



नेपाल जनस्वास्थ्य प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Public Health Foundation

National Conference on Pesticide and Health

Multisector Partnership for Healthy Farming~ Healthy People through reduction of Pesticide Use



Jan 9-10, 2020

Organized by
Nepal Public Health Foundation
in Collaboration with
ICOEPH/ DASAM/Dialogos

About Nepal Public Health Foundation

Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) is an independent, autonomous, non-political and non-profitable organization established in April 2010 AD by a group of public health experts and activists with a mission to have concerted public health action, research, and policy dialogue for health development, particularly of the socio-economically marginalized population and with a goal to ensure civil society's pro-active intervention in public health. NPHF aims to prioritize public health action and research areas; facilitate interventions in collaboration with national and international partnerships with special emphasis to build community capacity for healthcare.

NPHF is committed to strengthening health system generating quality evidences for policy formulation process through high quality research. Health policy and system research, social determinants of health, nutrition, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health are its major focus areas. Since its inception, NPHF has taken initiatives to advocate the relevant public health issues at national and regional level. Besides it has established good linkages with academic institutions, civil society and different non-government organizations.

About Farming Health and Environment Project (FHEN)

After the successful completion of first phase of Farming, Health and Environment Nepal Project (FHEN), Phase-II was launched in September 2017 in Chitwan district. FHEN is one of the projects of Nepal Public Health Foundation aimed to improve the health of farmers and consumers by promoting a healthy and sustainable food production in Nepal with a focus on Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

This project has been developed to address the growing problems of irrational use of pesticides in farming. Core target groups are local farmers, pesticide retailers, pesticide sprayers, school teachers, health workers and community people (consumers). One of the major activities of the project is to train local farmers on IPM with practical exercises based on Farmers' Field School concept, onsite coaching and equipment support. Health workers and Female Community Health volunteers are also trained for their capacity enhancement to prevent and manage pesticide poisoning in the community. Awareness of pesticides to the community is spread through schools as well. Besides, we also advocate this issue at the district and national levels through workshops and by writing scientific articles and disseminating information through local and national media.

Project Objectives

- To prevent occupational pesticide poisonings among farmers pesticide spray workers and pesticide retailers by strengthening their knowledge, attitude and practice on IPM and organic alternatives to pesticides.
- To prevent pesticide poisonings including those due to self-harm and accidents by increasing awareness in the villages among the health care workers about treatment and prevention.
- To facilitate advocacy to reduce pesticide poisonings and pollution by dissemination of knowledge, strategies and materials developed in the project at district and national levels.

Nepal Public Health Foundation

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INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE

Widespread use of chemical pesticides is a public health problem in many of the low-income countries including Nepal. The issue, though well recognized by stakeholders, has largely remained in a no-man's land in lack of multisectoral efforts to tackle it. Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) through its CISU-funded project – Farming, Health, and Environment, Nepal (FHEN) – has been working on this multisectoral interface for more than five years. Specifically, it has brought the issue in surface of rational use of pesticides from a public health perspective and pioneered the interventions targeted at multisectoral stakeholders: agriculture and the market force around it, health, education, policy-makers, and consumers.

The **National Conference on Pesticide and Health**, with the theme *Multisectoral Partnership for Healthy farming – Healthy People through reduction of pesticide use* is an attempt of the Foundation to provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss and develop integrated plans to ensure better public health through rational use of pesticides in farming. Indeed, this shall be a unique platform where stakeholders from the various sectors – and of all levels (federal, provincial, local) - come together to discourse on the important issue – by sharing their knowledge and experiences.

The conference has designed in such a way that the issue of pesticides shall be first raised during the pre-conference plenary session on issues, relevance and context of periods. The conference will be inaugurated by Honorable Agriculture and Livestock Development Minister. On the following day, we begin by learning about burden and impacts of pesticides (session I), followed by efforts that have addressed the issue (session II), and advocacy and policy-level attempts and concerns (session III). A closing session shall reflect on the learnings of the one and half days, and contemplate on the way forward.

OBJECTIVE

To disseminate national and international evidences of public health impacts and multisector responses towards the issue of pesticide use in agriculture farming.

SCHEDULE

Pre- Conference Day, January 09, 2020

14:00 to 15:30 Registration

Pre-conference Plenary session: Pesticide use: issue, relevance and context (14:00 to 15:30)

Chair: Dr. Badri R Pande

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Sharad Onta

Keynote talk:

“Why do we need to talk about organic farming?”

Mr. Krishna Poudel, Organic Farming Activist

Panelists:

- Prof. Dr. Abhinav Vaidya, Project Coordinator, FHEN/NPHF
- Mr. Chandra Prasad Adhikari, Organic Movement Activist, Chitwan
- Dr. Khurshid Alam Hayder, World Health Organization Country Office Nepal
- Mr. Mahendra Prasad Shrestha, MoHP
- Mr. Parshuram Adhikari, Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Centre, MoALD

15:30 to 15:45 Break

INAUGURAL SESSION (15:45 to 17:00)

Welcome remarks: Dr. Mahesh Maskey

Chair: Dr. Rita Thapa, Chairman, NPHF

Chief Guest: Honorable Minister Mr. Ghanshyam Bhusal, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

Special Guest: Dr. Usha Jha, Honorable Member, National Planning Commission

Guests:

- Honorable Dr. Ram Kumar Adhikari, Member of Parliament, Province 3
- Mr. Khagaraj Baral, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population
- Mr. Krishna Kumar Dallakoti, Chief, District Coordination Committee, Chitwan
- Mr. Khum Narayan Shrestha, Mayor, Kalika Municipality, Chitwan
- **Vote of thanks:** Prof. Dr. Sharad Onta

Reception Dinner: 17:00 onwards

Conference Day, January 10, 2020

Scientific session I: Pesticide use and its effects (09:00 to 10:45)

Co-chairs: Dr. Megnath Dhimal, Prof. Dr. Sunil K Joshi

- Situation analysis of pesticide use and health effects in Chitwan district: Ms. Simrin Kafle, FHEN/NPHF (15 min)
- Nexus between Climate Change and Pesticides: Mr. Ram Charitra Sah, CEPHEd (15 min)
- Pesticide-related suicide in Nepal: Dr. Rakesh Ghimire, Principal Investigator, HOPE-GRID (15 min)
- Association of Pesticide exposure and Pregnancy Outcome: Ms. Prakriti Sharma, Project Officer, NPHF (15 min)
- Human bio-monitoring of pesticide exposures in South Asia: Lindsay Jaacks, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health (15 min)
- Discussion (30 min)

Break (10:45 to 11:00)

Scientific session II: Multisector responses to minimize pesticide use (11:00 to 12:20)

Co-chairs: Prof. Dr. Bandana Pradhan, Mr. Shri Krishna Upadhyaya,

- Interventions in Farming sector of Chitwan - The FHEN experience: Mr. Sunil Dulal, Senior Agriculture Officer, FHEN/NPHF (15 min)
- Pilot educational intervention to promote safe pesticide use practices among farmworkers in Nepal: Mr. Pramesh Koju, Dhulikhel Hospital (15 min)
- Pesticide reduction - experience of small farmers association: Ms. Meena Pokhrel (15 min)
- Addressing the issue of pesticides in the health and education sectors: the FHEN example: Ms. Simrin Kafle, Dr. Abhinav Vaidya, Ms. Usha Neupane, FHEN/NPHF (15 min)
- Discussion (20 min)

Scientific session III: Advocacy and Policy Implications for Health (13:20 to 15:00)

Co-Chairs: Dr. Yubaraj Sangraula, Dr. Dilli Ram Sharma,

- Need of Advocacy for pesticides: Prof. Dr. Sharad Onta, NPHF (20 min)
- Policy issues in pesticides in Nepal: Mr. Parasuram Adhikari, Chief, Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Centre (20 min)
- Pesticide Act and Consumers' perspectives: Mr. Jyoti Baniya, Advocate, Supreme Court of Nepal (20 min)
- Advocacy process: an experience from Chitwan: Mr. Krishna Kumar Dallakoti, Chief, DDC Chitwan; Ms. Simrin Kafle, FHEN/NPHF; and Mr. Rajan Dhakal, Chief Krishi Gyan Kendra, Chitwan (20 min)
- Discussion (20 min)

Closing session (15:00 to 15:30)

Chairman: Dr. Mahesh Maskey

Summary of sessions

Way forward

Vote of thanks: Prof. Dr. Sharad Onta

Closing Tea (15:30 onwards)