

On obsolete pesticides

- Initiative taken by MEPs Ria Oomen-Ruijten and Esther de Lange, together with John Vijgen, Director of IHPA
- Participants from World Bank, FAO, NATO, Green Cross, CEPS, ECPA, OSCE, ISTC, EU Commission, Countries from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus regions

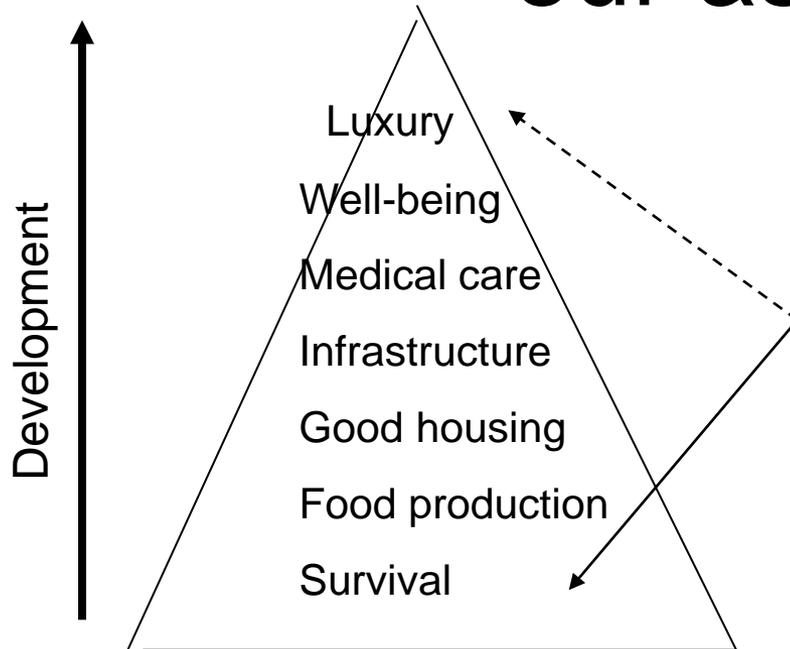


Why is this important?

- Obsolete pesticides pose a local and regional risk to human health and the environment
- Obsolete pesticides are, although banned since many years, still present in the environment and in food and feed
- The global amount of obsolete pesticides is estimated on 0,5 M tons (HCH excluded)



Why neighbouring countries need our assistance

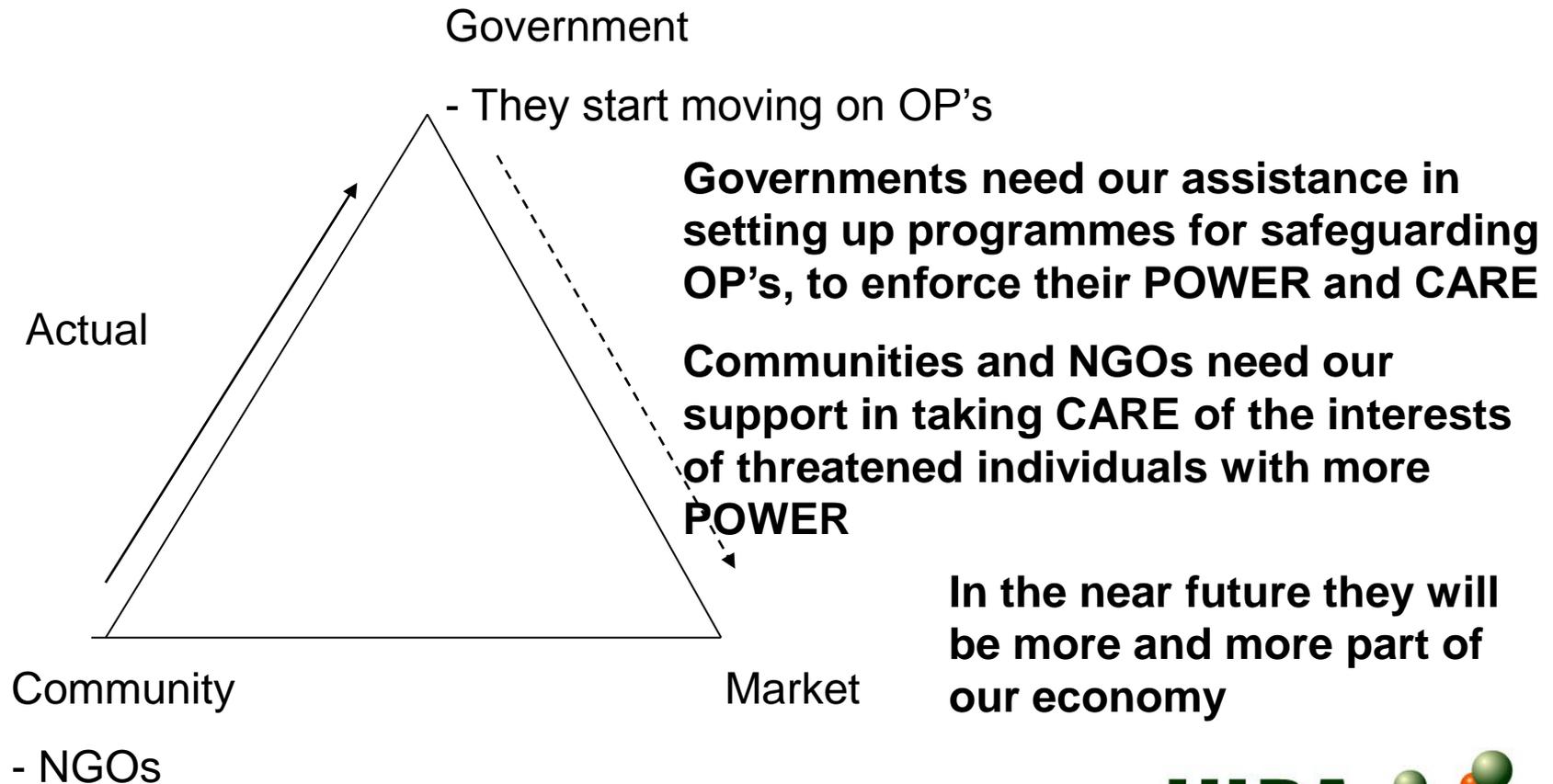


Maslow: triangle of development of societies

Environmental management in countries in transition

Export of food and feed
Local and regional threats

Economies in Transition, Power and Care



Time for action

The U-turn of commitment

Sensing:

IHPA urges for action over more than 18 years



Co-creation:

Concerted action is required. Today's presentations will show you why and how

Co-sensing:

That's why you are here, to become part of the solution, once you have taken notice of this problem



Program

- 14:00 Ria Oomen-Ruijten, MEP
- 14:10 OSCE Ambassador Sergey Kapinos, Armenia
- 14:20 Richard Thompson, Joergen Maersk Pedersen, FAO
- 14:30 First Deputy Minister Vitalii Boot, Oleksander Ovdiienko, Ministry of Emergency, Ukraine
- 14:40 Marta Ciraj, Ministry of Health, Slovenia
- 14:50 Mariana Grama, Ion Barbarasa, Valentin Plesca, Moldova
- 15:00 Gulchera Aliyeva, ECORES, Azerbaijan
- 15:10 John Vijgen, IHPA
- 15:20 Christian Egenhofer, CEPS
- 15:30 Andrew Murphy, EU Commission, DG Environment
- 15:40 Discussion (with contribution of WB, statements in writing)
- 16:30 Conclusions and actions to be taken
- 16:45 Esther de Lange, MEP

Conclusions

- Urgent cases as reported from Armenia and Ukraine demonstrate an urgent need for short term action. The fact these cases have been presented by high level representatives, gives evidence that the governments of these countries are committed to act. But the size and complexity of these problems, combined with a lack of in country expertise and adequate financing also urges the need for assistance.
- OCSE, FAO, WB and other donors emphasized the importance of collaboration between donors and with EU and the countries from the region.

Conclusions

- Besides the need for urgent action, the examples as presented from Armenia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan demonstrate that Governments need assistance in setting up proper programmes for the elimination of Obsolete Pesticides and need sharing of concepts and expertise. The structured approach as presented by FAO is strongly recommended as a basis for both the set up of such programmes and to provide a common basis and 'language' for exchange of experiences and information.

Conclusions

- The management of Obsolete Pesticides as developed by Moldova is an excellent reference for other countries. This team of highly committed experts combines a pro-active approach of donors, adequate networking with international experts and active communication with a pragmatic approach and focus on developments of low cost technologies. Being one of the poorest countries in the region, they have shown to be as well effective as efficient in their approach of Obsolete Pesticides. Notwithstanding their high commitment, they need additional financial support to continue their well developed approach.

Conclusions

- The initiative taken by Slovenia to address Obsolete Pesticides to the agenda of the World Health Assembly contributes to drawing the attention to the effects of dangerous chemicals on human health. (Recent) publications show a growing concern of medical scientists for the effects on the endocrine system of newborns and infants.
- The plea as addressed by Slovenia to develop and structure the Danube problem over a cross country river basin management program is a good example of setting up a long term partnership between countries to cooperate on a concerted approach. This initiatives deserves EU support.

Conclusions

- EU Commission confirmed the importance of better coordination, and improved use of existing instruments.
- The Commission stated to include Obsolete Pesticides in the EU External Policy and to provide financial assistance, under the condition that countries give priority to their initiatives and fund raising within the limits of their national budgets.
- Members of the European Parliament are recommended to re-activate the Working Group on Obsolete Pesticides to provide support and pressure on the concerted actions as proposed by the Commission.

Conclusions

- Members of European Parliament Mrs. Ria Oomen-Ruijten and Ms. Esther de Lange expressed to make efforts that obsolete pesticides becomes a priority issue and should remain on the EU agenda until a final solution has been obtained.
- They also proposed to put EDF on obsolete pesticides with more force in the strategy for ENPI