## 2.0 CHEMICALS

## 2.1 Summary - Chemicals

The implementation of a robust pesticide and chemical management system is critical particularly aspects relating to chemical Analysis Service and Licensing, Compliance and Monitoring and use of chemical for pesticide. To sustain agricultural production, the use of agriculture chemical for plant protection and pesticide use is inevitable to maintain

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2001. The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The convention currently covers aldrin, chlordane, Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane the following twelve chemicals: (DDT), dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex, toxaphene, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), polychlorinated polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dibenzo-p-dioxins, polychlorinated dibenzofurans. The first nine of these are pesticides. HCB is also classed as an industrial chemical, as are PCBs, while the dioxins and furans are formed as unintentional by-products in combustion processes and some industrial activities. These chemicals are to be controlled through various actions, including prohibiting future production and use of most of the pesticides and industrial chemicals, and the application of a range of measures for the reduction of releases of the unintentional POPs.

A Project was developed by the Government of the Republic of the Fiji Islands with financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Funds were provided for an enabling activity project to assist the country in meeting its obligations under the **Cycle**: This can take 2-3 years

*Classification:* All pesticides are classified under pharmacy schedules A, B, C and labelling of chemicals based on Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) guidelines of highly toxic, Harmful, and Caution.

Assessment Criteria's and linkages: Based on lethal dose (LD) and lethal concentration (LC) 50 values and also on oral injection and dermal application, we register products which are of low toxicity to the user and the environment. First Aid, precautions and storage disposal are written in 3 languages in English, Hindi, and Fijian with FAO colour band & pictogram.

*Information exchange and corporation:* FAO code of conduct on distribution and use of chemical are also distributed by International agencies like FAO, National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), Greenpeace, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

University of the South Pacific, and these are currently restricted to the monitoring and

- Training programmes for the assessment and management of contaminated sites
- Training programmes for the safe management of obsolete and unwanted chemicals
- Training programmes in safe storage, handling and use of hazardous chemicals

## Research and Development

• Upgrading of existing laboratory facilities and staff training for POPs analysis.

The implementation of these plans are intended to be carried out over the next three years, although some involve on-going commitments which will continue for many years in the future.

In addition to this, a National Air Pollution Control Strategy and the incorporation of the Air Pollution Permit System under the Waste Disposal and Recycling Regulations were formulated in 2007, and are currently enforced, targeting all commercial and industrial facilities. The formulation of this set of policies, together with the regularized National Air Pollution Standards fulfils obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

The Department of Environment have also worked with institutions, communities, business, hospitals schools etc for the disposal of obsolete chemicals. This is a challenge due to the absence of disposal facilities in Fiji. For assistance the Department seeks assistance with regional organization in terms of advice and disposals. The Department