

## Article 5

# Reducing health and environmental risks

### **5.1** Governments should:

**5.1.1** implement a pesticide policy, and a pesticide registration and control system along the lines set out in Article 6;

**5.1.2** regularly review the pesticides marketed in their country, their acceptable uses and their availability to each sector of the public, and conduct special reviews when indicated by scientific evidence;

**5.1.3** carry out health surveillance programmes of those who are occupationally exposed to pesticides and investigate, as well as document, poisoning cases;

**5.1.4** provide guidance and instructions to health workers, physicians and hospital staff on the diagnosis and treatment of suspected pesticide poisoning as well as on the prevention of exposure and poisoning, and the reporting and recording of incidences;

**5.1.5** establish national or regional poisoning information and control centres at strategic locations to provide immediate guidance on first aid and

medical treatment, accessible at all times (33);

**5.1.6** utilize all possible means for collecting reliable data and maintaining statistics on health effects of pesticides and pesticide poisoning incidents, using harmonized tools where available and submit, where appropriate, the Rotterdam Convention Human Health Incident Report Forms on Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPF), to the relevant designated national authority (34). Suitably trained personnel and adequate resources should be made available to ensure the accuracy of information collected;

**5.1.7** provide extension services, agricultural and public health advisory services, farmers and farmers' organizations, pest control operators, public health workers and other entities providing advice on pest and/or vector management with adequate information about practical IPM/IVM strategies and methods, pesticide risk reduction

measures, as well as the range of all methods available for use, including information on risks, hazards and mitigation measures in case of exposure or accident;

**5.1.8** with the cooperation of the pesticides industry, limit the availability of pesticides that are sold to the general public through non-specialized outlets, to low hazard products (WHO Class U) or low risk and ready to use products that require no dilution or other preparation, and can be applied with limited need for personal protective equipment;

**5.1.9** require that pesticides be physically segregated from other merchandise to prevent contamination or mistaken identity and where appropriate require that pesticides are clearly marked as hazardous materials. Every effort should be made to publicize the dangers of storing pesticides and foodstuffs together;

**5.1.10** utilize all possible means for collecting reliable data, maintaining statistics on environmental contamination and adverse effects, and reporting specific incidents related to pesticides. Where appropriate, governments should submit the Rotterdam Convention Environmental Incidents Reporting Forms on Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPF) to the designated national authority (34). Suitably trained personnel and adequate resources should be made

available to ensure the accuracy of information collected;

**5.1.11** implement a programme to monitor pesticide residues in food, feed, drinking water, the environment and habitations where pesticides have been applied.

**5.2** Even where a control scheme is in operation, pesticide industry should:

**5.2.1** cooperate in the regular reassessment of the pesticides which are marketed;

**5.2.2** provide poison-control centres and medical practitioners with information about pesticide hazards, toxicity of active ingredients and co-formulants and on suitable treatment of pesticide poisoning;

**5.2.3** provide users and environmental authorities with information on appropriate remediation measures in case of spills and accidents;

**5.2.4** make every reasonable effort to reduce risks posed by pesticides by:

**5.2.4.1** making less toxic formulations available;

**5.2.4.2** introducing products in ready-to-use packages;

**5.2.4.3** developing application methods and equipment that minimize exposure to pesticides;

**5.2.4.4** using returnable and refillable containers where effective container collection systems are in place;

**5.2.4.5** using containers that are not attractive for subsequent reuse and promoting programmes to discour-

age their reuse, where effective container collection systems are not in place;

**5.2.4.6** using containers that are not attractive to or easily opened by children, particularly for domestic use products;

**5.2.4.7** using clear and concise labelling.

**5.2.5** halt sale and recall products as soon as possible when handling or use pose an unacceptable risk under any use directions or restrictions and notify the government.

**5.3** Government and industry should cooperate in further reducing risks by:

**5.3.1** promoting the use of personal protective equipment which is suitable for the tasks to be carried out, appropriate to the prevailing climatic conditions and affordable (6);

**5.3.2** making provisions for safe storage of pesticides at wholesale, retail, warehouse and farm level (26, 27);

**5.3.3** establishing services to collect and safely dispose of used containers and small quantities of left-over pesticides (28);

**5.3.4** protecting biodiversity and minimizing adverse effects of pesticides on the environment (water, soil and air) and on non-target organisms;

**5.3.5** raising awareness and understanding among pesticide users about the importance and ways of protecting health and the environment

from the possible adverse effects of pesticides.

**5.4** Entities addressed by the Code should consider all available facts and should promote responsible information dissemination on pesticides and their uses, risks and alternatives.

**5.5** In establishing pesticide production facilities of a suitable standard in developing countries, manufacturers and governments should cooperate to:

**5.5.1** adopt engineering standards and operating practices appropriate to the nature of the manufacturing operations and the hazards involved, and ensure the availability of appropriate protective equipment;

**5.5.2** take all necessary precautions to protect workers, bystanders, nearby communities and the environment;

**5.5.3** ensure the proper siting of manufacturing and formulating plants as well as their stores and adequately monitor and control wastes, emissions and effluents in accordance with national and regional regulations where available, or in accordance with relevant international guidelines;

**5.5.4** maintain quality-assurance procedures to ensure compliance with the relevant standards of purity, performance, stability and safety.