



Pesticide Suicide Prevention

4 September 2023 | 13:00 – 14:30 CEST

VIRTUAL EVENT

https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1QP_IYSvSMGMGQlUbI9SBw

Pesticides has been one of the main tools used for pest management worldwide. However, suicide with pesticides is a public health problem in many regions of the world. It is estimated that 20 percent of suicides globally are attributed to pesticides, in particular, to highly hazardous pesticides. Current estimates suggest approximately 165 000 pesticides suicides occur per year. It is a particular concern in rural farming communities in Low- and Middle- Income Countries (LMICs) where pesticide management capacity is often weak.

Preventing pesticide suicide has been a priority of FAO and WHO pesticide management program for years. A technical document, 'Preventing suicide: a resource for pesticide registrars and regulators' was published in 2019 and the 'Guidance on use of pesticide regulation to prevent suicide'¹ was recently developed and published by FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM). This document provides guidance, particularly for LMICs, on best practices in using regulation to prevent suicides with agricultural pesticides.

This webinar will discuss the global impact of pesticides on human health, status and concerns of pesticide suicide, and provide options of preventing suicides by introducing the Guidance on pesticide suicide prevention. Successful story of preventing suicide with pesticides through regulatory action in Sri Lanka will be shared. The webinar will also discuss future steps and give recommendations for future action.

The event will be conducted in English.

¹ International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management: guidance on use of pesticide regulation to prevent suicide. Geneva: World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2023.

<https://www.fao.org/3/cc5070en/cc5070en.pdf>

AGENDA & PRESENTERS

13:00–13:10 Welcome, and opening remarks by **Haekoo Kim**, Technical Advisor in NSP Director's Office (FAO)

13:10–14:00 Presentation on Global health impacts of pesticides, and status and concerns of pesticide suicide by **Piimee Bandara**, Department of Mental Health and Substance Use (WHO)

Presentation on Guidance on preventing suicide through regulation by **Michael Eddleston**, Director of CPSP and JMPM WHO panel member

Successful stories: A regulator from Sri Lanka – Presentation on Pesticide suicide prevention through strengthening regulation of HHPs by **Sumith Jayakody Arachchige**, Registrar of Pesticides, Office of the Registrar of Pesticides, Ministry of Agriculture (Sri Lanka)

Presentation on Pesticide suicide prevention and the CPSP work by **Mark Davis**, Director for Agriculture and Regulatory Outreach (CPSP)

14:00–14:25 Q&A session and open discussion

1. Why suicide is not generally considered in regulatory decision and is excluded as a factor for consideration in the Rotterdam Convention.
2. How to prevent pesticide suicide through regulations
3. What are the practical options for preventing pesticide suicide in LMICs

14:25–14:30 Closing remarks by **Richard Brown**, Technical Officer (WHO)

Moderator: Mr **Baogen Gu**, Senior Agricultural Officer of NSP, JMPM Secretariat (FAO)

For more information, please contact:
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