

Attachment 5

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

E/ESCAP/AD.4/10
5 November 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Agricultural Development

Fourth session
12-18 January 1982
Bangkok

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES
CONCERNING INCREASED SUPPLIES OF
AGRICULTURAL REQUISITES

(Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda)

ARSAP/2/AGRO-PESTICIDES ACTIVITIES

Note by the secretariat

1. In its early years since 1975 the agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific (ARSAP) concentrated exclusively on fertilizer studies. In August 1978, the fertilizer component was taken over by the Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP), and ARSAP entered its second phase on agro-pesticides with a nucleus staff (ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides). Only after new international staff joined from February 1979 onwards could its operations gain momentum. The staffing situation is as shown. The project in its totality is funded by the Government of the Netherlands.

<u>Field</u>	<u>Approved positions</u> <u>Employment</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Team leader*	August 1979-May 1980	9 months
Plant protection expert	February 1979-February 1982	3 years**
Marketing economist associate expert	March 1979-August 1981	2½ years
Plant protection expert	November 1979-November 1981	2 years
Agricultural economist associate expert	August 1980-August 1982	2 years

* The team leader served FADINAP and ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides at the same time.

** An extension of the contract of the senior plant protection expert until August 1982 is expected to be approved (duration 3½ years).

2. Since the departure of the ARSAP/FADINAP team leader in May 1980, the ARSAP team has managed its work programme with the senior officer in charge.

3. The two main components of the ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides programme concern:

(a) A pesticide management training programme aimed at retail level agro-pesticides distributors within the ESCAP region. The long-term objective of this training programme is to professionalize the retail-level agro-pesticides distributors with special reference to the safe handling and effective use of agro-pesticide. These distributors are recognized by ARSAP as being an important communication channel to pass on information about proper handling of agro-pesticides to the farmer.

4. To carry out long-term and systematic national training of various categories of pesticides distributors at the retail level, a national training capacity in the form of mobile teams of national instructors needs to be developed. Such teams would have to carry out short (three to five days) but intensive training courses at the district level in the respective national language. Therefore, a two-step approach has been adopted. In participating countries of the ESCAP region, ARSAP has undertaken the training of national instructors in training planning workshops of two weeks' duration. The workshops are aimed at defining precise training objectives and developing a national training course consisting of a lesson plan, a training manual and supporting training aids in accordance with national needs and conditions. In the second phase, the national counterpart agency in the programme is to implement the training of retailers by the designated instructor teams.

5. More specifically, the direct objectives of these workshops are:

- To increase the ability of the participants in planning, preparing organizing and conducting a training course on pest and pesticide management for agro-pesticides retail distributors;

- To produce together with the participants a lesson plan, training manual and teaching aids for the follow-up training courses as mentioned above,

- To increase the knowledge of the participants of relevant technical matters such as plant protection, integrated pest management and the safe and effective use of agro-pesticides.

(b) The establishment of a regional economic survey and information service on the supply, distribution and use of agro-pesticides, whose purpose is to assess the present situation and the magnitude of possible deficiencies. The information was collected at the source in 13 countries, since in almost none of the countries was it readily available. The information collected was analysed by APSAP and the findings are disseminated through:

- Publication of Agro-Chemicals News in Brief (joint bulletin with FADINAP);

- Production of country reports;

- Production of a regional comparative study on the supply, distribution and use of agro-pesticides.

6. This kind of information is of paramount importance for proper policy formulation in the field of agro-pesticides by the Governments of the participating countries as well as by international development organizations and private industry. In particular, the regional comparative study will enable Governments of the developing countries in the ESCAP region to assess the agro-pesticides situation in their own countries by comparing it with the situation in other countries in the region and as a result enable them to formulate policies to rectify or improve the situation.

7. In connexion with preparations for the implementation of the regional programme of retail-level distributors in pesticide management, the APSAP team has contacted 13 countries of the ESCAP region.

8. Since October 1979, the preparations undertaken during that year towards the actual implementation of the work programme have yielded an ongoing flow of activities during 1980 and 1981.

9. The regional programme for training of retail-level distributors in pesticide management was undertaken. Under this programme, eight training planning workshops have been conducted in co-operation with the Governments of Bangladesh, Burma, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The next ARSAP training planning workshop will probably be held in the Pacific region, in Fiji During March 1982. Approximately 250 participants have undergone training as prospective instructors for agro-pesticides retailers. Each workshop has produced a lesson plan and teaching manual which are translated into the respective national languages and distributed during the retailer courses.

10. Valuable consultancy services to the preparation of the training programme were rendered by the Ministry of the Environment of Canada for two months, by FAO headquarters for two weeks and by the UNDP programme for development training and communication planning (DTCP) at Bangkok. DTCP developed the training methodology for the workshop programme and directed two early workshops. At three later workshops, support was given by the training supervisor of the Centre for Overseas Pest Research, London, with funding from the Overseas Development Administration.

11. Most of the information needed for the regional comparative study has now been obtained by the ARSAP team. Since September 1980, country studies have been published for Afghanistan, Burma, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

12. In September 1981, the first draft of the comparative study on supply, distribution and use of agro-pesticides in the ESCAP region was completed on the basis of updated information from 13 countries.

13. The main theme of the study (which consists of approximately 200 pages) is "Pesticide management at the government level".

14. This concept, developed by ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides, could be summarized as:

"Agro-pesticides are, at present, an indispensable tool in agriculture. If a Government aspires to attain high productivity (yields), it should make agro-pesticides available to all farmers at reasonable prices, at the right time and place. However, such a proliferation of highly hazardous products could lead to most serious damage to people and the environment. How to achieve a balance between these two conflicting considerations is the field of pesticide management at the government level".

15. The study describes in detail the status of pesticide management in 13 developing countries of the region. It covers aspects such as pesticides usage levels, product range marketed, status of the local pesticide industry, pesticide laws and regulations, distribution structure, prices at the farm level, subsidy schemes etc.

16. It is expected that the multidisciplinary approach will lead to a better understanding of the complexity of pesticide management, by indicating many areas in which further (meaningful) assistance should be given to developing countries in the ESCAP region.

17. The current ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides project will be terminated by mid-1982. By the end of 1981, the major event for ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides at Bangkok will be the ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides Regional Consultative and Evaluation Meeting, scheduled to be held from 30 November to 3 December 1981. During this Meeting the past activities of ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides will be discussed and evaluated. Recommendations will be made for future assistance by the United Nations to the developing countries in the ESCAP region in the field of pesticide management. The report of this Meeting will be before the Committee at its fourth session.

18. For the Regional Consultative and Evaluation Meeting about 24 representatives of the developing countries in the ESCAP region have been invited in their personal capacity on the basis of their involvement with the activities of ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides. Invitations have also been extended to representatives of international development organizations active in the field of pesticide management, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Centre for Overseas Pest Research of the United Kingdom.

19. Representatives of the main donor agency, the Directorate General for International Cooperation in the Netherlands, and others have been invited.

20. The response to the work of ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides has established beyond any doubt that the field of pesticide management is of crucial importance. The developing countries in the ESCAP region have voiced their appreciation of the ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticide programme on many occasions such as the thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions of the Commission.

21. An internal evaluation commissioned by the ESCAP secretariat in 1981 has evaluated ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides as an efficient project whose fundamental importance and impact justify continued support.

22. Until August 1982, the following outstanding issues will be concluded and will terminate the ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticide project:

- Publication of ARSAP's handbook for instructors on pesticide management;
- Finalization of the regional comparative study (updated version);
- Editing lesson plan and training manual for Pakistan and Fiji;
- Training planning workshop for instructors of agro-pesticides retailers in the Pacific region, Fiji (under discussion);
- Analysis and finalization of the study of the agro-pesticides retailers based on an interview survey carried out in six ESCAP member countries;
- Mission to the Philippines or Burma to evaluate the implementation of actual retailer training;
- Follow-up on special requests by the participants in the Regional Evaluation and Consultative Meeting (e.g., assistance in implementation of local training);
- Handing over of ARSAP's programme elements to UNIDO/FAO and/or transition into the ARSAP/3/Pesticide Management project;
- Administrative and financial termination of ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides.

23. Taking into account the activities and achievements of the ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticide project, the Committee may wish to consider the recommendations of the ARSAP/2/Agro-pesticides Regional Consultative and Evaluation Meeting, with specific reference to possible follow-up activities in the field of agro-pesticide management in the developing countries of the ESCAP region.

.