

# Phasing out HHP's in Costa Rica



## PROJECT UPDATE June 2015- August 2016

This project addresses the serious problems caused by use of HHPs, risky practices and inadequate management of pesticides in Costa Rica throughout the lifecycle. In line with the SAICM 2020 target of minimising significant adverse health and environmental impacts from chemicals use, project activities raise awareness of, and look at ways to reduce risks from, HHPs used in plantation agriculture and smallholder farming of export crops, with a focus on coffee and pineapple production. It also explores safer alternatives for priority HHPs in use, giving preference to ecological methods of managing pests, diseases and weeds wherever possible. The project will have a lesson learning workshop in March 2017, with participants from the Central American region.

**Table 1.**  
HHPs in  
use in  
coffee or  
pineapple  
in Costa  
Rica

Active ingredient	Pesticide group	Use in coffee	Use in pineapple
benfuracarb	nematicide	X	
carbaryl	insecticide		X
carbendazim	fungicide	X	
carbofuran	nematicide	X	
chlorpyrifos	insecticide	X	
cypermethrin	insecticide	X	
diazinon	nematicide	X	X
diquat	herbicide	X	
diuron	herbicide		X
epoxiconazole	fungicide	X	
ethoprosfos	nematicide		X
fluzifop-p butyl	herbicide		X
glufosinate ammonium	herbicide	X	
glyphosate	herbicide	X	X
imidacloprid	insecticide	X	
mancozeb	fungicide		X
oxamyl	nematicide	X	X
oxifluorfen	herbicide	X	
paraquat	herbicide	X	
phorate	nematicide	X	
terbufos	nematicide	X	
thiamethoxam	insecticide	X	
validamycin	fungicide	X	

Source: 2015 survey data, unpublished project report, IRET, Oct-Dec 2015.

HHP hazard criteria used are those selected by PAN International for its List of HHPs (June 2015 version, available via: [http://pan-international.org/wp-content/uploads/PAN\\_HHP\\_List.pdf](http://pan-international.org/wp-content/uploads/PAN_HHP_List.pdf))

The IRET team is conducting the following activities in Costa Rica:

### Identifying HHPs in use

- making an inventory from government pesticide import data on which HHPs are used, formulated and marketed and identifying important data gaps
- conducting pesticide use surveys with small and large coffee and pineapple farmers to identify priority HHPs for action and risky practices to change.





# Our Progress...



## National policy influence

Regular engagement with the National Committee on Toxic Chemicals Management and its pesticides subgroup. IRET team has made presentations on HHPs and met officials in the three Ministries jointly responsible for pesticide regulation (Environment, Health and Agriculture), plus the farming sector.

- Contributing to the stakeholder consultation on proposals for new pesticide authorisation legislation, advocating for no further approvals of pesticides qualifying as HHPs.

## Awareness raising and capacity building

- Conducted two training sessions for coffee smallholders on pesticide hazards and ways to reduce risks when handling these, as well as informing farmer groups about safer methods under Integrated Pest Management.
- Promoting use of mini-biobeds for safer disposal by smallholders of left-over pesticide solution, via microbial degradation in compost contained in old oil drums.

## International liaison and experience sharing by PAN UK

- Information dissemination on HHPs and alternatives to: UK retailers and horticulture supply companies; private voluntary standard members of ISEAL Alliance and its IPM Working Group; PAN International regional centres
- Project dissemination to: SAICM ICCM4 delegates; Rotterdam CRC and FAO/WHO JMPM delegates; UNEP expert meeting on integrating SAICM actions with new Sustainable Development Goals; Sustainability Xchange and Sustainable Trade Initiative on-line forum on *Identifying best practices for reducing the use and impacts of agrochemicals*

## Exploring non-chemical alternatives for selected HHPs

- Trials of 2 commercial biopesticide products and one on-farm prepared botanical option for nematode control in young pineapple plants, as alternative to HHP nematicide ethoprophos
- Trials of 2 commercial biofungicide products, 2 organic mineral preparations plus one biofungicide combined with reduced rate fungicide, as alternatives to HHP triazole fungicides used against coffee rust disease
- Compiling information and practical experiences in reduced pesticide and organic management practices in coffee and pineapple
- Exploring options for alternative weed management methods to reduce and replace HHP herbicides paraquat and glyphosate in coffee and pineapple
- Info dissemination on research on alternatives to HHP paraquat for destruction of pineapple foliage post-harvest (needed to reduce breeding sites for stable fly livestock pest)

