

A Regional Plan of Action for the CGPC to implement the Strategy for improved agro-chemical use and management for the wider Caribbean'

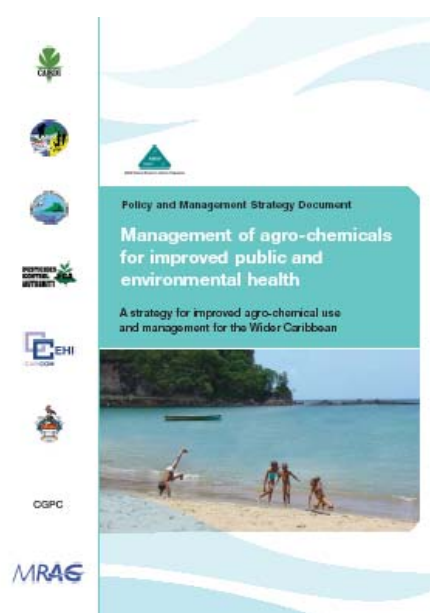
Last updated: 13th July 2004 following the 9th CGPC meeting.

1. Introduction

The *CGPC Strategy for improved agro-chemical use and management for the wider Caribbean* was developed and endorsed by the CGPC in June 2003 at the 8th annual meeting, based on a 3-year research project (2000-2003) that analysed the extent of the problem and the impacts of agro-chemicals on public and environmental health.

The *Strategy* promotes an holistic approach encompassing the various stakeholders and institutions involved in agro-chemical use and management, from import or manufacture through to monitoring the effects of application in the land water interface. It also provides a framework for taking action at the regional and national level.

In order to take the *Strategy* forward at the Regional Level the CGPC has endorsed a *Regional Plan of Action (RPOA)* in July 2004 at the 9th annual meeting. The CAMP (Caribbean Agro-chemical Management Project) project funded by NRSP is supporting the implementation of the *CGPC Regional Plan of Action* as well as the overall *Strategy*, and National Plans of Action within St Lucia and Jamaica.



2. A Core Group of the CGPC to coordinate the Strategy

A Core Group from the CGPC has been nominated to coordinate the overall CGPC Regional Plan of Action. (Individuals have been nominated to oversee the specific regional projects described within following sections)

CGPC Core Group

Hyacinth Chin Sue (CAMP Team Leader)
Jerome Thomas (CGPC Chairman)
Everton Ambrose (CGPC Technical Secretariat)
CEHI (Regional Partners)

2. The regional activities detailed in the Strategy

In order to take forward the CGPC Strategy the Regional Plan of Action takes forward five components: A) Regional Projects; B) Lobbying Activities; C) National Level Awareness Raising; D) National Level Implementation of Tool Kit for National Plans of Action; E) Monitoring and Evaluation. Figure 1 illustrates the planned timings of these components and more detail is then given in the sections below.

Figure 1 Time Table for regional plan of action (RPOA)

	<i>Months</i>	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
ACTIVITIES											
A) Regional Projects											
Funders contacted and proposals adapted and submitted for first four projects (GAPS, Institutional strengthening, sustainable financing, database)		■	■								
Concept notes for further proposals (Change management, research strategy) prepared		■	■	■	■						
Proposals submitted for further proposals (Change management, research strategy)						■	■				
B) Lobbying activities to gain regional support											
Review and approve regional communications materials		■									
Lobby Ministers at home to support / endorse the Strategy at CARICOM			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Write / send letters to CARICOM in support of Policy papers submitted through CGPC			■								
At CARICOM lobby to get Strategy on Agenda of meetings, and its endorsement			■	■							
C) National level awareness raising											
Use communications materials, especially during pesticides awareness week, to raise public awareness – add to lobbying pressure on Ministers				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
D) Implement mechanisms for NPA											
Use lessons learned in 'Toolkit' to initiate NPA for the implementation of the Strategy.										■	■
E) M&E											
Assist with project monitoring.		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		

A) Regional Projects

The first element of the Regional Plan of Action is taking forward a set of Regional Projects to address key issues within the CGPC Strategy. The following section describes the selected projects, the process of submitting the projects for funding, the prioritisation of the projects, and finally a work plan for the projects with assigned responsibilities.

The selected projects

Within the *CGPC Strategy* in *Section 3: Strategy Implementation* a number of required regional projects were identified (see page 9 of the strategy for projects I-IX, project X has been added as a regional project as GAPS is such as central part of the strategy):

- I. Database
- II. Public health monitoring
- III. MRLs
- IV. Environmental monitoring
- V. Research strategy
- VI. Cost recovery mechanism
- VII. Train trainers – legislation ⁽¹⁾
- VIII. Train trainers – change management
- IX. Institutional arrangements
- X. Good agricultural practice certification

Notes:

1) The activity 'Review and update model legislation' was not allocated to a regional project in the strategy paper but should form part of Theme 7 – Train trainers – legislation

The Process of submitting the proposals for funding

In order to take forward the 10 regional projects listed above the following process has been developed:

- Step 1: TORs for project proposal developed
- Step 2: Concept Note development and nomination of CGPC coordinators
- Step 3: Comments obtained on concept note by CGPC members
- Step 4: Funders approached and proposal prepared in required format
- Step 5: Proposal submitted through the CGPC Secretariat.
- Step 6: Project funded and started

Prioritising the projects

The regional projects have been prioritised in the following order, with the first four projects initiated first:

- **Good agricultural practices (GAPs) (Project X):** is one of the key themes that need to be addressed by the strategy. There is also an opportunity to submit a proposal for a project on GAPs certification through the EC-COLEACP Project that aims to support meeting EU food standards for export.
- **Sustainable Financing (Project VI):** is one of the first themes that need to be addressed in order that the strategy can be implemented and will be self-financing beyond CAMP and other related support.
- **Institutional arrangements (Project IX):** The analysis of institutional arrangements and national and regional capacity within agro-chemical use and management will reveal what capacity building and change in institutional arrangements is required to implement the strategy and harmonise agro-chemical use and management.
- **Database (Project I):** A regional database holding information on pesticide registration, pesticide toxicity and monitoring data will enable the strategy to be implemented and coordinated. The regional projects listed above have been prioritised as follows:
- **Change management/communications (Project VIII):**
- **Research Strategy (Projects II, III, IV & V):** This project will cover a monitoring programme for public health, environmental research and maximum residue limits.

At this time the legislative change project will not be taken forward as it is being addressed by a PAHO project, but links will be made between the project and PAHO and regular updates fed back to CGPC members.

A work plan for the regional projects

The current status of the project proposals and target dates are summarised in Figure 2. The next actions required are described in more detail in Table 1.

Figure 2 Status of the regional project proposals

REGIONAL PROJECTS	No. (Strategy)	CGPC coordinators	STEPS	Step 1 TORs developed	Step 2 Concept Note Developed	Step 3 Review by CGPC	Step 4 Proposal developed	Step 5 Proposal submitted	Step 6 Funded and Started	
1. GAPS certification	n/a (x)	P. Issacs, E. Ambrose		✓	✓	✓	July-Aug 04	end Aug/04	end 04	
2. Sustainable financing	vi	J. Thomas, H. Chin Sue		✓	✓	✓	July-Aug 04	end Aug/04	end 04	
3. Institutional analysis	ix	C. Bellot, R. Braithwaite		✓	✓	✓	July-Aug 04	end Aug/04	end 04	
4. Regional database	i	G. Mathurin, G. Pollard MRAG		✓	✓	✓	July-Aug 04	end Aug/04	end 04	
5. Legislative changes	vii	C. Bellot to update on PAHO project								
6. Change management	viii	CARDI		asap	end 10/04	end 11/04	Dec-04	end Dec 04	05	
7. Research/monitoring strategy for:	v	M. Spencer, CEHI								
a. Environment	iv		asap	end 10/04	end 11/04	Dec-04	end Dec 04	05		
b. Public health	ii									
c. MRLs	iii									

Table 1 Next Steps and responsibilities for the regional project work plan

Project Title	Funding agencies to be targeted	Next action required
1. GAPS certification	EU (Funding to support trade partners in achieving EUREP GAP Standards) EC-COLEACP Project that aims to support meeting EU food standards for export.	i) Contacts made with funders. ii) Proposal adapted to required format for funder and with comments incorporated. iii) Proposal submitted to funder by <i>end of august</i>
2. Sustainable Financing	NRSP through CAMP Project (This will be more of a lobbying project)	i) Contacts made with funders through Chris Mees ii) Proposal adapted to required format for funder and with comments incorporated. iii) Proposal submitted to funder by <i>end of august</i>
3. Institutional Analysis	GEF	i) Contacts made with funders. ii) Proposal adapted to required format for funder and with comments incorporated. iii) Proposal submitted to funder by <i>end of august</i>
4. Regional Database	FAO (TCP Technical Assistance)	i) FAO format sent to coordinators ii) Proposal prepared in format incorporating comments iii) Support letter prepared and signed by all representing countries at the meeting (Dominica, Jamaica, St Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, St Vincent, and St Kitts & Nevis) iv) Proposal submitted to Gene Pollard by <i>end of July</i>
5. Legislative	This is currently being taken forward by a PAHO project. Claudia Bellot could	

changes	keep the members up to date with its development, and give a summary at the next CGPC meeting.	
6. Change management	To be identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) CAMP Project (Everton Ambrose or Hyacinth Chin Sue) to approach CARDI (Claudette de Frietas) to develop concept note. ii) CAMP Project (Charlotte) to send concept note format to CARDI iii) Concept notes prepared and circulated for comments by CGPC members by end of October iv) CGPC members to give comments by end of November v) Contacts to funders made and proposal finalised and submitted by end of the year
7. Research/monitoring strategy (To cover public health, environmental research, MRL)	To be identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) CAMP Project (Charlotte) to send concept note format to Malverne and CEHI ii) Concept notes prepared and circulated for comments by CGPC members by end of October iii) CGPC members to give comments by end of November iv) Contacts to funders made and proposal finalised and submitted by end of the year

B) Lobbying Activities

An overarching objective of the Regional Plan of Action is for the CGPC Strategy to be endorsed at the regional level by CARICOM.

All CGPC members will give inputs to achieve this, with the current focus on the COSHOD meeting in September 2004 and future lobbying at the Agriculture & Trade COTED meeting next year. CGPC members can lobby their national ministers and other contacts. Available resources include the Strategy Paper, Information Briefs and forthcoming policy papers.

Specific activities agreed at the 9th CGPC annual meeting are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2 Next steps and responsibilities for lobbying activities

Action	Responsible	Timing	Next actions required
Give comments on the Environmental and Health policy brief for COSHOD	All CGPC members	By the end of July	CAMP to circulate the electronic version of the policy brief
Initiate discussions with Margaret Callou to get the Strategy on the COSHOD agenda and inform Hyacinth and CGPC members on progress	Everton Ambrose	Asap	
Assist with getting the Strategy onto the COSHOD agenda	CEHI	Asap	CEHI to be reminded by CAMP of their commitment to assist with the objective.
Attend the COSHOD planning meeting in Washington if required	Hyacinth Chin Sue	August	

C) Monitoring & Evaluation

The CGPC assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy Implementation (being undertaken by the CAMP project) by completing questionnaires and monitoring forms (Table 3).

Table 3 Next steps and responsibilities for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Action	Responsible	Timing
Finalise M&E Forms	CEHI & MRAG	asap
Send out electronic versions of M&E forms to CGPC members	CEHI & MRAG	Ongoing
Complete initial NPA questionnaires	CGPC members	July 04
Update monitoring forms	CGPC members	July – Dec 04
Complete follow up NPA questionnaire	CGPC members	Dec 04

D) National Level Awareness Raising

The CGPC will support the increase in public awareness of improved use and management of agro-chemicals and the CGPC Strategy designed to address the issue. This can take place through face-to-face meetings with Ministers and relevant stakeholders using the available materials (Strategy Paper, Information Briefs, and forthcoming policy papers), and through activities during Pesticides Awareness Week using materials to be made available by the CAMP Project (Video, Poster and Regional Press Pack).

The theme for 2004 pesticide awareness week was chosen as:

'Everyone has a role to play in improving management of pesticides for a safer Caribbean environment.'

E) Implementing National Plans of Action

The final component of the CGPC Regional Plan of Action is for each CGPC member countries to develop National Plans of Action to take forward the national elements of the CGPC Strategy. This process is being initiated in St Lucia and Jamaica activities by the CAMP Project, and the RPOA aims for other member countries to undertake National Plans of Action by through the use of a tool kit currently in development by the CAMP project and at the beginning of 2005.