



## POPs in Armenia – dealing with pesticides' hazard

Emma Anakhasyan, MD MPH

Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment  
Focal Point of IPEN in Armenia

WECF member  
PAN Europe

## Armenia: Background information



- Population: 3.2 millions – 33.4% rural population
- Area: 29,743 km<sup>2</sup>
- Capital: Yerevan
- Population 1.1mln

## Pesticides' usage in Armenia

- 400-500 thousands tones of pesticides were used annually at the end of 80-ies
- Total load of pesticides through decades was 9 kg - 20 kg per 1 ha
- HCH (hexachlor cyclohexan), keltane and other chlororganic pesticides are widely used in agriculture

## Pesticides' usage in Armenia (Continued)

- DDT was officially banned in 1972
- Illegally imported DDT is still used in private households

## Pesticides' burial in Armenia

- Created in 1982
- Contains about 500 tones of pesticides
- Persistent organochlorine toxic chemicals compose more than 60%
- Located on the top of the hill, 800 meters away from two villages
- Landslide area




View of the Obsolete Pesticides Burial

Landslide Area around the Burial

## For a toxic free future in Armenia

### *Methods*

- Investigation of the pesticide burial (Research Institute of Geology, Academy of Science RA, October 2003 – April 2004)
- Investigative findings on soil, vegetation and water from the burial place site and environment (October 2003, April 2004)
- Information, education, mass media and advocacy campaigns (seminars, meetings, round tables, program on TV, articles in newspapers, radio programs, press conference)

## For a toxic free future in Armenia

Out of 123 probes of the soil 75% of them contained DDT, DDE, DDD, HCH in levels from 5 to 2000 times exceeding “permitted” levels.

(AWHHE, 2004)

## For a toxic free future in Armenia

### *Results*

- The Government of Armenia made the decision on ensuring of pesticides burial safety by April 2004
- Awareness among Ararat region rural community members and government officials increased by 40% (May 2004)
- The usage of pesticides decreased by 10.8% in Ararat marz
- The collaborative Committee of citizens and elected governance established (February 2004)



Collaborative Committee



Burial

## Acknowledgements

- USAID
- WL
- GGF
- IPEN
- WECF
- PAN USA and Europe