

# POPs Newsletter

No 16, December 2008

Prepared on behalf of [IHPA](#)

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## Aim

The aim of this newsletter is to disseminate information in a cost-effective way on the developments taking place in the area of POPs as implicated in the Stockholm Convention and other PTS of concern. It will cover, among others, the news on science and technology for disposal of obsolete stocks and remediation of POPs contamination which might be of interest for commercial exploitation both in developed and developing countries. Special emphasis will be given to bio-remediation, non-combustion related technologies which will benefit developing countries. The newsletter will not go into technical details of selected scientific publications but only highlight salient features for the benefit of the readers. One can [subscribe](#) and read IHPA Newsletter (2 times/yr free of charge).

## Note from the Editors

Since the last Newsletter, the publication of the proceedings of the 9th IHPA Forum is now available and could be downloaded from [www.iHPA.info](http://www.iHPA.info)

Following this we are including a review paper from Slovenia on their approach to solving the problems connected with obsolete pesticides in Slovenia submitted by Prof.Branco Druzina. This is very interesting because Slovenia occupies a unique global positioning situation (gps) literally as a bridge between industrialized west European Economy (which is now in grave economic downturn ) and the countries whose economies are in transition (also feeling the global economic crisis). So Slovenia's experience especially the legal provision to deal with obsolete stocks of pesticides would be of great benefit to EECCA Region.

We are also reporting on the 4th POPs Review Meeting of the Stockholm Convention held in Geneva from 13-17 October 2008 which reviewed inclusion of additional chemicals in the Stockholm Convention. In the last issue we included an article by Dr. Roland Weber of POPs Environmental Consulting, 73035 Göppingen, Germany who wrote on problems related to PFOS/PFOAs and lindane and also to an IPEN article on short chained chlorinated olefins.

# 1. An Approach to Solving the Problems Connected with Obsolete Pesticides in Slovenia. By Prof. Branko Druzina

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As reported earlier (1, 2, 3), around 400 phytopharmaceutical preparations were used in agriculture in Slovenia (20,273 km<sup>2</sup>, 2,011,500 inhabitants, 782,533 in work) before independence in 1991. Between 300 and 400 tonnes of phytopharmaceutical agent residues were found on farms, agriculture cooperatives, etc. in 1992. State officials expected this problem to be resolved in two or three years with the collection and export of residues to a country with incinerators for hazardous waste processing.

This, of course, did not happen, while at the same time new quantities of obsolete pesticides appeared, as a result of increased use of phytopharmaceutical agents in Slovenia between 1995 and 2000. Use of plant protection agents reached 1,495 tonnes in 1995 and 1,600 tonnes in 1999. In 2002 the quantities fell somewhat to 1,470 tonnes, rising again in 2004 to 1,520 tonnes. While the described quantities of residues and obsolete pesticides do not present a problem for processing and the prevention of environmental damage, **the Slovenian government decided to address the issue through legal measures.**

Therefore, pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 19 and the fifth paragraph of Article 20 of the Environment Protection Act (OGRS, 39/2006), the DECREE on the Management of Waste Plant Protection Products that Contain Hazardous Substances (OGRS, 119/2006) was adopted.

This Decree lays down the rules applying to the management of these waste products and other conditions applying to the collection, re-use and disposal of unused plant protection products that contain hazardous substances and of residues of plant protection products containing hazardous substances that remain in the sales packaging after use. Articles 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14 and 15 of this Decree are particularly important, and read as follows (shortened version):

## **Article 4 – End user's obligations**

- (1) An end-user must ensure that waste plant protection products do not remain in the sales packaging after use, where the instructions of the manufacturer of the plant protection product must be observed when emptying the sales packaging.
- (2) If plant protection products cannot be used or their sales packaging emptied because their expiry date has passed or for other reasons, the end-user must hand the waste products over to:
  - collectors for hazardous fractions or mobile collectors for hazardous fractions at a public service provider, if the waste products can be classified as separate fractions, or
  - the distributor that delivers or hands over the plant protection products to the end-user, either to the direct collection operator or to collectors for waste plant protection products managed by the collection operator, if the waste products can be classified as agricultural waste.
- (3) The end-user may not hand over waste plant protection products to a public service provider as mixed municipal waste.
- (4) Prior to handing over waste plant protection products to a distributor, collection operator or public service provider, the end-user must store these products separately so that they do not become mixed with other types of waste.

## **Article 7 – Obligations of a distributor**

- (1) At the sales point and upon delivery of plant protection products, a distributor must allow an end-user to hand over waste plant protection products free of charge, if they can be classified as agricultural waste and the end-user wishes to hand them over to the distributor.
- (2) A distributor shall not be obliged to take the waste plant protection products referred to in the preceding paragraph from an end-user free of charge if:
  - facilities for receipt using a collector for waste plant protection products managed by the distributor itself or together with other distributors or by a collection operator is located not more than 5 km from the distributor's sales point, or
  - the collection operator has agreed with a public service provider to take the agricultural wastes at its own expense using collectors for hazardous fractions or mobile collectors for hazardous fractions that the public service provider manages in the area in which the distributor's sales point is located.
- (3) A distributor that takes waste plant protection products at the sales point must ensure that end-users are able to hand over waste plant protection products for at least the period during which plant protection products may be sold to them.
- (4) A distributor that takes waste plant protection products at the sales point, a manager of a collector for waste plant protection products referred to in the first indent of the second paragraph of this Article or a public service provider referred to in the third indent of the second paragraph of this Article must confirm the receipt of waste plant protection products from the end-user at the latter's request.
- (5) The recipient of the wastes referred to in the preceding paragraph shall confirm receipt of the waste plant protection products by signing the document on the receipt of the waste plant protection products. This document must also state the name of the end-user that handed over the waste plant protection products, the date of receipt, and the quantity and classification number of the wastes received.
- (6) The distributor and the manager of the collector for waste plant protection products must hand over the waste plant protection products received to the collection operator without requesting payment for its possible use value.

(7) A distributor must inform the ministry responsible for agriculture (hereinafter: the ministry) of the method, time and place of receipt of waste plant protection products in electronic form and using the form published on the ministry's website.

(8) The ministry shall keep records of the data referred to in the preceding paragraph, and inform end-users of the method, time and place of receipt of waste plant protection products on its website.

(9) In order to establish whether distributors are meeting their obligations under this Decree, the ministry shall also use data from distributors' records kept by the administrative body in accordance with the regulations governing the conditions that must be met by legal and natural persons engaged in the trade of plant protection products.

#### **Article 8 – Provision of information to end-users and the regulation of sales points**

(1) A distributor must erect a notice in a visible place for purchasers of plant protection products regarding the option of free-of-charge handover of waste plant protection products, and arrange for a special container or containers to be placed at the sales point for the separate collection and temporary storage of waste plant protection products received.

(2) If a distributor does not take waste plant protection products, it must erect in a visible place a notice for purchasers regarding the option of the handover of waste plant protection products to the nearest collector for waste plant protection products.

(3) A distributor must ensure that the information on the nearest collector for waste plant protection products referred to in the preceding paragraph is identical to the information sent to the ministry in accordance with the seventh paragraph of the preceding Article.

#### **Article 10 – Obligations of manufacturers, acquirers and importers**

(1) Manufacturers, acquirers and importers must, for the plant protection products they place on the market and at their own expense, ensure the collection of waste plant protection products from end-users, distributors and public service providers, and ensure, at their own expense, the re-use or disposal of the waste plant protection products thus collected.

(2) The obligations referred to in the preceding paragraph shall not apply to plant protection products exported or taken to other EU Member States.

#### **Article 11 – Register of manufacturers, acquirers and importers of plant protection products**

(1) Manufacturers, acquirers and importers that ensure the management of waste plant protection products in accordance with this Decree must be entered in the register of manufacturers, acquirers and importers of plant protection products (hereinafter: register of manufacturers, acquirers and importers) kept by the ministry.

(2) Manufacturers, acquirers and importers must enclose, with the application for entry in the register of manufacturers, acquirers and importers referred to in the first and second indents of the fourth paragraph of this Article, the plan for the management of waste plant protection products referred to in the third paragraph of this Article.

#### **Article 14 – Deletion from the register of manufacturers, acquirers and importers of plant protection products**

(1) The ministry shall delete a manufacturer, acquirer or importer from the register of manufacturers, acquirers and importers if it finds that:

– they do not meet the requirements relating to the management of waste plant protection products in accordance with the plan for the management of waste plant protection products, or

– they fail to report on the management of the waste plant protection products they have received in accordance with this Decree.

(2) In the case referred to in the first indent of the preceding paragraph, deletion from the register of manufacturers, acquirers and importers may be performed on the basis of a final ruling by the relevant inspection body.

#### **Article 15 – Obligations of a collection operator**

(1) A collection operator may collect waste plant protection products if it acquires an environmental protection permit from the ministry.

(2) The ministry shall issue the environmental protection permit referred to in the preceding paragraph to a person that:

1. is a company or independent sole trader registered to perform the activity of collecting and removing waste in accordance with the regulation on the classification of activities,

2. disposes of means, equipment, facilities and installations for the collection of waste plant protection products that meet the conditions applying to collectors and collection centres for waste plant protection products, and

3. has ensured the handover of the entire envisaged quantity of waste plant protection products for re-use or disposal in accordance with waste management regulations.

(3) An application for the environmental protection permit referred to in the first paragraph of this Article must contain data on the collection operator and proof that the conditions referred to in the preceding paragraph have been met.

**These articles introduce new provisions into Slovenian legislation, obliging manufacturers, importers and distributors to provide for the receipt of used, unused or obsolete pesticides, and for the safe collection, disposal and processing of these substances. At the same time, as Article 4 makes clear, the Decree also obliges end-users to hand over unused and obsolete pesticides, as well as those whose expiry date has passed.**

**The costs produced by the receipt, collection, storage, processing and disposal of these substances are laid down in Article 19 of the Decree.**

#### **Article 19 – Receipt of waste plant protection products from a public service provider**

(1) Upon the receipt of waste plant protection products from a public service provider, the collection operator and the public service provider must, when determining the costs applying to the management of waste plant protection products, observe the following criteria:

1. the costs incurred by a public service provider are the costs of installing or purchasing and maintaining collectors for hazardous fractions or

mobile collectors for hazardous fractions to the extent laid down in the regulation on the management of separately collected fractions in the performance of a public municipal waste management service;

2. the costs incurred by a collection operator are:

- the costs of storing waste plant protection products in collectors for hazardous fractions for a storage period exceeding seven days,
- the costs of receiving the waste referred to in the preceding indent – specifically, for the loading and weighing of waste, and similar tasks,
- all other costs resulting from receipt of the waste referred to in the first indent of this paragraph and agreed upon by the public service provider and collection operator.

(2) The criteria for determining the level of the costs referred to in the preceding paragraph that must be paid by the collection operator to the public service provider shall be laid down by the minister responsible for environmental protection.

(3) If waste plant protection products from a single public service provider are received by several collection operators, the ministry shall publish the share of the waste plant protection products taken by an individual collection operator and other obligations related to this on its website.

**Public service providers are paid from state budget funds or by users of the public services.**

**The most important part of the Decree is probably that which lays down the PENAL SANCTIONS for non-compliance with the Decree (Article 24).**

#### **Article 24 – Violations**

(1) A manufacturer, acquirer or importer that is a legal person or independent sole trader shall be fined between EUR 12,000 and 120,000 for a violation if it acts in contravention of the provisions of:

- first paragraph of Article 10,
- Article 11,
- third paragraph of Article 13, and
- first and second paragraphs of Article 26 of this Decree.

(2) A distributor that is a legal person or independent sole trader shall be fined between EUR 4,000 and 40,000 for a violation if it acts in contravention of the provisions of Article 8 of this Decree.

(3) A public service provider shall be fined between EUR 12,000 and 120,000 for a violation if it acts in contravention of the provisions of:

- Article 6,
- Article 9, and
- first paragraph of Article 19 of this Decree.

(4) An end-user that is a legal person or an independent sole trader shall be fined between EUR 12,000 and 120,000 for a violation if it acts in contravention of the provisions of Article 5 of this Decree.

(5) An end-user that is a legal person or an independent sole trader shall be fined between EUR 4,000 and 40,000 for a violation if it acts in contravention of the provisions of Article 4 of this Decree.

(6) The responsible person of a manufacturer, acquirer, importer, distributor, public service provider, collection operator, entity responsible for a joint plan for the management of waste plant protection products, end-user or person referred to in Article 25 of this Decree shall be fined between EUR 1,200 and 4,100 for the violations referred to in the first to tenth paragraphs of this Article.

With regard to the legal measures laid down by the Decree, the legislator (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning) expects that public service providers as well as collection operators, importers, manufacturers, distributors and end-users will act responsibly and in accordance with the Decree, especially given that the fines for violations of individual articles of the Decree are so high. The legislator also anticipates that all old stocks of pesticides will thus be disposed of within three years, and that end-users of pesticides will hand over unused pesticides promptly.

Perhaps this is just one of the ways of resolving the problem of residues of obsolete pesticides, with the advantage that it does not give rise to disposal and processing costs for importers, manufacturers, distributors, collection operators and end-users.

We will be able to assess the results of the measures that follow from the Decree in a few years' time

Sources

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- B. Druzina, *Pesticides Use, National Programme and Obsolete Pesticides Management in the Republic of Slovenia*, 9th International HCH and Pesticides Forum for Central and Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia Countries, 20–22 September 2007, Chisinau, Moldova
- Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 39/2006
- Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 119/2006

## 2. The 4th Meeting of the POPs Review Committee(POPRC-4), Geneva, October 13-17, 2008

The 4th meeting was attended by 28 of 31 Committee members, 57 government and party observers and 43 representatives from NGOs. The Committee approved the risk management evaluation for four chemicals, and recommended that CPO-4 consider listing under Annex A,B or C : Commercial octabromodiphenylether(c-octaBDE) , pentachlorobenzene and a and b –hexachlorocyclohexane (alpha HCH and beta HCH). A draft risk profile for short-chained chlorinated paraffin's (SCCPs) was discussed throughout the week and the Committee agreed to forward it to POPRC-5. The POPRC 4 also evaluated a proposal to include endosulfan under the Convention and recommended to POPRC-5 for draft risk profile. Another chemical recommended for consideration was hexabromocyclodecane (HBCD).

On October 13, 2008 the POPrc-4 was inaugurated and the Executive Secretary Mr. Donald Cooper welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of maintaining a distinction between technical evaluations which are the responsibility of POPRC and the political issues that will be considered by the COP and noted that the POPRC is a model for decision making that may be emulated within other multilateral environmental agreements. A paper on toxic interactions between POPs was given by Marco Vighi of the Univ. of Milano-Bicocca. A proposal to have a working group on toxic interactions with t.o.r was agreed. Mr. Henk Bouwman of South Africa and Ivan Holoubek (Czech Republic and co-editor of this Newsletter) would co.chair the ad hoc working group on the issue. For further information on POPRC-4 readers are requested to look in <http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pops/poprc4/>

## 3. Awareness to SC goes to University in small town.

K. Murugesan from School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Pohang University of Science and Technology, South Korea, addressing students of Periyar University in Salem , South India.

Proper management of municipal waste, including plastic, is vital to prevent the release of dioxins, which are environment pollutants, researcher from School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH), South Korea, K. Murugesan has said.

He was addressing the students of Periyar University at a special lecture on Recent Developments in Environmental Nanotechnology: Microbial Degradation of Dioxins, organised by the Centre for Nanotechnology, Department of Physics on Tuesday.

Exposure to dioxins, which are toxic and a serious threat to public health, can cause severe reproductive and developmental problems. "Dioxin is also well-known for its ability to damage the immune system and interfere with hormonal systems," he says.

Paper mills and a few other industries, including the coal-based ones, contribute significantly in releasing the dioxins into the environment. The source of dioxin also comes from burning of waste. The authorities should try to adopt scientific way of disposing waste, which would help improve the environment. But many developing countries, including India, do not adopt proper ways to dispose the waste, he points out.

Mr. Murugesan said the awareness level among people should be increased to prevent exposure to dioxins. Preventive measures should be accorded top priority as the cost of reducing the level of dioxins in the environment would be huge, he stressed. (Source: The Hindu, India)

## 4. Dutch Treat: The Netherlands Environmental Minister says China can learn from her country's example.

H.E. Jacqueline Cramer , The Netherlands Minister of Housing and Spatial Planning and the Environment , while on a visit to China stated that the MOU with the Ministry of Environment Protection (MEP) will cover environmental laws and regulations, air and water pollution control, soil and groundwater pollution control, protection of ozone layer, cleaner production and sustainable consumption, environmental management of chemicals, biodiversity and finally management of toxic waste. She specially mentioned about long term cooperation on soil/groundwater pollution control. One of the projects was on soil quality standards set up based on risk based standards and knowledge on how standards could be established. The second project was on sustainable soil management. This project helped with capacity building for decision makers on how to move forward from problem to project and project to a programme. Specific areas were oil pollution, pollution from heavy metals in mining, pollution by pesticides in agriculture and contamination of water basins through polluted water. Specifically the Netherlands within the EU is unique in waste management with 83% being recycled. She also referred to the country's long standing experience on regulation and environmental policies. Many policy instruments such as market incentives, taxing systems, and some social regulations. She cited voluntary agreements between enterprises and government to reach long term and short term goals on specific issues. Communication on environment related information to the public is another part of social regulations. The environmental policies are supported by a sound system of legislation , enforcement and control she added.. (Source: China Business Weekly, October 2008).

## 5. Financial Crisis: The recent Global financial crisis has hit the waste recycling industry in the UK.

Waste collection companies and councils are running out of space to store paper, plastic bottles and steel cans because prices are so low that the materials cannot be shifted. The Global economic crisis means less demand for recycled materials especially from China as manufacturers reduced their output in line with the global economic downturn. With storage position becoming bad the local authorities are asking relaxation of storage regulations for mountains of paper, plastic bottles and cans. The price of mixed plastics waste slumped from \$200/ton to nothing in four weeks. The staff of Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and Local Government Associations have begun investigating the extent of the problem. (Source : The Times , November 2008)

## 6. Announcement:

### 1st Announcement

## 10th International HCH and Pesticides Forum

07 - 09 September, 2009, Brno, Czech Republic

Venue: Hotel Continental, Kounicova 6, Brno, Czech Republic

#### THEME:

Obsolete stockpiles of pesticides in the Central European and EECCA Countries and other regions – state-of-the-art of the solution of these problems 5 years after the Stockholm Convention has come into force

#### ORGANIZERS:

- International HCH & Pesticides Association (IHPA), The Netherlands
- Ministry of Environment, Czech Republic
- RECETOX, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic
- Central and Eastern European Regional POPs Centre
- Federal Environment Agency of Germany (UBA)
- Institute of Health, Ostrava, Czech Republic
- TOCOEN, s.r.o.

#### Host Organizations:

- International HCH & Pesticides Association (IHPA), The Netherlands
- Ministry of Environment, Czech Republic
- Ministry of Agriculture, Czech Republic
- Ministry of Health, Czech Republic
- RECETOX, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic
- Central and Eastern European Regional POPs Centre
- Federal Environment Agency of Germany (UBA)

#### Sponsored by:

- Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic
- FAO - GEF funded project "Capacity building on Obsolete and POPs Pesticides in Easter European, Caucasus and Central Asia Countries (EECCA) countries
- Czech industry – under negotiations
- European Crop Protection Association (ECPA) – under negotiations
- BMU Germany - under negotiations
- Tauw Group, The Netherlands - under negotiations

#### BACKGROUND:

The aim of 10th International HCH and Pesticide Forum is to present and discuss the problems connected with a huge amount of obsolete pesticides in the regions of Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and many others around the Globe, their inventory, present amounts and elimination, which had started successfully during the previous nine Fora. This Forum is undertaken under the framework of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) five years after the Convention has come into force. Special attention will be given to solve the problems with obsolete pesticides in the Central and Eastern European region.

#### OBJECTIVES:

##### The Forum objectives are:

- To review of past and ongoing activities in the field of obsolete pesticides problems in Central European and EECCA Countries, Africa, Asia and South America – what has happened during the last twenty years ?
- What has been realized from the 9th Forum recommendations ?
- To discuss the national and regional strategies, action plans and financial resources for elimination of the obsolete pesticides – from discussion to action
- To review and exchange technologies and experiences for inventory, risk assessment, environmental impact assessment of central stores, environmentally sound management, storage and destruction of obsolete pesticides and contaminated soils
- Awareness raising of the obsolete pesticides problems globally, regionally, nationally, locally;

## **APPROACH:**

**The preliminary programme of the 10th Forum includes three days discussions and one day field trip on the 10th of September.**

Special workshops on (preliminary version):

- Progress in the FAO-GEF Regional project on "Capacity building on Obsolete and POPs Pesticides in nine Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian (EECCA) countries"
- Status of UNEP-GEF Regional Project: "Demonstrating and Scaling Up Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for the control of vector borne diseases in Southern Caucasus and Central Asia"
- Monitoring of obsolete pesticides and harmonization of investigation methods, risk assessment strategies for different pathways and exchange of data
- MONET network for monitoring of persistent organic pollutants in ambient air in the Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa
- Progress of technological solutions in the field: "incineration and alternative technologies"
- Non-technological issues: Organizational, legal, and communication aspects of clean-ups

### **National Organizing Committee**

Prof. Dr. Ivan Holoubek, RECETOX, MU, Brno (Chair)  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jana Klánová, RECETOX, MU, Brno (Co-chair)  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Luděk Bláha, RECETOX, Brno  
Dr. Pavel Čupr, RECETOX, Brno  
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Prof. Dr. Zdeněk Friedl, Chemical Faculty, Technical University Brno  
Dr. Josef Čáslavský, Chemical Faculty, Technical University Brno  
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Dr. Josef Švaříček, State Plant Protection Administration, Brno  
Dr. Jiří Drápal, State Veterinary Administration

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Prof. Dr. Ivan Holoubek (Co-chair), Czech Republic  
Dr. Karel Bláha, Deputy Minister, MoE CR  
Dr. Michael Vit, Deputy Minister, MoH CR  
Representative of the Czech MoA  
Prof. Dr. Dr. Konstantin Tertytze, Federal Environment Agency, Germany  
Mr. Paul Whyllie, SSC  
MSc. Mark Davis, FAO  
Mr. Mohamed Eisa, UNIDO  
Prof. Dr. Stanislav Miertuš, ICS UNIDO  
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## **PARTICIPANTS:**

**Representatives of scientific communities, governmental administration, NGO's and business associations from Central European and EECCACountries, and international organizations with experience on obsolete pesticides.**

Participants are invited to submit short abstracts of their oral or poster presentations (1 page) in English and to take part in the discussions both in plenary sessions and/or in the working groups.

The Forum book of abstracts will be printed in English before the Forum. The Forum Book, containing the full papers of the communications, will be printed in English after the Forum. The Forum Book and resulting documents will be also published after the Forum on the IHPA site.

### **Languages:**

English

## **REGISTRATION FORM:**

Registration will be managed electronically via the RECETOX web site <http://recetox.muni.cz/index-en.php>. Electronic registration will be opened on 01 December 2008

## 7. Good news and bad news

The good news is that pace at which Americans and Europeans are getting cancer has started to decline, marking what could be a long-awaited turning point in the battle against the disease, according to an annual report that tracks progress in the war on cancer. Has this anything to do with banning POPs even before the SC or is it a coincidence?

The bad news is that according WHO cancer in developing countries is on the increase and the main culprit is tobacco.

## 8. Pesticides exposure boosts Parkinson's disease by 60%.

New study has provided one of the strongest links yet between pesticide use and Parkinson's disease. A team of researchers from Duke university, Miami University, and Udall Parkinson's Disease Research Centre found that people exposed to pesticides were substantially more likely to develop Parkinson's disease than closely related people who did not use so many pesticides. The pesticides with the strongest connection to Parkinson's disease were insecticides and herbicides. Surprisingly home and garden exposure were more strongly linked increased risk than occupational use.

(source: *The Guardian*, November 27, 2008 Nigeria.)

## 9. Dioxin scare in Ireland

Consumers and retailers have been advised to destroy all Irish pork products bought within the past two months over fears they have been contaminated with a toxic substance. The action was taken after dioxins were found in slaughtered pigs thought to have eaten contaminated feed. BBC link video <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/world/europe>>

## 10. Season's Greetings :

The Editors wish all the readers Season's Greetings and a very Happy and Prosperous New year. We also wish them to overcome the financial crisis and come out to face the New year with a greater hope and a better future.

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