

Practical manual for positive living

Most of the time manuals on HIV / AIDS the emphasise the provision of facts on how the virus is spread, symptoms resulting from infection, and counselling. However, this training manual 'How to Live Positively – Practical Manual for Facilitating Community Action in HIV / AID affected areas' takes a very different approach.

Firstly, in chapter 2, the vulnerability and needs of specific social groups are addressed and not the individual risk as is considered in most HIV / AIDS manuals. This is a positive approach since though HIV infects individuals, the real suffering and agony is a 'collective' phenomenon. The agony of the sufferer ceases after death but that of his / her family, relatives, companions and friends continues well beyond the death of a bread-winner or loved one. It is therefore very important to look at the problem as that of a social group rather than an individual problem as in this way appropriate solutions will be developed and communicated to social groups as documented in chapters 2 and 3.

Secondly, this manual gives hope to already infected and affected social groups by providing simple, non-costly solutions such as ensuring good nutrition from locally available and affordable foodstuffs. This is a departure from other manuals where abstinence, faithfulness and condomization are propagated as the three magic bullets for the control and eventual eradication of HIV / AIDS. This has compelled many marginalized groups to focus their attention on abstinence, faithfulness and on condoms. However, experience has shown that abstinence and faithfulness are difficult to achieve due to social, cultural and economic factors while condom use faces cultural, spiritual and social obstacles in many African societies.

Thirdly, this manual has included environmental protection as a tool in assisting in the fight against HIV / AIDS. Chapter 4 provides simple, environmental and user-friendly guidance on how to improve hygiene, prevent pollution and eliminate disease-causing vectors. This is also a departure from many other HIV / AIDS manuals where the link between the environment and the epidemic is often not recognized or covered. Exposure to pesticides is one factor contributing to further ill health of HIV-positive people as some pesticides can kill off T-cells directly, making their immune system even weaker. The manual includes ways for communities to avoid exposure and advocates pesticide-free food.

Fourthly, this manual has recognized the role of agriculture in the fight against HIV / AIDS. Chapter 3 provides 'agricultural extension advice' necessary for protecting the body against infections, ill-

Job - Director Pesticide Action Network UK

As Barbara Dinham will be retiring in September after 16 years with PAN UK, we are recruiting a new Director. This post has responsibility for the strategic direction and development of PAN UK.

PAN UK is a public interest organisation dedicated to finding solutions to the problems posed by pesticides. We promote safer alternatives to pesticides in agriculture, public health and domestic use. Our programmes focus on national and international policies. Our work in developing countries, particularly with African partners, addresses poverty and the importance of sustainable alternatives for food sovereignty.

The director will lead the Senior Management Team and be responsible for strategic development and organisational oversight. You will be expected to undertake some project work, particularly relating to international development. The director will maintain strong links with the international PAN centres and other relevant alliances and networks.

We are looking for a leader with an understanding of issues related to pesticides and their effects on health and the environment or a closely related area such as sustainable agriculture or food politics. The successful applicant will have excellent communication, analytical and writing skills, and a successful track record of effective policy and programme work. You will have at least three years' senior management experience preferably within a public interest organisation.

The applicant must have the right to work in the UK. The salary is £45,000, but more may be available for an exceptional candidate. Closing date Friday 14 April 2006

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nesses or development into full-blown AIDS. This is useful and government agricultural extension can adopt this approach in the provision of services to local farmers, for example, on growing the right crops for positive living and how to make a nutrition garden with vegetables, herbs and trees.

Fifthly, this manual has attempted successfully to develop simple but very useful knowledge and skills on dietary requirements and calculations to achieve those requirements. The manual has also covered disease (pathogen) identification, their relationship (direct or indirect) with HIV / AIDS and on how to prevent infection from these pathogens. The target group can also learn skills on how to improve natural defences and how to prepare herbal remedies to many HIV / AIDS related health problems.

This manual can be used by different social groups, such as workers, local farmers, local communities, families, infected, non-infected and affected. This differs from many other manuals that are produced for specific social groups. A better title for this manual might be 'A practical manual for facilitating collective or individual action(s) in HIV / AIDS-affected areas'.

How to Live Positively: A practical manual for facilitating community action in HIV / AIDS-affected areas of Africa. Sam L. Page and Fortunata Nyakanda. CABI Bioscience and CTA, 2005.

This book was reviewed by Mr. Yahya Msangi, Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator, Tanzania Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union (TPAWU), P.O. Box 77420, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania.

The UK Pesticide Guide 2006 – essential reading

Reliable information on pesticides is being increasingly demanded by the public, as well as being a requirement of assurance and environmental stewardship schemes. The 2006 editions of The UK Pesticide Guide reference book and The e-UK Pesticide Guide, CD-ROM are essential reference guides for professionals and researchers.

Both publications include detailed information on over 1,150 pesticide products, and list all registered products that may be legally used in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and amenity areas. The 2006 edition includes about 150 new product entries along with five new active ingredients. The Guides contain information on the latest legislative changes and environmental guidance.

The search functionality of the CD-ROM makes it easy to find products for a particular crop or pest either on-label or off-label. Direct links to the Pesticides Safety Directorate website provide access to Maximum Residue Levels and Specific Off-Label Recommendation sheets – particularly important for growers of minor crops.

A free guided tour of The e-UK Pesticide Guide 2006 is available on-line at www.ukpesticideguide.co.uk or a demonstration can be downloaded from www.bcpc.org/bookshop.

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