



Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development

FINAL REPORT

Definitive Strategy and Action Plan

RO 2002/000-586.04.07.02 Services

May 2006

xx

Definitive Strategy and Action Plan

Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development

FINAL REPORT

RO 2002/000-586.04.07.02 Services

Ref 4690005
Version I
Date 2006-05-07
Prepared by JOV/SLD
Checked by NES
Approved by NES

Rambøll Danmark A/S
Teknikerbyen 31
DK-2830 Virum
Danmark

Phone +45 4598 6000
www.ramboll.dk

Table of contents

1.	Summary	2
2.	Proposal for a Strategy	2
3.	Tier 1 - Further development of the legal framework in terms of Government's Role in sustainable use of pesticides and in hazardous waste management	5
3.1	In general	5
3.2	Obsolete pesticides	5
4.	Tier 2 - Establishment of a national stakeholders platform and ensure maximum participation	6
5.	Tier 3 - Campaigns on awareness raising and training of farmers	7
6.	Tier 4 – Container Management System	8
7.	Tier 5 – Follow up activities for good agriculture practices among Romanian farmers	9
8.	Financing	9
9.	Implementation of Strategy	11
10.	Time Schedule for Action Plan	16

1. Summary

This report presents a draft strategy for preventing building up of stocks of obsolete pesticides in Romania. The draft furthermore seeks to solutions for sustainable management of waste generated by the present use of plant production products including packaging materials.

The work has included the following stakeholders:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Regional Development and its Phyto-sanitary Units
- Ministry of Environment and Water Management and its local EPA's (LEPA's)
- Representatives of the Environmental Guard
- AIPROM (Romanian Crop Protection Industry Association)
- ANCA (National Agency for Agricultural Consultancy)
- ICIM Bucharest (Research Institute for Environmental Protection)
- SC ALCEDO Srl , a Romanian company in phyto-sanitary products field

The draft strategy has been submitted to all involved stakeholders, and was thereafter discussed on a two-day workshop at the end of May 2006 at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Rural Development. The results of the workshop have been included in a proposal for a strategy to be implemented.

It is proposed a detailed implementation programme is commenced immediately after or as soon as possible after finalisation of the strategy. Possibilities for financial support of such an initiative may be found in phase III of the Phare supported Obsolete Pesticides Project, alternatively from Cohesion Fund or from the GEF financing system of the Stockholm Convention.

2. Proposal for a Strategy

The strategy development is based on the conclusions described in Chapter 3 of final report for the Technical Assistance to the MAPDR for development of a strategy for preventing building up of new stocks of obsolete pesticides.

The overall concept of a new strategy is illustrated in the 5-tier pyramid in *Figure 1*.

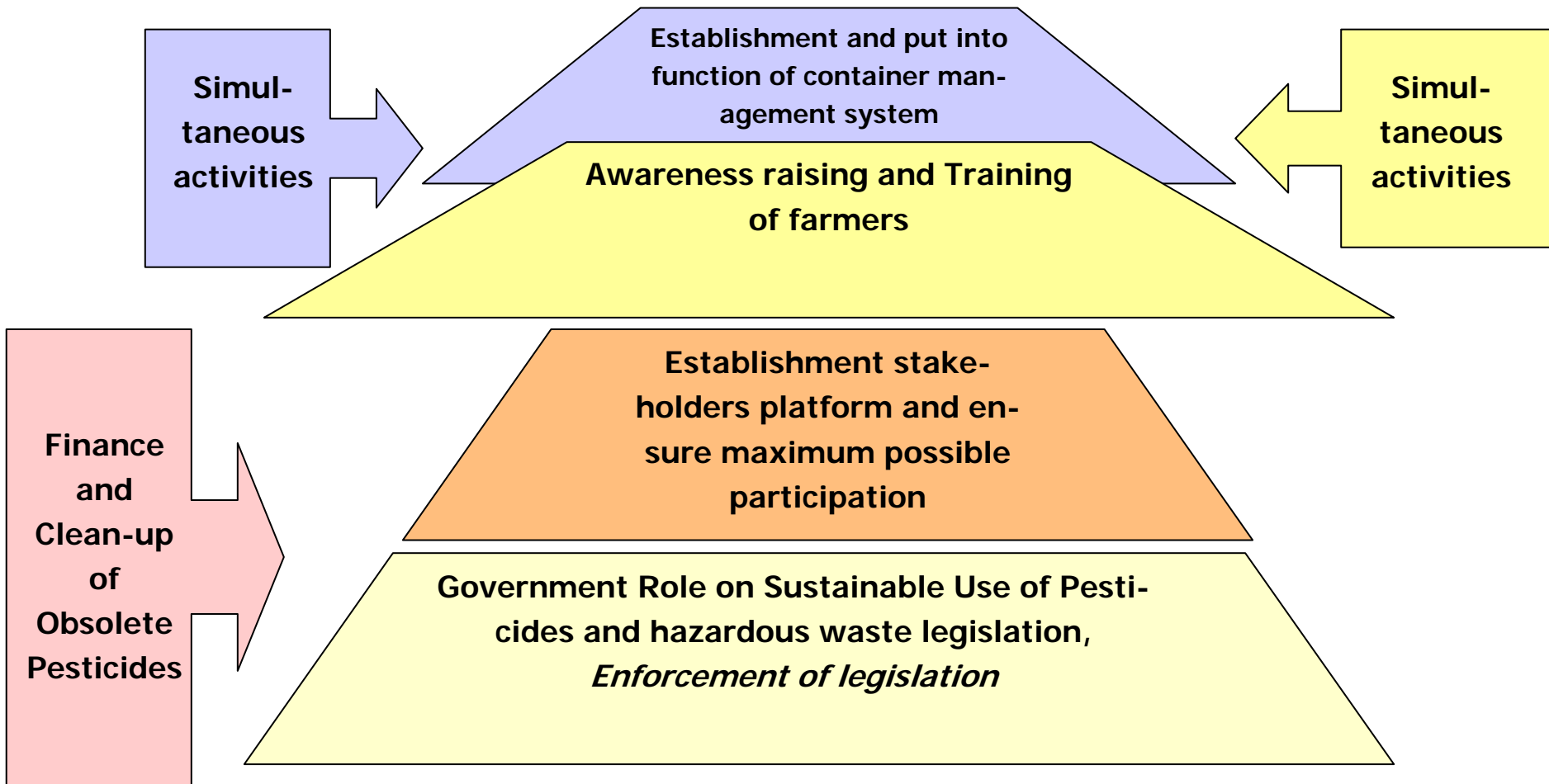
As can be seen in the pyramid the strategy consists of activities in the following main components:

1. Further development of the Legal framework in terms of Government's Role in sustainable use of pesticides; and in hazardous waste management
2. Establishment of a national stakeholders platform and ensure maximum participation for common goals
3. Campaigns in relation to awareness raising and training of farmers
4. Establishment and put into function of container (packaging) management system
5. Follow-up activities for good agriculture practices among Romanian farmers

In parallel, and not being part of the strategy pyramid is the present financing and clean-up activities of obsolete pesticides stocks. This activity is running at present and will most likely be continued in a phase III in the coming year.

A brief description of the various issues related to the above 5 tiers are given below. It is the intention to discuss and deepen the contents in collaboration with the participants at the Workshop on 30-31 May 2006.

It is obvious that the strategy outlined in this paper just gives the point of departure for a future well planned action programme (10-15 year plan) which has to be worked out in detail after the TA Sub-component has been completed.



3. Tier 1 - Further development of the legal framework in terms of Government's Role in sustainable use of pesticides and in hazardous waste management

3.1 In general

A targeted legal framework is fundamental, and in this case it shall cover both historical and present issues related to the management of waste generated from PPPs. Based on the review of existing legislation and international practices it is proposed to work on:

- a detailed regulation for obsolete pesticides and with
- hazardous waste management

Both issues can be dealt with simultaneous.

3.2 Obsolete pesticides

A detailed regulation for obsolete pesticides should deal with:

- definition of obsolete pesticides (OPs),
- handling of empty packaging of obsolete pesticides,
- obligation of owners of to register OPs, and the legal consequences of failure to register and the rewards of those that have registered.
- liability of owners and legal consequences for owners of small stocks, as presently being eliminated in the EU PHARE Programme.

Special emphasis has to be put on the owners of large stocks still present at former producers/manufacturers. These stocks have large financial consequences for the individual production facility and/or for the surrounding communities.

For the sites where OP waste is removed but buildings and soil still can be contaminated, restrictions have to be given on their use at such locations. A rigorous and consequent sanctioning and penalty system should be set up.

The new Romanian GD 621/2005 deals with the management of packaging and packaging waste. It is important to note that the "appropriate" and practical definition of empty containers as hazardous waste or as other waste classification will be made in consultation with industry. This issue is still pending, and a specific plan for pesticides packaging shall be implemented.

The Hungarian example, where empty containers can be freely transported by the farmers to the collection points, where after all further transport is made as hazardous waste, could be an interesting option for Romania.

Vital is that the management of packaging and packaging waste is connected to a clear time frame where the economic agents are obliged to collect packages and packaging waste. Only if the time frame is clearly set stakeholders will be forced to join and work out national concepts and its implementation.

Further issues that have to be addressed are the option for the establishment of register of the pesticides users, the issue of environmental authorizations for users of PPP, that should be yearly renewable, and an obligation to report yearly consumption of PPPs, the withdrawal of PPP and the timeframe given to use the remaining stocks in order to avoid creation of new unnecessary obsolete pesticides

Environmental protection authorities cannot today nominate persons for monitoring/inspection only for PPPs, due lack of human resources and funding.

The obligatory registration of ownership of OPs is an important issue for the environmental inspectors to control. Such controls can be facilitated by the use of EU Council Regulation 1782/2003. The Romanian transposition of EU Council Regulation 1782/2003 concerning Direct Payments for farmers shall include a number of environmental conditions (cross compliance regulations) which farmers have to comply with in order to obtain such payments. These conditions could e.g. include obligatory registration of OPs, a system for proofing and certifying competences for a number of environmental management controls such as certification of spraying equipment, storage location and management, waste, soil and water management.

4. Tier 2 - Establishment of a national stakeholders platform and ensure maximum participation

It is of utmost important to establish a national stakeholders' platform as soon as possible that ensures maximum possible participation and commitment of all parties.

It is proposed to make use of the in March 2006 established National Working Group on Waste Management. This Working Group held two meetings in March and May this year. The Working Group consists of a large number of stakeholders such as: representatives from MEWM, National, Regional and Local Environmental Protection Agencies, National Environmental Guard,

Ministry of Economy and Trade, Ministry of Administration and Interior, Ministry of European Integration, Bucharest Public Health Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, representatives from different companies (CIROM, ROMPAD, ARS, ARAM, etc.), representatives of different associations (Greentech, UNIMED, REC Romania, Romanian Experts Association, AIPROM).

This Working Group could for example be used to set up a new Working Group or a Subgroup and be supplemented (as listed a.o. under 1) with a number of agricultural organisations. If the present structure would be used a number of activities to deal with such as all issues on treatment capacities could also be tackled by the present Working Group and the necessary exchange of information would be assured.

5. Tier 3 - Campaigns on awareness raising and training of farmers

Any management system, inventory and/or clean-up without improvement of the awareness of the farmers are doomed to fail.

This means that the next phase must include an awareness programme for farmers and other PPP users that focus on explanation of the dangers of the obsolete pesticides, but also help that farmers realize that they have often - without knowing it - smaller amounts at their farms.

Hence an awareness campaign will help to bring forward such “forgotten” amounts. A campaign should also explain the opportunity for farmers to deliver “free of charge” OPs and make it clear that owners will not be punished by registering and handing over OPs.

When the container management programme is taking of, further awareness campaigns should be organized, additionally explaining the new “obsolete pesticides regulation” dealing with the obligatory registration of obsolete pesticides ownership etc.

An awareness campaign will be implemented by means of seminars and workshops for farmers in small groups in the regions, campaigns in newspapers, private and governmental agricultural magazines, campaigns on TV, publication of leaflets and appropriate dissemination to farmers in the country side, workshops and conferences specifically for the PPP users.

An awareness campaigns can be easily used by the stakeholders to start organizing future education and the necessary training of the farmers. Training

programmes should be based on a proper analysis of existing Romanian practices and skills, and on an identification of the specific needs for skills development among farmers, farm managers, farm workers, manufacturers and distributors, dealers and crop protection advisors of crop protection products.

Training programmes have to achieve the necessary competences for PPP users and should lead to official certification competences for a number of environmental management controls such as Certification of spraying equipment. Such certifications of competences could fulfil the necessary cross compliance regulations and secure the farmers of their Direct Payments in the future according to Regulation 1782/2003.

6. Tier 4 – Container Management System

It is expected that the Plant protection industry takes the necessary steps to establish a specific organization together with retailers, distributors and merchants and farmer associations in order to establish a collection system for obsolete pesticides and empty packaging.

The role of the Plant protection industry is vital, as this branch also can draw easily the large experiences from other EU countries. Objective would be to work towards a voluntary approach where the shared responsibility of all stakeholders is guaranteed. The most important issue will be how to ensure financing of the collection system.

An important factor to achieve fast results are the proper clarification of empty packaging definition and the proposed handling as described in Tier 1 and the financing of elimination of obsolete pesticides.

On the other hand the feasibility of the input needed from the individual farmers and farmers associations is vital. Cleaning of empty containers and the transport to the collection points has to be executed by the farmers. Also registration of PPP at the farmers, registration of delivered empty containers, control of cleaned containers and management of “not cleaned” containers has to be set up. For example in many countries, those farmers that deliver containers that have not been cleaned, have to pay an additional cleaning fee or have to take their containers back till properly cleaned.

In order to be successful with the set up of the container management system the input of Regional Councils and many local communities can be beneficial.

7. Tier 5 – Follow up activities for good agriculture practices among Romanian farmers

By implementation of Tier 1-4 and the careful planning of the individual activities in such a way that each phase and step is complementary to one and other, over a period of 5 to 10 years it is expected that Romanian farmers will improve their agricultural practices.

Therefore a continuous monitoring of the activities executed in tier 1-4 is necessary in combination with a permanent evaluation of the results. A specific Committee being part of the stakeholder group should gather, evaluate and disseminate periodical results and submit the necessary proposals for improvement.

As mentioned under Tier 1 and tier 3, EU Council Regulation 1782/2003 concerning Direct Payments for farmers shall include a number of environmental conditions (cross compliance regulations) which farmers have to comply with in order to obtain such payments.

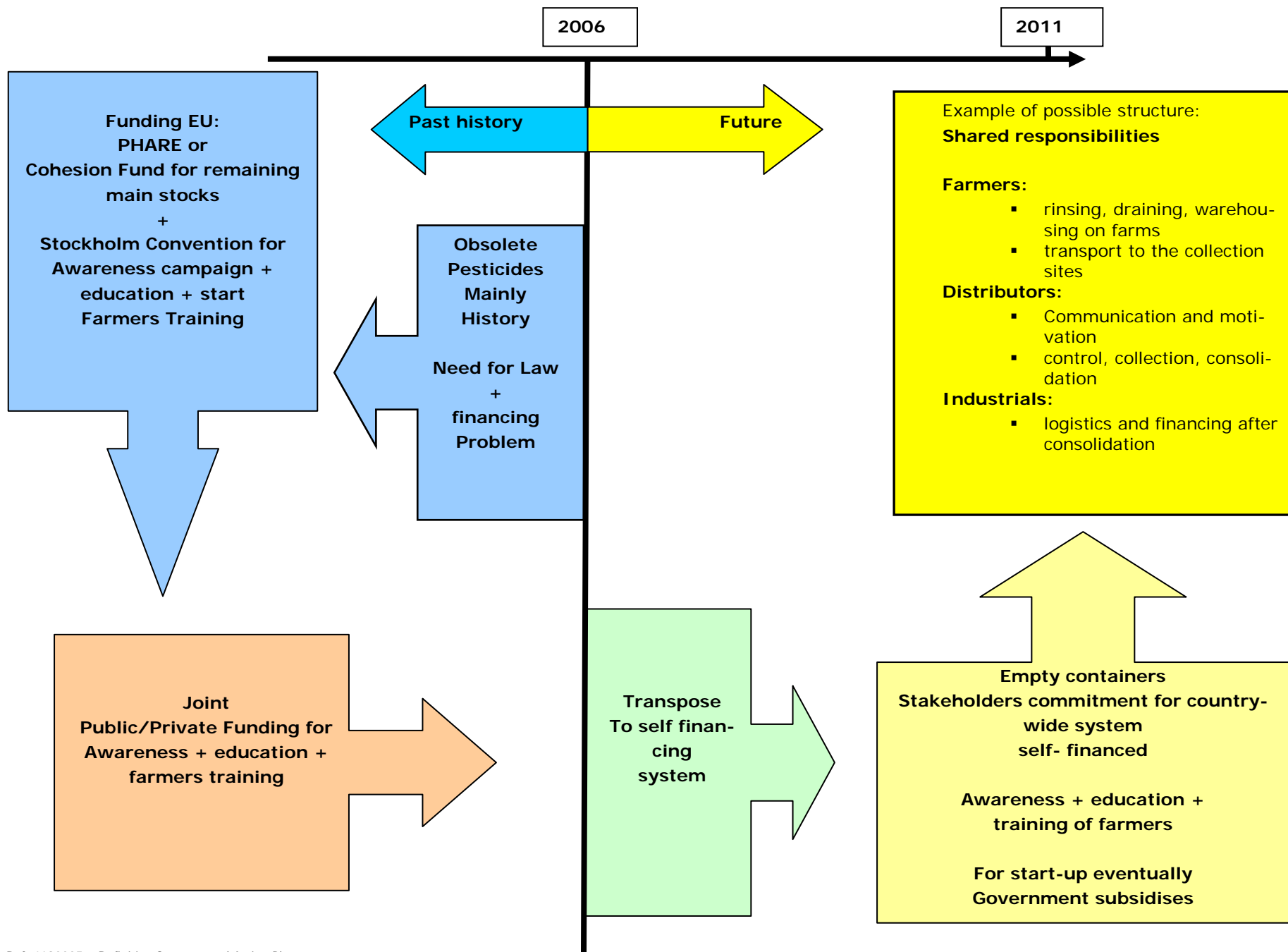
It is therefore proposed to set up a “quality handbook for good agriculture practices for Romanian farmers” that includes all these necessary conditions and competences to be fulfilled and regularly certified ensuring Romanian farmers their Direct Payments based on high quality agricultural management.

8. Financing

It shall be assured that present initiatives such as EU Phare Obsolete Pesticides Project shall be continued.

Furthermore will programmes that assure external financing certainly play an important role to start up a container/packaging management programme. In other EU countries, it has proven very difficult to finance the obsolete pesticides problem by industry alone, and a continuation of the Phare clean-up program will eliminate an important barrier in Romania for the implementation of container management system by the industry. It is expected that at least 2 years of works will be needed in order to actualize the necessary inventories and the subsequently clean-up actions.

It is also important to look at financing of awareness campaigns and it is expected after start up help by means of eventual subsidies by the government or by means of EU or GEF programmes that industry will finance these activities themselves.



9. Implementation of Strategy

Project Description	Indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<p><i>Overall Objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - good agricultural practices among Romanian farmers 			<p>MAFRD + phyto-sanitary units Plant protection industry will put all the efforts</p>
<p><i>Purpose:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to assist the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, respectively to implement the strategy for obsolete pesticides management 			
<p><i>Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. New legislation is implemented and enforced B. Stakeholder platform is established and cooperation strategy is implemented C. Farmers are aware and have received training D. Container management system is established and functioning 			<p>The new legislation will be elaborated in cooperation with MEWM (NEPA, NEG, NACHSC) , MAFRD, MH,</p> <p>Set up a Protocol between MEWM , MAFRD and MH</p> <p>Plant protection industry will be deeply involved in training</p>

Project Description		Indicators	TA-input	Responsible
Output A: New legislation is implemented and enforced				
<i>Activities related to Output A</i>				
A.1	Elaborate definition of obsolete pesticides (OP)		Assist	MEWM (through NEPA) and MAFRD
A.2	Prepare legal framework for registering OP		Support	MEWM (and MAFRD)
A.3	Establish Plant Protection Product user register		Assist	MAFRD, Plant protection industry
A.4	Prepare legislation regarding liability for OP		Support	MEWM, NEPA, MAFRD
A.5	Establish regulation for empty packaging		Support	MEWM
A.6	Prepare legislation for restrictive use of land and buildings formerly used for storage of OP		Support	MEWM
A.7	Establish funding mechanism for elimination of environmental problems at former manufacturing facilities with OP waste stocks		Prepare supporting documentation	MEWM (and private industry), MAFRD
A.8	Prepare action plan for development of necessary institutional framework for enforcement of legislation		Prepare supporting documentation	MEWM, NEPA, NEG and MAFRD
A.9	Implement action plan (A.8)		Assist and monitor	MEWM, NEPA, NEG and MAFRD

Project Description		Indicators	TA-input	Responsible
Output B: Stakeholder platform is established and cooperation strategy is implemented				
<i>Activities related to Output B</i>				
B.1	Organise Inter-ministerial Working Group parallel to the National Working Group on Waste Management		Facilitate	MEWM, NEPA, NEG, MoH and MAFRD
B.2	Develop conceptual framework for private sector involvement in container management		Prepare supporting documentation	MEWM, NEPA
B.3	Discuss and identify barriers for private sector		Facilitate	MEWM, MAFRD and industry
B.4	Prepare national agreement between Government and private sector		Prepare supporting documentation	MEWM, NEPA, NEG, MAFRD and industry
B.5	Negotiate and conclude agreement		Facilitate	MEWM, MAFRD and industry
B.6	Prepare and development of institutional framework for sound implementation of agreement		Prepare supporting documentation	MEWM and MAFRD
B.7	Audit domestic disposal facilities		Assist	MEWM, NEPA, NEG
B.8	Prepare regulatory and technical compliance plan for domestic disposal facilities		Prepare supporting documentation	MEWM, NEPA, NEG
B.9	Upgrade and repair temporary regional storage facilities for OP and empty packaging		Prepare supporting documentation	MAFRD (and private owners)
B.10	Prepare and implement sweep-action in pilot region		Management assistance	MAFRD, MEWM
B.11	Discuss lessons-learned and adjust		Facilitate	MAFRD and MEWM(NEPA, NEG)
B.12	Prepare and implement nationwide sweep-action		Management assistance	MAFRD, MEWM

Project Description		Indicators	TA-input	Responsible
Output C: Farmers are aware and have received training				
<i>Activities related to Output C</i>				
C.1	Formulate awareness campaign (in cooperation with industry)		Assist	MAFRD, MEWM, Plant protection industry
C.2	Implement awareness campaign in one pilot region		Assist	MAFRD, MEWM (supported by industry)
C.3	Discuss lesson-learned and adjust		Facilitate	MAFRD
C.4	Implement awareness campaign nation wide		Assist	MAFRD, MEWM (supported by industry)
C.5	Prepare curricula for PPP users to be implemented at <i>Agricultural College/University</i>		Prepare supporting documentation	MAFRD
C.6	Prepare programme for training of phyto-sanitary units in OP issues		Prepare supporting documentation	MAFRD, MEWM
C.7	Implement training programme among phyto-sanitary units		Assist	MAFRD
C.8	Prepare programme for training of farmers in OP issues		Prepare supporting documentation	MAFRD, MEWM
C.9	Implement training programme among farmers		Assist	MAFRD, MEWM
C.10	Develop best practice guidelines for PPP usage in Romania		Prepare supporting documentation	MAFRD

Project Description		Indicators	TA-input	Responsible
Output D: D. Container management system is established and functioning				
<i>Activities related to Output D</i>				
D.1	Prepare list of OP including packaging (individual farmer)		Prepare supporting documentation	Farmer
D.2	Prepare and implement information plan		Monitor	Industry
D.3	Select collection points		Monitor	Industry
D.4	Train personnel		Monitor	Industry
D.5	Prepare collection points		Monitor	Industry
D.6	Collect and transport to collection point		Monitor	Farmer
D.7	Register at collection point		Monitor	Industry
D.8	Repackage and transport to treatment facility		Monitor	Industry
D.9	Destruct/recycle/valorize (energy recovery)		Monitor	Industry

10. Time Schedule for Action Plan

Task	Activities / Months	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
1	Establishment Legal framework	■										
1a	Enforcement of laws		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
2	Finance and Clean-up of Obsolete Pesticides	■	■									
3	Establishment National Stakeholders Platform		■									
4	Campaigns on Awareness Raising	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -			
6	Training of Farmers			■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
7	Establishment Container Management System			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
8	Good Agricultural Practice				- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	■	■