

Obsolete Pesticides in EECCA countries

Mismanagement and accumulation of obsolete pesticides and POPs pose a threat to health and environment locally, regionally and globally.

It is very difficult to assess the real extent of the obsolete pesticides problem as only a limited number of field investigations have been carried out. However, it is estimated that **over 500 000 tonnes of OPs and POPs contaminate the environment worldwide.**

Obsolete pesticides (OPs) are found mainly in three forms:

1. Stocks in and around former storages (spread over tens of thousands of locations) varying from several kilos to tens or hundreds of tonnes;
2. Stocks at collection points in the former Soviet Union, the so-called polygons or burial sites. These are special landfills designed for the controlled storage of outdated pesticides and other hazardous waste. Polygons - in the sheer nature of the concept - comprise a limited number of very large sites, often in combination with other hazardous waste;
3. Waste originating from the production of pesticides; the main component is HCH (hexachlorocyclohexane) waste stemming from the production of Lindane. HCH waste is distributed on a limited number of sites with large amounts of waste up to sometimes more than hundred(s) thousands of tons.

Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention requires countries party to the Convention to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of OPs and POPs into the environment.

The project **Capacity Building on Obsolete and POPs Pesticides in Eastern European Caucasus and Central Asian countries** will support 9 countries to implement such measures.

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