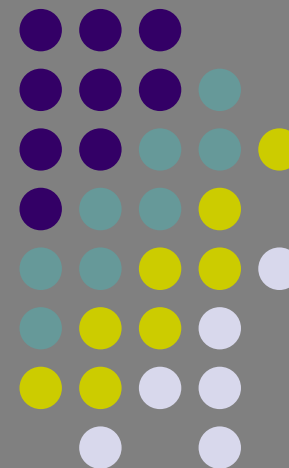


Poverty, Sustainable Development and Chemical Safety: IFCS V Conclusions and Recommendations

Annual Ramazzini Days 2006
“Globalization and North South Disparities”
28-29 October 2006
Carpi, Italy

Lilian Corra
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Poverty, Sustainable Development and Chemical Safety: IFCS V Conclusions and Recommendations



The intention of this presentation is

- Bring to academia and researchers the outcomes (conclusions and recommendations) emerging from IFCS V
- Stimulate the participation and interactions among sectors to:
 - put in practice actions,
 - change behaviour by developing original and novel strategies that,
 - allows faster integration of all sectors in the efforts pointing to “close the gap”

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And

- Learn about the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)
 - How it is an important forum for multi-stakeholders dialogue and participation
 - And an excellent tool to propose actions for a change on the sound management of chemicals



**- What is IFCS?
Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety**

*“a unique,
multi-sector mechanism to
identify priorities,
develop strategies,
and build partnerships for chemical safety”*



Action in partnerships to develop innovative solutions





All sectors (countries, international organizations, private sector and NGOs), provide the international framework and give all the stakeholders the unique opportunity to discuss in an open and transparent manner, old and new emerging main topics on chemical safety.

***Governments and all stakeholders have a responsibility
“to take action”
to reduce the sources of chemical risks
and prevent childhood exposure.***



- What does IFCS do?



What does IFCS do? Important and unique role of IFCS

- Improves collaboration and partnerships among all the stakeholders
- Develops policy guidance, strategies, and recommendations
- Sets priorities for action in an inclusive manner
- Monitors the situation and reports on progress
- Addresses new and emerging issues as they arise



What does IFCS do? Important and unique role of IFCS

- Sets agenda for actions
- Identifies gaps in scientific knowledge and stimulates research
- Fosters understanding of chemical safety issues
- Includes participation from all sectors relevant to chemical safety

September 2006, Budapest Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety



This time two major issues (among others) were addressed in the agenda of IFCS V and proposed for further action:

- **“Poverty Reduction and the Sound Management of Chemicals”**
- **“South-South Cooperation and Capacity Building for Sound Chemicals Management”**

The Sound Management of Chemicals and Poverty Reduction



- Use of chemicals is an intrinsic part of efforts to reduce poverty
- The sound management of chemicals is a fundamental component of poverty reduction strategies
- Substantial amounts of chemicals are produced and used in developing countries, as part of their efforts to achieve sustainable social and economic development

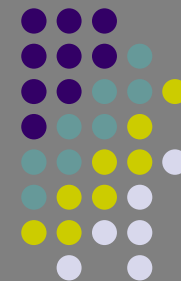
The Sound Management of Chemicals and Poverty Reduction



However,

- Many of these chemicals are potentially harmful to both human health and the environment, **requiring either the application of protective measures or the development of alternative compounds.**
- While a substantial use of chemicals is essential for social and economic development, **use of and exposure to chemicals may also threaten sustainable development through significant negative effects on health and the environment.”**

The Sound Management of Chemicals and Poverty Reduction



- **United Nations Millennium Declaration** and the associated **Millennium Development Goals** policies focus on **overarching goal of poverty reduction** and are based on other UN and governmental documents and agreements,
- **IFCS** points to the importance to:
 - **“Identify the challenges to integrate sound management of chemicals in poverty reduction efforts by stimulating actions to integrate both strategies contributing to protect health and the environment, and thus to human development, especially for the poor”.**

The Sound Management of Chemicals and Poverty Reduction



Some **challenges** to the integration of the sound management of chemicals in poverty reduction **identified by IFCS** are:

- **lack of recognition of the linkages** to chemical safety in poverty reduction indicators,
- **isolation of the different action** lines linked to chemical safety,
- **lack of identification of the potential synergies** with related areas (such as the agriculture and health sectors),
- **relatively little practical guidance or data on the economic impact** of good (or poor) chemicals management on poverty and the **little access of the poor in all societies to decision-making processes**, including those related to chemicals management.

The Sound Management of Chemicals and Poverty Reduction



IFCS worked on concrete questions to stimulate discussion among the different sectors participating on the IFCS V meeting, aiming them to work together on:

- **synergies between strategies** for poverty reduction and sound management of chemicals,
- **practical steps** to be taken,
- **knowledge and experiences between strategic planners and technical experts** in chemicals management,
- **stimulation of participation of those important sectors for sustainable development**, to make sure that social and economic goals and strategies incorporate the sound management of chemicals,

The Sound Management of Chemicals and Poverty Reduction



(Continue) IFCS worked on concrete questions to stimulate discussion among the different sectors participating on the IFCS V meeting, aiming them to work together on:

- **practical measures and tools** to help chemicals management experts to contribute to general policies and strategies and to provide sound analysis of aspects of chemicals management,
- **tools or standard procedures** to make sure that the potential positive and negative impacts of chemicals on poverty reduction efforts in a given country are identified,
- topics addressed to the NGOs on how can the **role of individuals and their representatives** in the development of chemicals infrastructure and the management of chemicals be strengthened.

The Sound Management of Chemicals and Poverty Reduction



- ## Meeting Summary

Sponsor Dr Michael Dreyer (Germany),

- **Facilitator Dr Maria Neira, Director, Department for Protection of the Human Environment, WHO. Dr Neira**
- **Prof Lynn Goldman (USA) (Poverty Reduction and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Public Health Perspective: Toxic and Poverty)**
- **Ms Jill Hanna (EU) (Persuading aid donors that sound chemicals management is part of poverty eradication, a European Commission perspective)**
- **Ms Sarojeni Rengam, (PAN - Asia and Pacific) (Poverty and Pesticides: protecting health and environment)**
- **Mr Nelson Manda (Zambia) (Sound chemicals management in non-OECD countries)**

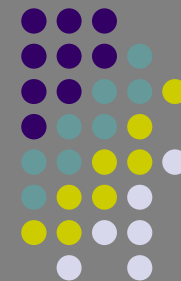
The Sound Management of Chemicals and Poverty Reduction



Meeting Summary

The discussion focused on

- the importance of chemicals management and its **inclusion in the development dialogue between donors and recipients**
- the sound management of chemicals is **largely missing in the poverty reduction strategy papers of the World Bank**
- **practical guidance** is needed to **assist countries** to include this important issue in poverty reduction efforts
- the linkage between the **sound management of chemicals and poverty** reduction should be **included when addressing individual chemicals management** topics
- **special focus on poverty and pesticides**
- Poverty & SMC was included in the agreed proposed "**Topics for the future forum of IFCS**" with a suggestion of a special focus on pesticides issues



South-South Cooperation and Capacity Building for Sound Chemicals Management

Side event at IFCS Forum V

South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Capacity Building for Sound Chemicals Management



Purpose:

- to explore the potential for existing SSC initiatives to be used as the basis of a more integrated approach to chemicals management
- contribute to the national and regional imperatives of economic development and poverty alleviation
- strengthening knowledge and information exchange
- brief report to IFCS Forum V, which in turn could be used as a background document for SAICM regional meetings so the regions could consider this issue in greater detail

South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Capacity Building for Sound Chemicals Management



- Will play a critical role in tackling the development challenges the world faces in achieving the Millennium Development Goals
- Is recognized as a fundamental driver of development effectiveness
- Developing countries, not necessary similar economically, socially or politically, may share a similar set of vulnerabilities and challenges
- SSC may comprise two or more regions of the world or sub-regional or regional groupings (often based on economic co-operation)
- Today not only governments, but also the private sectors, Southern multinationals in particular, as well as civil society are playing an important role

South-South Cooperation and Capacity Building for Sound Chemicals Management



- Many development issues, common among developing countries and countries with economies in transition, can best be remedied among themselves through cooperation, sharing of experiences, and pooling of resources
- This most effectively works in conjunction with existing channels of assistance
- SSC should not be seen as a substitution for assistance from developed countries

Successful examples of formal South-South cooperation include

- trade and economic cooperation initiative
- identified common interests and investment initiative
- (science and technical training ??)

South-South Cooperation and Capacity Building for Sound Chemicals Management



BUT

- The existing SSC initiatives are mainly based on economic or specific sectoral considerations, they are not necessarily well known in the chemicals management area

South-South Cooperation and Capacity Building for Sound Chemicals Management



- One related strategy is, for developing countries, to increase their market access not only to developed countries but also to the burgeoning economies in the developing world
- Sound chemical management can play an important role in increasing market access both for agricultural and non agricultural products
- SSC has significant potential to address the so-called “widening gap” in the capability for sound management of chemicals between developed countries on the one hand and developing countries on the other
- Facilitating the sharing of technical expertise among developing countries and countries with economies in transition may unlock a substantial resource that to date has not been fully utilized for various economic and political reasons

South-South Cooperation and Capacity Building for Sound Chemicals Management



Applying SSC

- may offer new opportunities to facilitate the strengthening of chemicals management in developing countries and countries with economies in transition
- will stress an active role for developing countries in the transfer of knowledge and experience as well as in the creative expansion of technologies aimed at increasing productivity and competitiveness
- will stress the importance of education, information exchange and sharing of best practices
- Additionally, triangular cooperation with the North in conjunction with SSC may help to foster these channels of communication and cooperation

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Thank you

