

**Contribution to Thematic Workshop on Governance, Civil Society
Participation and Strengthening Partnerships for Chemicals and Waste
Management and SAICM Implementation**

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Introduction

Chad is not an industrialized country and the main origin of chemical products came from others countries. Due to the weakness of control systems between Chad and his neighbours, some hundred thousands tons of chemical substances enter into Chad every year. Those substances cause damage to human health alter the environment because their use is not suitable. To arise challenge faced, Government with the financial support from donors agencies has adopted some measures to promote sound management of toxic substances.

Major crops pest problems and pesticides use patterns in Chad

A wide range of crops are cultivated in Chad, determined mainly by the climate in the agro-ecological zones; Cereals cultivated include: maize, sorghum, millet, wheat, cowpea and groundnuts and rice. Cotton is grown on a large scale. Others crops grown include a variety of vegetables, and fruits such as mangoes, bananas, citrus and guava. Apart from cotton, maize and wheat that are grown on large commercial holdings, all the other crops are cultivated by small holder farmers for the domestic market

Pests and diseases attack are widespread on cereal, cowpea and vegetables which suffer heavy crops losses. The main method of pest control is the application of chemical pesticide. For example SODELAC only uses Malathion and Propoxur for the control of pests while aerial and ground spraying with pesticides are used against migratory pests. Every year, the Ministry of Agriculture allocates funds to the Directorate of Plant Protection (DPVC) to purchase pesticides for free distribution to the farmers Groups in the villages. Recent allocations for pesticides purchase amount 85 millions FcFa in year 2000, and 110 millions in 2001. Chemical application is done by members of the Brigades Villages Phytosanitaires for farmers. . Chad is also subjected to invasion by migratory pests namely locust, grain eating birds and armyworms, as well as the parasitic weed striga

Status of toxic substances management in Chad

Pesticides and others toxic substances have been used in Chad for more than 100 yr ago. Farmers in contact with chemical products have neither received a formation in this way nor been sensibilised on the risks and danger potentials. So, many people died every year by injection of some unknown substances.

Recently there is grown awareness that using toxic substances in agriculture, livestock, domestic, industrial companies, including pesticides may harm environment and endanger human health.

Chad is a member of the CILSS Sahelian Committee on Pesticides and has adopted the harmonized regulations for the distribution and use of pesticides. Out of 125 pesticides formulations approved by the Sahelian Committee for the period of 1994-2000. Chad has selected 42 formulations for use in the country. Chad benefited from the activities of the CILSS integrated pest management project which successfully promoted IPM in the Sahel. In addition number of donor supported projects have been completed including GTZ funded project, USAID project (1980-1982); FAO project CHD 88/001 and the UNDP/FAO project supported by the Dutch Government (1990-1995). Recently, the African Development Bank approved an African Emergency Locust Project to be implemented by Directorate of Plant Protection (DPVC). In addition, the Government has issued a number of legislation and decrees for phytosanitary control, plant protection, integrated pest management, as well as the institutional framework and for the regulation of the distribution and use of pesticides.

Ministry of Environment and Water of Chad acted by N°087/MEE/DG/2002 the chemical substances Focal Point for sound management of various chemical products used in many sectors of activities. This Focal Point is currently helped by the Monitoring and Assessment National Committee set up in this way. This National Committee is represented by a panel of 21 members from public and private sectors, ONG, Civil Associations, academia institutions, parliament, labour groups, etc. The National Committee acts as an inter-ministerial Team which coordinates all activities carried out elsewhere in the country related to sound chemical substances management. Chad has established his National Profile (NP) in 2002. The NP aims to give more information on the chemical substances management in the country. In 2005, this NP is to be revised to contain some new data collected. An Integrated National Program for sound management of toxic substances and wastes has been set out with three others countries (Armenia, Jamaica and Jordania). Chad received financial support from UNITAR to establish this program which contents six (6) Actions Plan of which two (2) are implementing now. Chad has benefited financial and technical resources from UNEP to establish a Web site for chemical substances and wastes management. The main goals of this site are to share information among others actors representatives government, academic institutions, industry, environmental non-governmental organizations (ONG), civil society, concerned with chemical substances management. The address of the Web site is: http://jp1.estis.net/sites/cien_td/.

It should be notified that information on the use and effects of these chemical substances are missing if not very limited and scarce.

In 2004, Chad conducted a national preliminary inventory on the chemical substances and the contaminated sites at the country level. The data collected and gathered during this first inventory showed a high level of pesticides consumed yearly in the country particularly those belong to groups of pyrethrinoides, carbamates and organo-phosphorus. Some are considered to be POPs : Dieldrin, DDT, Aldrin, Eldrin and HCH. More than twenty sites are contaminated and present risks and danger for human health and the environment.

Faced this situation it should be necessary to undertake processes leading to the decontamination of these sites. In others localities, there is some stock of perished pesticides and others chemical products to be removal. We are looking for the best manner to treat these stocks. So, the assistance of partnerships is needed and very welcomed in Chad.

National organisations concerned with the chemical products sound management

In Chad, there are some industrial societies in which chemical products are used in the manner that they caused risks to human health and damage to the environment. La Société Tchadienne d'Eau et d'Electricité (STEE) in which fresh water is cleaned by adding some chloride substance before giving to people living N'Djamena city. This fresh water is pumping from Logone and Chari Rivers. The Sugar Company of Chad (la Compagnie Sucrière du Tchad, CST) use some chemical substances during the raffining processes of sugar. Cotton Chad (la Coton Tchad) uses some pesticides during the cotton grow and during the industrial activities. The Laboratory of Veterinaries and Zootechnical Researches (LRVZ) prepares some vaccines to overcome some cattle diseases. Les Manufactures de Cigarettes du Tchad (MCT) uses also some chemical substances during cigarettes transformation. TOURA CHEMICAL Plus is a new enterprise setting up to transformer and clean water to domestic uses. PROMOVET, APROVET dealing with chemicals products to control pest on the livestock, etc.

Workers in contact with chemical substances are daily exposed to the risks and dangers because they have not received some information on the chemical products management. So, the establishment of training programs and its implementation are welcomed.

There are also some small enterprises and private societies are involved in the cycle of importation, distribution and keeping of chemical substances across the country as like as the Commerce General BOLONKOU International Chemical, Vitagri, Saher Vert, etc. These enterprises give advice to the people on how to use the chemical substances. In the market, there are many small sellers of chemical products without accreditation. Then fore people are currently exposed to the risks and dangers of these chemical products.

Some associations of the civile society are set up to protect human health and the environment. The Association for Defence of Consumers is working hard in this way. But the capacities building is needed for these organisations to improve chemical management in Chad. The capacities will bed built on the partnerships development between actors involved.

Overview of Chad applicable environmental policies and procedures

The Ministry of Environment and Water is the Focal Point of the Government for all issues relating to the environment and the Law N° 14/PR/98 acts as the environmental Code, defining the general principles for environmental protection and sustainable management. There are others laws relating to the environment, namely, the Law N° 016/PR/99 which is the water Code; the Mining Code, the Forestry Code. Chad has adopted Agenda 21, then signed and ratified the Conventions dealing with chemical substances management as well as Stockholm Convention on POPs, Rotterdam Convention, Basel Convention, Bamako Convention.

Therefore, all development projects would be subjected to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which would be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Water for approval. The sub project EIA's would be the instrument through which the project environmental impacts are identified and assessed. The EIA's would also evaluate alternatives and design appropriate mitigation, management and monitoring measures.