

STATUS REPORT
Environmentally Sound Management of Obsolete Pesticides Stockpiles
in the Russian Federation
September, 2014
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(1) Work accomplished since last ACAP WG in Tromso, February 2014

Inventories

The ACAP inventory activities were formally finished in 2013. However, the PSG worked to have FAO obsolete pesticides project to complete the activities in the remaining districts of Krasnoyarsk Krai. However, eventually it was not possible for the FAO to fund activities in Krasnoyarsk Krai because agreement with the administration was not reached. Currently there are no plans or resources to continue inventories.

The PSG also found out that in Komi Republic, after the ACAP activities, 15 tonnes of obsolete pesticides was found from separate locations. These pesticides have been disposed of at Krasnyi Bor landfill near St Petersburg in 2013 on the expense of the Republic. The disposal costs were 1,8 million RUR.

Demonstration of environmentally sound destruction of 100 tonnes of OP

No progress. Due to the FAO project not reaching an agreement on funding the activities in Krasnoyarsk, the cooperation with the local high temperature incineration company “Ekoresurs” was discontinued.

Other activities

The project has continued seeking possibilities to develop terms of reference for demonstration project to clean up a pesticides and mercury contaminated site, located in Ust-Tunguska (Krasnoyarsk) near a river leading to the Arctic Ocean. The project was initially intended to be implemented in co-operation with EC/FAO project which, however, failed to reach a contract with Krasnoyarsk Krai administration on funding activities. The Krai administration preferred to cooperate with ACAP instead, but channeling the EC/FAO-resources for activities was not possible without a direct agreement between FAO and Krai. Therefore, the funding base and implementing organisations need to be reconsidered. Initial discussions with Blacksmith Institute on carrying out a Rapid Environmental Assessment with project funds to estimate the levels and scale of contamination have taken place.

The PSG will have its next meeting in September, 2014.

(2) Funding expenditures in 2014

Since the last ACAP WG meeting Tromso, no expenditures.

(3) Main findings

No progress.

(4) Deliverables to Ministerial Meeting in 2015

There is a possibility that the demonstration project on the clean-up of Ust-Tunguska (background study) would be initiated in fall 2014, but it is unlikely that the project would be fully finished by the Ministerial Meeting in April 2015 in case remediation action is needed. The project funding is mostly foreseen to come from participating countries and PSI.

Whether Phase III Demonstration of destruction will be finished, will depend on:

- (a) availability of destruction technology in Russia – no progress;
- (b) availability of funding. The project is likely to seek PSI funding.

(5) Next Steps of the Project

1. Prepare terms of reference for Rapid Environmental Assessment and potentially a clean-up of Ust-Tunguska (Krasnoyarsk) burial site, where a pesticide storage had been accidentally destroyed in fire 15 years ago. The pesticides, reportedly i.a. DDT and mercury containing Granosan, were buried underground on-site. The site had served as a pasture, and there had been reports of animal poisoning incidents. The clean up demonstration could serve as a capacity building material for the Stockholm/Basel Convention Regional Centre (CIP) for similar POP/mercury contaminated sites in EECCA countries. Pending the decision of the Steering Group and approval from ACAP the project could seek funding from PSI and endeavour to begin implementing the activity in 2014.
2. Continue identifying destruction possibilities in Russia.
3. Continue identifying possibilities for obsolete pesticides export in case there will be no environmentally sound capacity in Russia.
4. Seek cooperation with ACAP PCB PSG on destruction.

