

Safe Use – Thailand

The northern Thai cities of Chiang Mai and Kamphaeng Phet have provided the focus for APCPA joint safe use activities with the Thai Crop Protection Association (TCPA)



Overview

The Thailand Safe Use Project is a joint project between APCPA and the Thai Crop Protection Association. Since 1991, the project has been working with government agencies, donors, community organisations, retailers and, directly with farmers. Presently, the project focuses on two provinces, Chiang Mai (with the Royal Project Foundation and WorldView International Foundation), and Kampaeng Phet (with the Department of Agricultural Extension).

All project training activities start with a baseline survey of farmer attitudes and practices, which is conducted by a market survey firm. The audit is followed by another audit after a suitable period to measure impact.

Objectives

- Reduce the number of pesticide-related incidents.
- Raise awareness of safe handling, storage and use of pesticides within the industry, medical profession and farming communities.
- Assist government and non-government agencies with resources, expertise and training.
- Improve compliance with the national laws and the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution & Use of Pesticides.
- Protect the environment.

Methods

Training



Industry specialists staff training courses with backup, as required, from academia and government. Over the years, an array of flip charts, handouts, posters and brochures has been developed.

Training partners: Training of personnel from government agencies, community organisations, and development projects.

Farmer training. Direct access to farmers using participatory training methods.

Retailer training. Often, the main source of information on crop protection products for farmers is the retailer. It is important to build the capacity of retailers to provide farmers with responsible advice on safe use and integrated pest management.

Education



Farmers of the future...This educational program aims to raise awareness of safe pesticide use via high school students through curriculum materials and informal methods. Our experience is that promoting safe use in rural schools is an effective way of getting the safe use message across to farming parents.

Specific activities:

Training school teachers to include safe use in school curricula.

Conducting village-level training.

Distributing training materials (notebooks, and comics books)

Medical Program



With the Ministry of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Thai Toxicological Society, we have conducted training for medical personnel in rural hospitals to more effectively recognise poisoning cases and provide treatment. Trained doctors are provided with reference texts, information posters, and a trade/common name index.

Protective Clothing



In early programs, thousands of sets of industry-designed protective clothing were distributed. Pictured at right, this recommended kit provided comfort and protection for under US\$10 per set. However, most farmers preferred to devise their own gear based on locally available materials, and information extended to them during training

APCPA stresses the importance of protective clothing during all product handling, but especially during the mixing operation, where statistics indicate the majority of incidents occur.

Industry Standards



The project assists manufacturers, formulators, and repackers to meet the standards laid out in the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, industry guidelines, and national law

Free expert **advice** for all companies.
Plant **Audits** by expert advisory groups.
Information **bulletins** and practical safety guidelines.
Improvement awards and **accreditation** scheme.
Industry co-operation on safety and **disposal** issues.

The project is a focus for safety-related requests from the industry, particularly with regard to plant safety guidelines and disposal of chemical and packaging waste.

