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**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed
Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous
Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
Chemical Review Committee**

Second meeting

Geneva, 13–17 February 2006

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Inclusion of chemicals in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention:
review of notifications of final regulatory actions to ban
or severely restrict a chemical: Dicofol**

Dicofol: supporting documentation provided by the Netherlands

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains the supporting documentation provided by the Netherlands in support of its final regulatory action on dicofol.

* UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/1.

Annex

Focused summary – dicofol

I. Introduction

- (a) The registration of dicofol and all relating products were withdrawn from the market in The Netherlands from 1 November 1997 onwards. This decision was based on an evaluation of the properties of dicofol, especially the information on bioaccumulation of the substance in fish. In fish bioconcentration factors (BCF) have been determined of up to 10,000, whilst a BCF of only 100 is considered to be acceptable for badly degradable substances as dicofol does belong to that category with a DT50 > 100 days. Because of this high concentration build-up in fish also predatory birds may become at risk.
- (b) The decision aims at a complete reduction of the risk of dicofol emission to the environment due to the application of the substance as an acaricide in the agri- and horticulture of apples, pears, strawberry, cucumbers, tomatoes, mushrooms, melons, paprika, gherkins, aubergines and ornamentals with a dosage varying between 280 and 960 g/L with an average frequency of 2 times per growing season to control spider mites and soft-bodied mites. For all these uses the application of dicofol was forbidden.
- (c) According to the pesticide legislation in The Netherlands substances with bioaccumulative properties can not be registered (Pesticide Act, 1962 and later revisions). A bioconcentration factor (BCF) of 100 is considered acceptable for non or poorly degradable substances. The BCF determined of 10,000 was considered too high.
- (d) The decision to withdraw the substance dicofol from the Dutch market was aimed at all products containing the substance dicofol. The final result was a complete reduction of the risk to aquatic ecosystem, including fish and predatory birds.

II. Risk evaluation

- (a) The risk in the risk evaluation of The Netherlands focussed on the bioaccumulative properties of dicofol in fish and the possible contamination of predatory birds by the substance. It was established by laboratory research that the substance dicofol showed bioconcentration factors of up to 10,000, whilst a BCF of 100 is considered acceptable for non- or poorly degradable substances.
- (b) The decision is based on the review of all available data as present in the registration dossier of the notifier. Research carried out by the notifier to support the registration request is summarised and evaluated by the national authorities in preparation of the registration decision. The main conclusions of the evaluation are laid down in a registration decision document by the Dutch Board for the Registration of Pesticides. For dicofol this has been done in 1997 as indicated in the references below for the bioaccumulative properties of dicofol.
- (c) Decree of Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Ministerial Order of 22 September 1995. College Toelating voor Bestrijdingsmiddelen (CTB). Verslag C-63 (6-8-1997). C-65.2.a (in Dutch).
- (d) Exposure of dicofol focussed on the environmental compartment as the bioaccumulation of dicofol will affect especially fish and through their feed also predatory birds that feed on fish. Concentration in fish and predatory birds may reach lethal concentrations by the continuous concentration build-up in the tissues of fish and predatory birds.

III. Risk reduction and relevance to other States

- (a) No information available.

- (b) After the described decision the use of dicofol in The Netherlands reduced to zero. Therefore, no risk is to be expected any more to the aquatic ecosystem with respect to concentration build-up of dicofol. If the substance is used in other countries the same effects of bioconcentration will occur with possible unacceptable effects on the aquatic ecosystems in those countries.

 - (c) The substance dicofol is typically used an acaricide in the agri- and horticulture of in apples, pears, strawberry, cucumbers, tomatoes, mushrooms, melons, paprika, gherkins, aubergines and ornamentals with a dosage varying between 280 and 960 g/L with an average frequency of 2 times per growing season to control spider mites and soft-bodied mites.
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