

Assessment of the UGANDA PERSUAP assignment

Michael Colegrove (Volunteer) 16 - 31 July 2015 - Kampala, Uganda

Overview:

The primary objectives for the volunteer's assignment were as follows:

- Conduct an assessment of pesticide safety along pesticide life cycle i.e. (policy, purchase, transport, use and disposal)
- Identify and document the major constraints to safe use of pesticides in selected F2F country projects
- Make recommendations of possible solutions to the constraints identified
- Update country specific list of approved active ingredients (AIs) for selected country projects
- Upgrade and/or document recommended integrated pest management practices in F2F project areas in Kenya

The assignment

1. Attached to this document are the '**Travel Notes**' taken by the volunteer during the 15-day assignment.

These notes identified the organization, persons interviewed, issues raised in discussions and whether issues (or problems) dealing with pesticides were relevant.

As issues were discussed a list of possible volunteer assignments was developed. This was not a requirement of the SOW, but provided an opportunity for the Uganda CRS/F2F staff to develop new MOUs, and/or source volunteers for future assignments.

2. An "**Open Letter to all Future Volunteers**" is presented that the volunteer (Michael Colegrove) recommends be sent to any future volunteer who may be exposed to, or dealing with pesticides as part their SOW. This will alert volunteers as to their responsibilities to be in compliance with USAID regulations. It also defines those pesticides that may be available at the assignment location or in the market place.
3. A "**Safer Use Action Plan**" (SUAP) is the second document addressed to future volunteers and CRS/F2F staff. The information was abstracted from several PERSUAPs from Kenya, Uganda, and the F2F global PERSUAP. References are provided for the complete documents which will be supplied to the volunteer by the CRS/F2F office in Kampala.

Issues:

1. The government has the overall responsibility to regulate the introduction, availability, distribution and use of pesticides in the country. Within Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), there is an established Chemical Control and Registration Board (CCRD) that provides oversight to testing, registration and/or de-registration of newly introduced and/or old pesticides on the market.

2. MAAIF officers were candid in their appraisal of the "system" and the legislation governing their activities. They admitted that execution was not as good as it should be, primarily because of the lack of resources and personnel.
3. F2F could be instrumental in providing F2F volunteers with technical and organization expertise to assist all the players in the 'supply chain' while still following USAID and USEPA guidelines.

Future Volunteers:

Those volunteers who will be working with hosts using pesticides will have to a little bit of "home work" **BEFORE** arriving in Uganda. Suggestions and observations are presented in an "OPEN LETTER" that should be sent to the volunteers during the selection and evaluation of potential volunteers. The tables of pesticides were abstracted from several sources to assist the volunteers in identifying the chemicals they are likely to encounter during their assignments. The **SUAP** will provide potential and actual volunteers with additional information on USAID and USEPA requirements.

F2F Organizational Support:

1. Transport, accommodations, and technical support by the F2F office was excellent.
2. The choice of interviewees were representative of the existing hosts.
3. Potential 'Hosts' were visited in the course of travel. These should lead to better "supply chain" linkages between Government officials - importers - stockists - farmers.

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