Overview of Status of POPS in Egypt & Overview of the Sustainable POPS Management Project

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Outline of the Presentation

- What are POPs?
- What are PCBs?
- What are Obsolete Pesticides?
- Status of POPs in Egypt
- Link between Egypt’s priorities in the NIP and the project
- Overview of the Sustainable POPs management project (GEF/IBRD)
What are POPs?

- Persistent Organic Pollutants – chemical substances that persist in the environment and accumulate through the food chain
- Highly toxic causing birth defects, potential damage to the immune, respiratory, and reproductive systems, and death – women and children are especially vulnerable
- Not limited to international borders – a global problem
- In 2001, 160 countries signed the Stockholm Convention to limit/ban the production, use and release of selected POPs
- The initial list contains 12 chemicals called the « Dirty Dozen »
- These include 9 pesticides - including dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) and hexachlorobenzene (HCB)
- Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)
- Dioxin and Furans
What are PCBs?

- PolychloroBiphenyls (PCBs) are organochloride compounds (209 congeners)
- Properties :
  - Low solubility in water and high solubility in lipids (fats)
  - Remain stable in environment (low biodegradability)
- Currently used in electric equipment as insulating fluid.
- Brand names (Aroclor, Askarel, Pyralene, Sovtol…)
- Toxicity
  - Bioaccumulation in the environment and animal tissues (fat tissues)
  - Low-temperature incineration can release hazardous dioxins and furans
What are Obsolete Pesticides?

Obsolete pesticides” include:

- Outdated technical pesticides or formulations (generally products have a shelf-life of two years from the date of release).
- Pesticides that have been withdrawn through banning or that have been severely restricted.
- Deteriorated products:
  - physical or chemical changes (phytotoxic effects on the target crop, an unacceptable hazard to human health or environment,...)
  - unacceptable loss of biological efficacy.
- Products contaminated with other substances and wastes.
Status of POPs in Egypt

- The Government of Egypt signed the Stockholm convention in 2002
- Completion of its National Implementation Plan in 2005 with technical assistance from UNIDO
- Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project, in 2006
- Inventory in 2009 (World Bank – financed by Canadian POPs Trust Fund)
  - PCBs
  - Obsolete pesticides
  - Dioxin and furan emissions
- The Inventory by GEF Preparation Grant through the support of International consultancy firm in 2011
- GEF Full-Size Implementation Project (2012-2016)
Link between Egypt’s priorities in the NIP and the project

The NIP outlined the need for:
- The management and environmentally sound disposal of PCBs and obsolete pesticides;
- Action plans to address unintentional releases of D/Fs,
- Institutional and regulatory strengthening measures as well as
- Awareness building and stakeholder involvement activities.
Sustainable POPs Management Project

- Financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with 8.1 Million as a grant
- The World Bank is the Implementing Agency for the project
- EEAA is the executing agency for the project
- MALR and MEE are the implementing partners of the project
Project Objective:

- The **Project Development Objective** is to assist Egypt in strengthening its technical and management capacity for minimizing exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
Four Components of the project

- Institutional regulatory and strengthening measures for POPs management
- Management of obsolete pesticide stocks
- Sound management and disposal of PCBs
- Project Management
Component 1: Institutional regulatory strengthening measures for POPs management

- Policy and Legal Framework for POPs Management,
- Institutional Strengthening,
- Enhancement of National Capacity,
- Enabling Activities for Unintentional POPs.
Component 2: **Management of Obsolete Pesticide Stocks**

- Secure Storage of Pesticides and
- Destruction of High-Risk Stocks
- Development of Long term Pesticides Management strategy
Component 3: **Management of PCBs**

- Safeguarding Stocks of Off-Line Equipment and
- Decontamination of Medium / Low Risk Contaminated Stocks and Equipment.
Component 4: Project Management

- Project Management

- and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).
Project Budget

- Total Budget: 23.5 Million USD
- GEF: 8.1 Million USD
- GOE: 15.5 Million USD
Thank you for your kind attention