how could they be addressed?

Growing population and expanding economies, food security, disparities in services delivering between rich and poor, energy supplies and cyclical patterns of floods and roughs, conflict prevention, ability of aquatic ecosystems to deliver ecosystem goods and services and pollution prevention and control.

Others are current and future investments in improving health outcomes with a particular focus on the poorest and most marginalized segments of the population, allocated budgets to the health sector reform process and actual public expenditure and correlation of HIV/AIDs, poverty and work force reduction and regional vulnerability in emerging health management needs in relation to precaution chemicals.

Are these challenges also applicable to decision-making and actions regarding established risks?

Yes

No

Next steps

7. What are the most important needs of your country or organization for more effectively applying precaution (or making decisions in the face of uncertainty) and overcoming barriers in chemicals management decision-making?

Please check all that apply.

- Data on chemical toxicity/risks V
- Tools for prioritization
- Tools for risk assessment V
- Decision-making tools/frameworks
- Technical assistance in risk assessment processes V
- Technical assistance in risk management processes V
- Financial support for implementation V
- International dialogue V
- Information sharing to facilitate understanding of the issues V
- Other

For those boxes checked, please briefly provide greater detail or links to additional information.

Training in key area on health and safety, environmental management international regulations, input in key areas of laboratory capacity for pesticides related analysis and development of local NGOs capacity for pesticides management.

In delivering knowledge management awareness and strategic studies and outreach services across the entire ASP to capture synergies and cost savings from tackling the problem of obsolete pesticides through a coordinated multi-partners approach that minimizes reinvention of the wheel

Strategic studies on topics common to ASP, non combustion disposal technologies, IPM for locust control and stocks for the control of malaria etc.

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8. Briefly describe your perceptions as to some of the concerns regarding application of precaution in the context of chemicals safety?

Please briefly provide details or links to additional information.

We need to make our farms safe for our children, so organic agriculture should be emphasized. Farmers if carefully incorporated and supported in executing the priorities, the driving force must come from below. But high confidence among young farmers in safe agriculture is the answer for active precaution of chemicals.

9. Do you have any additional information on tools and approaches for applying precaution that would be helpful to inform discussion?

Please provide any additional materials or web links.

The mentioned tools and approaches given through this process should be harmonized to give the maximum monetary benefits to the farmers especially women. Regulations of dangerous pesticides and DDT and Malaria in the country are still in foreign language, so need for Swahili versions. Indigenous technology should be encouraged as best alternatives for the balanced chemical management in our working areas. If the society not carefully with precaution chemicals, social exclusion to old ages with dangerous diseases, disabled and cancerous diseases should be highly expected especially in rural areas.

[Reference: IRTECO Annual report 2005]

Please note: Unless you indicate otherwise in your response, your submission and those of others will be posted on the IFCS website.