



Sustainability organizations call for a global reduction and phase-out of Highly Hazardous Pesticides

In order to tackle the intertwined crises of climate change, spiralling biodiversity loss, and systemic rural poverty and human rights abuses, a profound transformation of our global agricultural and food system is urgently needed—including minimising the use of agrochemicals. We, the undersigned sustainability organizations, believe that this crucial transition for people and the planet should start with reducing and phasing out the use of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs).

In 2016, nine [ISEAL members](#) came together to form the [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) Coalition](#). The coalition's goal is to reduce and eliminate the use of HHPs, and to promote IPM and other less toxic alternatives. Approaches to restrict certain pesticides differ between coalition members considering the diversity of crops, contexts in which we work, and the diverse focus of our organisations. However, we also intend to collaborate on projects to find more sound and innovative alternatives to the use of HHPs.

Many pesticides are extremely harmful to people and the environment, yet they are still commonly used due to a lack of knowledge about their negative effects or alternative ways of managing pests. Our respective organisations operate in global agricultural value chains. In total there are over 7 million farmers in our programs producing crops including cotton, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, tea, and many more on over 13 million hectares of land. As a coalition we work with these farmers towards reducing and phasing out the use of HHPs. Members use a variety of approaches to eliminate, reduce and phase out the use of certain pesticides, with some organisations providing participatory trainings on alternative pest control methods.

Our programs aim to make a significant contribution to the reduction of global HHP use, while supporting our partner farming communities to run productive and profitable farms. But much more needs to be done. We call on all governments and companies in agricultural supply chains to support us in this effort and contribute to a global phase out of HHPs by:

- Committing to the global phase-out of HHPs through coordinated and time-bound actions.
- Support agriculture producers in their efforts to transition to sustainable agriculture practices such as agroecology and IPM, aimed at minimizing or excluding hazardous pesticide use by providing enabling policy frameworks and funding.
- Invest in research and innovation to develop and promote safer alternatives to HHPs, ensuring they are affordable and accessible to farmers worldwide.
- Promote awareness, education programs, and trainings to support farmers to adopt IPM practices and make informed pest control choices.
- Collaborate with governments, industry, and civil society to prevent subsidies for HHPs, and strengthen regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to ensure an effective HHP phase-out.

We commend the UN's [Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management](#) (SAICM) for initiating the [Fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management](#) (ICCM5) as an opportunity to address chemical management in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, we welcome the emphasis placed on taking a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach to ending the dangers posed by HHPs. We also support the framing of chemical safety as a sustainability issue requiring adequate provisions for resource mobilization and formal support by the governing bodies of key intergovernmental organizations. These considerations should continue to be endorsed at the highest political levels. We support and recognise that the dangers associated with HHPs have become so serious that only a global response will meet the challenge. ●

Sustainability organisations that endorse this statement:

