

## ***Suggested recommendations regarding the limitation of pesticide pollution of fresh water sources in Southern Leyte<sup>1</sup>***

### **Recommendations aimed at the municipality of Southern Leyte:**

- Arrange for awareness raising campaigns aimed at relevant target groups regarding the negative effects of misuse of pesticides, also the fact that water can be polluted by pesticides even if it looks clean. Examples of relevant target groups could be the farmers, people living close to fresh water sources, water and sanitation associations active in areas with rice cultivation and people with leading positions in the barangays.
- Use the human right to water in your awareness raising campaigns, highlight that it does not only concern drinking water but also water for domestic shores. Utilize the commonly felt obligation to protect the water for the sake of the community in such awareness raising campaigns.
- Cooperate with the barangays and encourage information meetings to be held also at the Barangay level. If there are problems synchronizing the schedules of the farmers with the schedule of those working at the municipality see if meetings could be arranged at the barangay level instead.
- Establish cooperation between the different relevant departments within the municipality to help share information and increase awareness about the problems regarding pesticide pollution. For example a working group could be put together including representatives from the sanitation and health department, the agricultural department, the police, and the department for development to brainstorm about awareness raising campaigns, monitoring and implementation of existing laws and regulations with regards to pesticides and water pollution.

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<sup>1</sup> The following recommendations are based on the qualitative research that was made through a number of face to face interviews with respondents in the vicinity of Southern Leyte, the Philippines during two weeks in March 2011. The research results formed the basis for the masters thesis "The Human Right to Water in Relation to Pesticide Pollution in Southern Leyte, The Philippines". The essay has been examined at Uppsala University as part of the masters programme in Human rights. For more information about the methodology used during the interviews please see the above mentioned masters thesis.

- Nurture and establish relationships with other actors that can help to increase awareness about the problems of pesticide pollution as well as help with the monitoring of both water quality and changed perceptions in relation to the handling of pesticides. Examples of such actors could e.g. be the agricultural campus of Southern Leyte University, Coral Cay Conservations, Care International and the local water and sanitation associations.
- Make sure that information meetings with farmers do not only focus on the benefits of organic farming but also deals with how to handle pesticides properly.
- Increase the awareness and application of Republic Decree 100068 (2009) and the incentives it provides for organic farming both within the authority itself and among farmers. Make sure that these incentives are made reality for organic farmers.
- Continue to ensure increased implementation of existing laws and regulations with regards to water pollution.
- Assist in the building of land based washing stands in which sprayers can rinse their spraying equipment and knapsacks. These should be situated some distance away from the rivers and other fresh water streams so that the waist water drains of into the ground rather than into a stream.

### **Recommendations aimed at local civil society organizations such as the water and sanitation associations**

- Continue to discuss the human right to water and what you can do to safeguard it within your associations. Highlight that the human right to water not only concerns drinking water but also water for domestic shores.
- Continue to train people in existing laws and regulations with regards to water pollution and promote their implementation within your barangays.
- Assist in the building of land based washing stands in which sprayers can rinse their spraying equipment and knapsacks. These should be situated some distance away from the rivers and other fresh water streams so that the waist water drains of into the ground rather than into a stream.

### **Recommendations aimed at relevant international NGOs with a presence in Southern Leyte**

- Arrange for awareness raising campaigns aimed at relevant target groups regarding the negative effects of misuse of pesticides, also the fact that water can be polluted by pesticides even if it looks clean. Examples of relevant target groups could be the farmers, people living close to fresh water sources, water and sanitation associations active in areas with rice cultivation and people with leading positions in the barangays.
- Use the human right to water in your awareness raising campaigns and highlight that it does not only concern drinking water but also water for domestic uses. Utilize the commonly felt obligation to protect the water for the sake of the community in such awareness raising campaigns.
- Nurture and establish relationships with other actors that can help to increase awareness about the problems of pesticide pollution as well as help with the monitoring of both water quality and changed perceptions in relation to the handling of pesticides. Examples of such actors could e.g. the municipalities, the Barangays, the local water and sanitation associations and Southern Leyte university.
- Assist in the building of land based washing stands in which sprayers can rinse their spraying equipment and knapsacks. These should be situated some distance away from the rivers and other fresh water streams so that the wash water drains of into the ground rather than into a stream.

### **Recommendations aimed at the Barangays**

- Arrange for awareness raising campaigns aimed at relevant target groups regarding the negative effects of misuse of pesticides, also the fact that water can be polluted by pesticides even if it looks clean. Examples of relevant target groups could be the farmers, people living close to fresh water sources, water and sanitation associations active in areas with rice cultivation and people with leading positions in the barangays.
- Use the human right to water in your awareness raising campaigns and highlight that it does not only concern drinking water but also water for domestic uses. Utilize the commonly felt obligation to protect the water for the sake of the community in such awareness raising campaigns.
- Nurture and establish relationships with other actors that can help to increase awareness about the problems of pesticide pollution as well as help with the monitoring of both water quality and changed perceptions in relation to the

handling of pesticides. Examples of such actors could e.g. the municipalities, the Barangays, the local water and sanitation associations and Southern Leyte university.

- Assist in the building of land based washing stands in which sprayers can rinse their spraying equipment and knapsacks. These should be situated some distance away from the rivers and other fresh water streams so that the waste water drains of into the ground rather than into a stream.

### **Recommendations aimed at the farmers**

- Rinse knapsacks over land rather than directly in the river to avoid pollution.
- Assist in the building of land based washing stands in which sprayers can rinse their spraying equipment and knapsacks. These should be situated some distance away from the rivers and other fresh water streams so that the waste water drains of into the ground rather than into a stream.
- Provide your sprayers with proper personal protective equipment and inform them about the negative health aspects of pesticides.
- Cooperate with the municipalities and barangays to find good solutions to how you can increase proper handling of pesticides and decrease the pollution.
- Make demands at the authorities for the incentives provided for in presidential decree 10068 (2009) if you fulfill the demands for organic farming stated there.