

Designing And Implementing Effective Chemical Management Partnership Projects Through Collaboration Of Government, Industry, Public Interest And Labour Organizations

**By Senyonjo Nicholas and Christine Nabulime
Uganda Environmental Education Foundation (UEEF)**

TOPIC: INTERGRATED MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Chemicals can be grouped into two namely Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Persistent Toxic Substances. Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are organic compounds that to a varying degree resist photolytic, biological and chemical degradation. Examples of POPs include Dioxins, DDT, Furans and Toxaphene.

Dioxins show very low solubility in water especially the ones that are highly chlorinated. Dioxins are found primarily in soils, sludge and sediments that is the reason as to why there are Eco toxic that is if released they present immediate or delayed adverse impact to the environment by means of bio-accumulation. That is why the above mentioned chemicals are of more concern because they generate through the wastes that are generated from the production process on which mankind survives.

Integrated management of chemicals will include cost effective solutions, educating the public at a broader level about the chemicals because through that management the people will be able to learn the best methods of management.

More still with the use of the collaborative approach there has to be a strategy that will cater for all stakeholders in the management of these chemicals. These include the different governments, industries producing the chemicals, the public and the different labour organisations.

A CASE STUDY IN UGANDA

Uganda is one of the countries trying to reach for development through industrization. In its efforts to industrialise the production of these chemicals through the production process has been inevitable. The products produced are however essential in our day today lives thus banning of these products may not be easy. Several industries such as Leather Tanning industries in Jinja produces arsenic which when taken in trace amounts may kill people. Other industries include Mukwano and Kampala pharmaceuticals.

The wastes produced by those industries which contain the chemicals have been managed but not to the level that is satisfactory.. management of these wastes is done through waste insenarators like Municipal waste incinerators which are operated by Kampala City Council and in hospitals like Mulago and Rubaga.

Incineration of these wastes has a danger to the health like cause of neurodevelopment, reduced height among girls at puberty and hearing loss due to the dioxins produced in trace amounts. (IPEN 2005).

Due to the above that is why there has been need for the integrated management using a collaborative measures as listed below;

- ★ Promotion of intersectoral and multi-disciplinary approaches in the control and monitoring of toxic generation, importation and the general management of toxic wastes. For example the Uganda Bureau of Standards working together with the Uganda Revenue Authority and the National Environment Authority (NEMA).
- ★ Strengthen capacity, information sharing opportunities and Networking among Civil Society Organisation, Labour Organisation will make an integrated management in a way that CSOs will engage and lobby with the government for effective participation and implementation of the National Implementation plan against the control of these chemicals.
- ★ Demonstration project can be of great use with the input of all stakeholders as a collaborative approach in integrated management in a way that this project will reflect the contribution and elimination of the chemicals from the related surroundings. An example can be of an alternative to incineration and land filling.

Challenges however are faced in the integrated management through a collaborative approach and these include

- Influence due to political interest
- Corruption and lack expects to carryout the demonstration
- Inadequate knowledge on the danger of chemicals thus it might limit the different labourers in the industries who are affect by the problems due to the chemicals

Conclusion

Development and industrialisation in general must continue because they do sustain livelihoods. However, the concern should be on how to derive maximum economic benefits and minimise environmental costs due to the chemicals from the production process

To do an effective job it will take a concerted attack on atleast three fronts

- We need to find ways not to generate too many toxic wastes.
- We need to find new and create ways to use our wastes for the good of our selves and of the biosphere.

In general to create a favourable environment for our selves and those to come in future

REFERENCES

1. Regulation of Dangerous Pesticides in Uganda (Timothy Byakola & Samuel Kabuye)
2. After Incineration the Toxic Ash Problem.(Jindrich Petrlik, Ms Ralph Anthony Ryder