Empowering Communities for Change:
Advancing Food Sovereignty,
Ecological Sustainability and
Gender Justice
About PAN AP

Based in Penang, Malaysia, Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP) is linked to more than 150 groups in 18 countries in the Asia Pacific region. PAN AP envisions: "a society that is truly democratic, equal, just, culturally diverse, and based on food sovereignty, gender justice and environmental sustainability."

Our Mission Statement affirms that:

- We will assert people’s food sovereignty based on the right to food for all, founded on the right to land and productive resources and the right of communities to decide on their own food and agriculture policies.
- We are committed to protect the safety and health of people and the environment from pesticide use, and genetic engineering in food and agriculture.
- We will protect and promote the rights, equality and dignity of women.
- We will promote and protect biodiversity-based ecological agriculture.
- We will strengthen people’s movements to eliminate hunger and achieve food sovereignty.
- We will achieve these goals by empowering people within effective networks at the Asia and the Pacific, and global levels.

PAN AP is one of the regional centres of PAN, a global network working to eliminate the human and environmental harm caused by pesticides, and to promote biodiversity-based ecological agriculture. We prescribe to the following development principles: a participatory holistic approach; a commitment to gender equity and genuine partnership; the need to confront social injustice and global inequities; the value of biodiversity, appropriate traditional and indigenous knowledge systems; and the recognition that our earth is one interdependent living system.

Overview of 2008
Communities Resisting Poisons
Building on Food Sovereignty and Ecological Agriculture
Empowering Rural Women’s Lives
The “Save Our Rice” Campaign
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Acknowledgement
The year 2008 was a challenging year with the food crisis adding nearly 100 million to the ranks of the estimated 855 million poor and the hungry in the world, and pushing a large mass of the poor into destitution. Among these poor and the hungry, nearly 80 per cent are small-scale or near-landless farmers (50 per cent with inadequate land, 20 per cent rural landless workers and, 10 per cent fishers and herders); the rest which comprise 20 per cent are the urban poor whose number is now growing. The most affected and vulnerable within this marginalised group are the women. In addition, the financial crisis that followed towards the end of the year, further impoverished these small producers and marginalised communities, and deepened the food crisis.

Despite the difficult situations, the strength of the network was highlighted in three major events in Asia Pacific and gains in policy advocacy. PAN AP initiated and supported 20 partners in 13 countries in Asia and Africa to observe 16th October as World Foodless Day that articulated the voices of the marginalised communities. The Asian Rural Women’s Conference, which led to the formation of the Asian Rural Women’s Coalition (ARWC) and attended by 130 organisations from 21 Asian countries, demonstrates the growing visibility and empowerment of women in agriculture. This contributed to the strengthening of rural women’s movements and in building capacities, perspectives and leadership of rural women to participate in important forums and to articulate their issues. The Week of Rice Action (WORA) expanded to 14 countries, carried the theme “No to GE Rice in Asia” and successfully established GE-free zones. The growing impacts of climate change and agrofuels have also become increasingly significant challenges for rice in the region and these have been taken into account.

As PAN AP continues to work with people’s organisations and CSOs to advocate for the pesticide use reduction and eradication of highly hazardous pesticides, 2008 had inopportune incidences in Asia Pacific that proved the adverse effects of pesticides - the pesticide residues found in fruits and vegetables in New Zealand; the deaths of children in India; and the potential global disaster from the sinking of a 10-tonne cargo of pesticides headed for corporate fruit plantations in Mindanao, Philippines. Significantly, the one common pesticide that featured in all these cases was Endosulfan. This notorious pesticide subsequently became the subject of heated debates and strong policy advocacy at the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Convention chemical committee, the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Conference of Parties (COP) and national authorities. In the Philippines, there is now a temporary ban on Endosulfan and the province of Bukidnon has issued an independent ban on its use. In New Zealand and Indonesia, the campaign contributed to the authorities’ decision to ban Endosulfan.

PAN AP’s fact finding missions drew attention to the struggles of small scale farmers, fishers and indigenous communities against the expansion of industrialised zones or the Special Economic Zones in India, the wanton deforestation for oil palm plantations in Malaysia and, the oil and gas exploration in the seas in the Philippines. These so-called developments have destroyed the health, the livelihoods and the environment that these communities depend on for their survival. In addition, PAN AP has also taken actions to deal with the structural forces and corporate activities that perpetuate pesticides and, support and promote biodiversity-based ecological agriculture.

Much of these achievements are attributed to the continuous strengthening and capacity building within the network through consultations, joint planning and implementations of activities and campaigns. New partners in Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Thailand and Nepal have also come into the network and they have dynamically contributed their commitments as well.

Overall, it was a productive year for PAN AP and we look forward to achieving more successes that better the conditions and positions of the communities we work with.
The devastating threats of pesticides made headlines once again in 2008 and nowhere more than in the Asia Pacific region recorded incidences of mortality rates and environmental damages. Regionally and internationally, PAN AP and its partner organisations took action and came together to consolidate the work of strengthening local grassroots monitoring while keeping in sight regional and international targets for pesticide use reduction and elimination. The year saw more successes in bans and restrictions of targeted pesticides i.e. Endosulfan and Paraquat. Moreover, the eight country coordinated community monitoring and study on the impact of pesticides went through a challenging implementation but all participating groups were able to deliver monitoring results which are vital for policy advocacy.

The overall goal of the Pesticides Programme is “to contribute to the elimination of health and environmental hazards of pesticides.” The programme’s objectives are:

1. support community based monitoring, to provide documentation of the impact of pesticides on health and the environment;
2. initiate a rapid alert and response system to report pesticide poisonings and facilitate mitigative action
3. use international policy tools to eliminate dangerous pesticides recognising their many detrimental effects in developing countries in Asia to health, the environment and livelihoods;
4. raise awareness and build capacity in NGOs, CSOs, people’s organisations, including small farmers, women, and consumer organisations to strengthen national and regional policies and regulations on pesticides and to support and promote safe, and sustainable pest management alternatives
5. facilitate community, farmer and worker action to reduce risks due to pesticide use, and to adopt more sustainable agricultural methods.

Community Empowerment through Community-Based Pesticide Monitoring (CPAM)

PAN AP continued to support partners at national level, further consolidating CPAM, expanding the number of facilitators, and raising awareness among communities. Eleven partner organisations from eight countries participated in the regional initiative of coordinated monitoring and study on the impact of pesticides using certain provisions in the Pesticide Conventions and Codes as well as using the results of the monitoring for policy advocacy. A “Handbook on Community Monitoring for International Advocacy” was developed to facilitate the coordinated monitoring and policy advocacy, and a Regional Training of Facilitators (ToF) for Community Monitoring and International Advocacy was held.

Monitoring was implemented in the following communities in collaboration with our local partners: vegetable farmers in the Wonosobo Highlands, Java, Indonesia with Gita Pertiwi; palm oil workers and longhouse communities in Sarawak, Malaysia with Sarawak Iban Dayak Association (SADIA); palm oil plantation workers in Perak, Malaysia with Tenaganita; farmers in Davao del Sur, Philippines with PAN-Philippines and Citizens’ Alliance United for Sectoral Empowerment- Davao Sur (CAUSE-DS); rice farmers in Kerala, India with Thanal Conservation Action and Information Network (THANAL); farmers in Andhra Pradesh, India with SAHANIVASA; cotton farmers in Orissa,

Interview Session at Wonosobo, Indonesia
India with Living Farms; and farmers in Sri Lanka with Vikalpani. In the Mekong region, CEDAC in Cambodia, PEAC in Yunnan, China and, CGFED and An Giang University in Vietnam also participated in this systematic, coordinated regional monitoring.

Partners reported high use of pesticides, including highly hazardous and banned pesticides, practices that violate the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, and poisoning incidents. Partners also reported that while challenging at times, the monitoring activities raised the awareness of local communities on the effects of pesticides. In addition to the regional initiative, partners undertook training in their respective languages, achieving more outreach in 2008. The results are now compiled into a regional database, providing data to be used for raising awareness and advocacy at all levels.

**Pesticide Quick Response and Surveillance Team (PQRST)**

PQRST consists of highly trained anti-pesticide advocates who are able to respond to reports of adverse events related to pesticides within a reasonable period of time. The main purpose of the team is to provide a support mechanism to communities which are likely to be victims of pesticide poisonings. It was piloted with teams established in Davao City and Davao del Sur, Philippines, and showed great potential for expansion - trainings engendered great interest and the youth were engaged to pledge for commitment to take action on pesticides. A module entitled “PQRST - A Practical Guide” has been developed and is seen to be useful in the establishment of other teams.

**Policy Research and Advocacy**

On behalf of PAN International, PAN AP provided a submission on Endosulfan to the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Review Committee (RC) Secretariat, indicating that Endosulfan meets the POPs RC screening criteria. PAN AP also wrote to the Stockholm contact points in response to a letter sent to many countries by Indian Endosulfan manufacturer, Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., which contains factually incorrect information. These works contributed to POPs RC agreeing that Endosulfan meets the screening criteria as a POP and to proceed with the development of its Risk Profile. This is a good step towards the inclusion of Endosulfan on the POPs list.

PAN AP also led the setting of agenda, preparations, plenary session and negotiations on Integrated Pest and Vector Management (IPM and IVM) for the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS). The Forum adopted the Dakar Recommendations on Ecologically Based IPM and IVM: Key Elements of Pesticide Risk Reduction Strategies. Moreover, PAN AP led the planning and hosting of the side event: "Ecological Pest Management in a Sustainable World", which was well attended and which significantly involved grassroots practitioners voicing experiences and recommendations.

The organisation was also invited to a meeting by the FAO Secretariat to provide a paper and to make a presentation on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and why they should be considered as highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs). In the recommendations, the Panel “noted advancements in the development of harmonised testing guidelines and evaluation criteria for EDCs”. PAN International has finalised its list of HHPs which includes the FAO criteria and adds the Endocrine Disrupting Pesticides and other specific criteria.
In addition, during the fourth Conference of Parties (COP) of the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent where the decision on whether or not to include Endosulfan in the list, a decision which the Government of India was vocal in objecting, PAN AP made a great impact in successfully establishing the powerful stake of the community concerns all over the world.

**Campaigns on Pesticides and Companies**

**Paraquat:** In Malaysia, PAN AP attended and made presentations to the Pesticide Board Meetings and also facilitated the survivors of Paraquat poisoning to articulate their issues at these meetings. This advocacy has ensured that the Board is now having a greater focus on alternatives. In Indonesia, the influence of Gita Pertiwi contributed to a plan to ban Paraquat in 2009 by the Agricultural Ministry. In Sri Lanka, restrictions are now in place and the Pesticide Registrar is planning to ban it by 2010. PAN Germany also produced a field guide on “How to Grow Crops without Paraquat” in contribution to the campaign in Asia and these are being distributed.

**Endosulfan:** In the Philippines, the province of Bukidnon (which had undergone a CPAM training workshop and implemented monitoring by PAN Philippines) has issued an independent ban on the use of Endosulfan. In addition, there is now a temporary ban on Endosulfan in the Philippines due to the campaign and pressure of RESIST (CSO network) in response to the sinking of a ship which carried 10 metric tons of Endosulfan, destined for use by Del Monte. In Indonesia, Gita Pertiwi’s consistent involvement in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and push of the Endosulfan campaign contributed to the decision by Indonesia to ban Endosulfan. In New Zealand, PAN Aotearoa New Zealand joined the reassessment process of the Environmental Risk Management Authority New Zealand, contributing to the decision by the Authority to ban it. PAN Germany contributed to the campaign by producing a field guide on “How to Grow Crops without Endosulfan”. The Endosulfan monograph and Field Guide will continue to be more widely circulated and used in different countries.

**DDT:** In Kerala, India, the Eloor Fact Finding Mission (FFM) on the Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) manufacturing plant and its effects on the local community was implemented. In partnership with THANAL, in both Eloor and Kasargod in Kerala, some survivors of the contamination are provided with compensation and health-care.

**No Pesticide Use Day (December 3):** Pan AP helped partners in the region to hold events on December 3 to raise concerns on pesticides and, to mobilise the public and media. Nine organisations in eight countries participated, using varied outreach strategies. The outreach has increased and widened to different sectors, especially women and youth. Pan AP issued a press release calling for the global ban and, phase out of the production and use of Endosulfan.

PAN AP also invited Dr. Meriel Watts, author of “Pesticides and Breast Cancer – A Wake Up Call” to give a series of talks on her book at the most imminent and important hospitals and university in Penang, Malaysia. The events successfully raised awareness among doctors, surgeons, nurses, lecturers and students.

*Thavinjal Grama Panchayth, Kerala, India Committee Chairman SR Benny Sebastian flags off rally calling for pesticide-free farming.*
The world food crisis of 2008 manifested a systemic and structural failure proving that the existing food and agricultural practices, and the neo-liberal agenda have failed to address the issue on food. These policies impacted on peasants, agricultural workers, women, small food producers and the poor. PAN AP’s Food Sovereignty and Ecological Agriculture Programme provides a comprehensive alternative platform for social movements against corporate control on food and agriculture. It undertakes various initiatives at national and international levels – through peasant-led Research and Policy Advocacy, Campaigns, Skills and Capacity Building, Ecological Agriculture and Movement Building. The programme’s publications have responded to current issues and concerns, and strengthened people’s movements. The campaigns have proven to be intense and result oriented. The Fact Finding Missions (FFMs) have been very important responses to the struggles of local movements and have created international support at crucial times and; this has motivated the local people to continue the struggle.

The programme’s objectives are:
1. concretise food sovereignty through peasant-led policy research and advocacy focusing on productive resources, safe and adequate food and ecological agriculture.
2. monitor and expose international institutions such as FAO and transnational corporations (TNCs) which are threatening the food sovereignty of communities.
3. develop campaign plans and carry out specific campaigns based on the outputs of the policy research.
4. sustain and strengthen capacity of partners through exchanges, training and skills sharing.
5. consolidate existing partner organisations and forge new partnerships with other sectors and organisations on the Food Sovereignty platform.
6. further advance the Convention on Food Sovereignty as a rallying point for people’s organisations for collaboration.
7. advance Ecological Agriculture component of Food Sovereignty through systematic documentation and capacity sharing.

**Research and Policy Advocacy**

Responding to the recommendations of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD), PAN AP and the Asian Peasants Coalition undertook a 5-country grassroots coordinated research on the implementation of ICARRD recommendations. The research, “Three-level Advocacy for Genuine Agrarian Reform”, was launched and is expected to publicise the land struggle at the local levels for the attention of the government and other agencies and organisations at the national and international levels.

Three Special Releases were published: (1) Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Untold Stories: Experiences from Asian Countries; (2) The Global Food Crisis: Hype and Reality; and (3) How Sustainable is China’s Agriculture. These highlighted the land struggles, exposed the realities of the food crisis and threw light on how China’s “development” was impacting the lives of its peasants. These have been widely circulated and were included in the materials sent to partners and other organisations during the World Foodless Day event.

PAN AP also facilitated the participation of partners to the High-Level Conference on “World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy” in Rome. The programme representative also acted as a resource person for a parallel forum by the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty and helped in writing the statement.
Campaigns

Fact Finding Missions (FFMs): As PAN AP’s direct intervention in communities where food sovereignty of small food producers is threatened, 3 FFMs were conducted in 2008. The subsequent online publication “Speak Out” reported on the findings of the FFMs and spearheaded international campaigns to draw attention to the specific struggles. These were: (1) “SEZ Expansion in Andhra Pradesh, India: Undermining the Rights of the Poor”; (2) “Hunger and Plunder in the Seas: Oil and Gas Exploration Causes Destruction of Marine Environment and Food Insecurity in Central Philippines” and; (3) “Rampaging the Rainforests: Squashing People's Customary Land Ownership in Sarawak, Malaysia”.

Signed petitions in hundreds have been able to draw the attention of corporations and policy makers to address specific issues. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in a meeting with PAN AP on the outcome of the Sarawak FFM, has committed to facilitate the possible visit of the Special Rapporteur to Sarawak, to look into the violations against the indigenous people. In Sarawak, the FFM strengthened the local unity of the indigenous people’s communities and the resilience to continue the advocacy to change government policy. The FFM in Visayas, Philippines contributed to NorAsia Energy Ltd., an Australian oil and gas exploration company which was engaged in oil and gas exploration in Central Visayas, Philippines, withdrawing from the area.

World Foodless Day: PAN AP initiated and supported 20 partners in 13 countries in Asia and Africa to observe 16th October, the UN World Food Day as the “World Foodless Day”. Highlighting the root causes of the food crisis and raising voices against neo-liberal policies and their impacts, the partner organisations in respective countries held public meetings, protest rallies, exhibitions and dialogues with government officials. Campaign materials were produced: “The Politics of Hunger: When Policies and Markets Fail the Poor”; Special Releases; posters on “End Hunger” and; a 3-minute video highlighting the issues, which were widely distributed worldwide. PAN AP also drafted an Open letter to the UN High Level Task Force on Food Security, which drew worldwide response and signs-on by 103 organisations. It provided impetus for the articulation by marginalised communities on the food crisis.

Training and Skills Development

PAN AP’s regional and national trainings on food sovereignty have clarified people’s understanding of the food sovereignty concept, sharpened their awareness on the issue and strengthened partner coalitions. In 2008, PAN AP supported the following national trainings: In Mongolia, the training led to the formation of a people’s coalition on food sovereignty there, which raised the issues and concerns on people's food problems during the elections in the country; In Indonesia, Alliance of Agrarian Reform Movement (AGRA) which previously participated in the regional training, went on to conduct seven national trainings within Indonesia and in their national language.

In addition, the food sovereignty training module was updated to address the current issues and concerns, and the rapid changes in the global development scenario. Now, there are two separate
modules - a more technical version for CSOs and a popular version for grassroots organisations. The revised modules have been drafted and pilot tested in two training workshops in Kenya.

**Alliance Building**

PAN AP manages the secretariat of two important coalitions of grassroots organisations — the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) and the Coalition of Agricultural Workers International (CAWI). PAN AP and PCFS were instrumental in the formation of the Food Sovereignty Coalition in Mongolia, while CAWI launched "Studies on the Impact of Neoliberal Policies on the Conditions of Agricultural Workers" which documents the conditions and struggles of agricultural workers in India, Philippines and Sri Lanka. The publication is expected to help strengthen CAWI in networking and alliance building towards assertion of agricultural workers on rights, access and control over resources.

**Empowering Rural Women's Lives**

As the global food crisis loomed in 2008, it left a devastating impact on the lives of women in agricultural communities, especially the direct food producers and seed keepers, who are uniquely placed in the heart of the issue. The crisis has further intensified the discrimination, exploitation and vulnerability of rural women as farmers, agricultural workers and as workers. They face increasing hardships, impoverishment, displacement and hunger. Rural women have been pushed to situations where they can hardly survive - increasing their workloads and exposing them to hazardous technologies and chemicals. They have been sidelined, hindering them from public participation and access to information, losing out their right to discuss issues and to decide on policies affecting them.

PAN AP’s Women in Agriculture Programme has strategically placed rural women at the forefront of its advocacies through its three focus areas: women and food sovereignty; women and ecological agriculture and; women and health.

The programme’s objectives are:
1. make visible women’s role, contribution, knowledge and skills in food and agriculture
2. protect women’s health and reproductive rights from hazardous technologies and corporate agriculture
3. facilitate the strengthening of women’s knowledge, skills, capacity and action in these issues
4. make the role and contribution of women in agriculture visible and support rural women’s reproductive rights and rights to health, land and productive resources.

**Women and Food Sovereignty**

**Asian Rural Women’s Conference and the Coalition:** In 2008, visibility and empowerment of rural women were the strongest focus of the programme. The first-ever Asian Rural Women’s Conference was held from 6th to 8th March 2008 in Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu, India. It was attended by more than 700 rural women leaders and representatives, national women's groups, regional networks, public interest groups and activists from over 130 organisations in 21 Asian countries. There were 30 presentations and testimonies, 16 workshops and 3 plenaries which articulated the struggles of women, and their resilience, built stronger responses against corporate globalisation and developed alternatives.

*Women from different countries made their calls at the Public Forum.*
with women’s perspective. The women’s caravan, rally and public assembly, held during the International Women’s Day, drew over 7,000 local women from all over Tamil Nadu who joined the international delegates during the historical gathering.

The conference made a series of “firsts” for rural women in the region. It gathered the most widely represented conference of rural women leaders and women’s organisations from different sectors and countries. A Rural Women’s Declaration was adopted. The event led to the formation of the Asian Rural Women’s Coalition (ARWC). A Steering Committee was formed which facilitated the entire process that came from a collective of national alliances and regional formations working on women’s issues on various fronts in Asia. The coalition would also serve as a leverage to build capacities of rural women leaders by providing more opportunities for them to articulate their issues through participation in national and international areas of policy intervention and campaign work. With the coalition in place, greater opportunities for strengthened alliance and new linkages are also possible.

**Women’s Calendar 2009**: PAN AP and ARWC paid tribute to exceptional women across Asia through the Women’s Calendar 2009. Twelve grassroots women leaders in 10 countries, who were regarded in their communities as heroines or martyrs, were featured commemorating their contributions towards their communities and the empowerment of women. The calendar serves as an inspiration for others to continue working for justice and freedom.

**Women and Ecological Agriculture**

PAN AP embarked on the Documentation of Women’s Knowledge System in Ecological Agriculture, which was seen as a useful process and crucial step towards recognising women’s various roles and knowledge in agriculture – as providers, producers and managers of agricultural biodiversity. A planning meeting was held in India with partner groups from Malaysia (SusDeN), Thailand (RRAFA) and Philippines (SIBAT), discussing the framework of the module based on country case studies. As a parallel strategy, PAN AP organised a workshop with the theme, “Peasant Women, Genetic Resources and Ecological Agriculture”, during the Asian Rural Women’s Conference. The local strategies, policy measures and best practices that were discussed at the workshop are integrated into the 2009 Round Table Discussion on women and genetic resources.

**Women and Health**

The research studies conducted in Bangladesh, China and Philippines, on the situation of the floriculture industry, pesticides use and its impact on women were completed. Entitled “Poisoned Blossoms, Withering Hopes: A Review of the Floriculture Industry in Asia”, each case study documented the effects of floriculture on women workers in communities, in respect of health and their socio-economic, political and ecological situations.

As part of PAN AP’s gender mainstreaming initiatives, PAN AP organised workshops in India, during the Asian Rural Women’s Conference, on the intensification of corporate agriculture; the ensuing health, socio-economic and environmental degradation that rural women face; and on ecological agriculture. The workshop on “Rural Women: Health and Violence Against Women” explored everyday violence in rural women’s lives, deepening and sharpening perspectives on gender-based violence including the impacts of hazardous pesticides and corporate agriculture, as a form of violence on health of women. The workshop on “Rural Women: Land, Livelihood, Resources and Food Sovereignty” discussed the corporate control in land and agriculture, and its impact on women. Follow-up actions include fact-finding missions, coalition-building and a regional information campaign on rural women on these issues.
The "Save Our Rice" Campaign

The Rice Crisis of 2008 saw rice stocks at their lowest for 30 years and rice prices increased by more than 10 per cent to a high of 40 per cent. While the agrochemical transnational corporations (TNCs) found the situation a perfect scenario for them to push their products into people's plates, the world's poorest, who are dependent on rice, were severely affected as prices of grains have become unaffordable. The concern on how to feed the world's growing population was ironically the faultless reason for promoting Genetically Engineered (GE) rice once again. After the major evaluation by the partners in the Rice Advisory Council in late 2007, the Rice Campaign set new goals and objectives while maintaining the Five Pillars of Rice Wisdom. GE Rice and Ecological Agriculture took precedence for the Rice Campaign with the Week of Rice Action (WORA) 2008, the GE Rice Road Show and training in the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). The growing impacts of climate change and agro-fuels have also become increasingly significant challenges for rice in the region and these have been taken into account in the revised goals and objectives.

The objectives of the Rice Campaign remain rooted to the Five Pillars of Rice Wisdom: (1) Rice Culture, (2) Community Wisdom, (3) Biodiversity-Based Ecological Agriculture, (4) Safe Food, and (5) Food Sovereignty. The Campaign's objectives are:

1. raise awareness about the local Asian rice culture among the societies and to facilitate a sharing of experiences among rice farmers.
2. highlight farmers' knowledge and community wisdom by encouraging factors such as intuition, spirituality and ethics in rice cultivation.
3. promote chemical-free and productive biodiversity-based ecological agriculture, aiming towards community self-reliance.
4. awareness building among farmers and consumers about the threats that “high input varieties” and genetic engineering will bring to their livelihoods.
5. community empowerment and support of resistance regarding the impacts of globalisation and trade liberalisation on Asian rice cultivation.

Public Outreach and Policy Advocacy

WORA 2008: The regional campaign with the theme “No to GE Rice in Asia” was held across 14 countries in Asia to resist the incursion of GE rice into Asia, to promote Biodiversity-based Ecological Agriculture (BEA) and preservation of traditional rice varieties. WORA 2008 was a follow-up to WORA 2007. Activities included forums, workshops, rallies, celebrations, etc. where participation came from all sectors of society especially small farmers. GE-free zones were declared and policy-makers made some strong stands to protect local lands from GE Rice.

Fact Sheet Translations: The fact sheets on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and Rice, Hybrid Rice, SRI, GE Rice and Golden Rice were translated into different languages by partners in the Philippines, Tamil Nadu (India), Andhra Pradesh (India), China, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Altogether there were 17 translated fact sheets that aim to reach out to grassroots communities.
The Asia Pacific Rice Journalist Award and the Asia Pacific Rice Film Award 2008/2009: These competitions were created to spur serious journalism on rice issues and to use the media more effectively for awareness building and advocacy.

Safe Food

GE Rice Road Show: It was a follow-up activity to WORA 2008. PAN AP brought in Dr. Michael Hansen, geneticists from Consumers Union, New York, to speak at 6 locations - Malaysia, Sri Lanka and, Orissa, West Bengal, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in India. The audience included local scientists, academicians, research institutions, policy-makers, CSOs and the public. Parliamentarians attended his talks in a number of localities and some are using his presentation/information to lobby against GE Rice in their local contexts. Dr. Hansen succeeded in convincing local audiences on the real threats of GE Rice as he had the science as well as the policy-perspective on GE.

GE Rice Animation Video: A 20-minute video was produced as a very useful tool used to support the GE Rice Road Show. It helped lay audiences understand the science and issues of GE.

Promoting and Supporting Biodiversity-based Ecological Agriculture (BEA)

Training of Trainers Programme in SRI: PAN AP conducted two sub-regional “train-the-trainer” workshops in September 2008 on SRI which has been proven to raise yields by more than double and net incomes by up to eight times. The workshops were conducted in Cambodia by CEDAC and in India by Kudumbam (both well-established trainers and practitioners in SRI using ecological methods and native rice varieties) and involved 31 trainees (NGOs and farmers) from 8 countries. The trainees are now initiating SRI on local farms and train others to do so in their local areas.

Launch of BEA Project in Yunnan, China: The project is aimed at developing BEA in rice cultivation in China which has lost much of its traditional rice varieties and practices to Green Revolution (hybrids, pesticides, monocultures, etc.) through comparative analysis of BEA rice farms and conventional farms, and using the findings to lobby the government to adopt policies supporting BEA.

Information and Communication Programme

Information and Communication Programme

PAN AP’s Information and Communication Programme (Info-Comm) continuously provide information to network partners, other organisations around the region and the media. With the evolving technologies in communications, Info-Comm has been harnessing the use of Information Technology-based and conventional media that are available. It has widened the audience for PAN AP’s issues by including new and alternative forms of media. PAN AP information packages which include published materials are compiled for partner groups and grassroots organisations, media, policy-makers, students, and the academia.

The programme’s objectives are:
1. provide timely and relevant information to staff, network partners and women's organisations
2. advance access to and use of information for PAN AP staff and network partners
3. improve communication capacities and media relations to meet organisational goals
4. expand the base of support for PAN AP's work and actions
In 2008, the PAN AP website – www.panap.net was moderately restructured and redesigned. It was constantly updated to keep everyone, especially the network partners, abreast with the organisation’s activities and concerns. A database and web application was also set-up to provide information on PAN AP’s partners. The website recorded over 12,000 visitors per month with an average content viewing of 49,000.

In support of PAN AP’s programmes and campaigns, Info-Comm has facilitated the production and distribution of the following information materials:

**Pesticides Programme**: 2000 copies of the book, “Pesticides and Breast Cancer: A Wake Up Call” were printed; Glufosinate and Methyl Parathion monographs were completed; info-pack on Paraquat was given to the Malaysian Pesticide Board; 60 info-packs were given during the ToF and CPAM and; 1 CD entitled “ToF on Core Initiative 1” was produced.

**Food Sovereignty Programme**: the book “The Politics of Hunger - When Policies and Markets Fail the Poor” was printed; a brochure on World Foodless Day was produced; 2 posters on “Hunger” were created and; a Flash production was uploaded into the Webpage and Youtube, which had 417 views.

**Women in Agriculture Programme**: 1000 meeting kits were distributed during the Asian Rural Women Conference and; a calendar of women in agriculture was printed and distributed.

**The “Save our Rice” Campaign**: informational emails on rice developments were sent out; 29 info kits were given during the Rice Advisory Council Meeting and; 11 during the PAN AP Strategy Meeting on BEA of Rice and IRRI.

As part of PAN International, PAN AP has been involved in **Community Monitoring for International Advocacy**. PAN AP is now focused on the coordinated monitoring in Asia. For this initiative, PAN AP has developed the Handbook and the database format for monitoring data, and has shared these two tools with other regional centres (RCs).

**Other Alliances**

PAN AP is a non-voting member of the Asian Peasants Coalition, a member of the Asian Pacific Research Network and is involved in the “Our World Is Not for Sale” Network. Since 2002, the organisation has been actively working towards the participation of peoples’ organisations in the meetings of the UN FAO through its involvement in the IPC or the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty.

**PAN AP Network and Institutional Building**

PAN AP has been working with like-minded groups and individuals, and has maintained an active presence in 16 Asian countries. In fact, the achievements of the organisation are credited to the continuous strengthening and capacity building within the network through consultations, joint planning and implementations of activities and campaigns. In 2008, new partners in Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Thailand and Nepal have also come into the network and they have dynamically contributed their commitments as well.

**South East Asia**

**Philippines**: RESIST (Resistance and Solidarity against Agrochemical TNCs) is an active national network of PAN AP with affiliation of 52 organisations and institutions nationwide. In 2008, PAN AP and the RESIST secretariat agreed on key strategies for the next two years. RESIST called for the ban of Endosulfan in the Philippines as an immediate response to the sinking of the ship, M/V Princess of the Stars which carried 10 metric tonnes of Endosulfan, destined for use by Del Monte. The
subsequent pressure campaign on the government resulted on a temporary ban on Endosulfan. RESIST network has promoted numerous House Bills, resolutions and hearings in the Philippine Congress on the issue of Endosulfan, Paraquat, pesticide regulations, GMOs, protection of indigenous knowledge, repeal of the immunity of IRRI, and; these information have been distributed widely.

**Malaysia:** The network is focused on strengthening organisations of agricultural workers, especially in the plantation sector, indigenous peoples’ organisations and consumer groups. The FFM in Sarawak in 2008 spearheaded a rapid support to SADIA, an indigenous people’s organisation that has now been involved in the community monitoring for international advocacy, and WORA.

**Mekong Countries (Cambodia and Vietnam):** The collaboration has been more systematised and the capacity sharing has been tremendous. CEDAC in Cambodia has developed a strong community monitoring and awareness campaign and in Vietnam, two partners - Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED) and An Jiang University, are new and they are studying the impact of pesticides on the health of communities.

**Indonesia:** The partnership with local groups has consolidated with the links with KRKP or the Coalition for Food Sovereignty particularly focused on the rice campaign. Strengthening the work with Gita Pertiwi and Sawit Watch through the gender and pesticide issues has been well developed. New partnerships have been initiated with AGRA, a peasant organisation especially in the area of Food Sovereignty and Indies, a CSO research group.

**South Asia**

**Sri Lanka:** Vikalpani, a Federation of Women’s Organisations is a grassroots network present in 7 provinces in Sri Lanka. Human Development Organisation (HDO) works for the equal rights of plantation workers. With support from PAN AP, Vikalpani has successfully campaigned and pressured the government. As a result, they announced the restriction of pesticides, Diamethoate and Fention. Vikalpani’s activities, training and events have changed consumer practices and attitudes and many who have participated in their programmes have now switched to ecological agriculture in their home gardens. They also have a pool of volunteer doctors for their pesticide and health programmes and they maintain a pesticide resource centre which is a useful tool for researchers.

**India:** PAN AP strengthened its linkages with groups in India with the organising of the Rural Women’s Conference especially with women’s organisations. We have now created a listserve and continue to link up with them. PAN AP’s Rice Campaign is now a national campaign for THANAL, a local CSO based in Kerala.

**East Asia**

**China:** PEAC and Eco-women are the two main CSOs that PAN AP partners in China. PAN AP has developed strong links in the Pesticide and Women in Agriculture Programmes, and the Rice Campaign. PEAC has launched its national programme, “Save our Rice” which is supported by PAN AP. It has a strong technical background on pesticides issues and their alternatives, with a strong outreach to farmers.

**Mongolia:** The training on Food Sovereignty last year spearheaded the birth of the Mongolian coalition on Food Sovereignty that is undertaking a broad policy advocacy and campaigning on Food Sovereignty and safe food.

**Links with Central Asia:** The links with the Central Asian groups who attended the Asian Rural Women’s Conference is being maintained.

**Institutional Building**

**PAN AP Steering Council, Management Committee and Programme Management Team**

PAN AP programmes and campaigns are continuously discussed in these groups where key inputs have been provided to improve the directions and focuses of each of the programmes and campaigns.
Thanks to ...  

**PAN AP would like to thank the following people and organisations for their support and generosity in helping to formulate, enhance and improve the work of the organisation in order to meet the challenges and commitments within the vision we have adopted.**

**PAN AP Steering Council**

Irene Fernandez  Tenaganita, Malaysia
Anwar Fazal   Peoples’ TransAction, Malaysia
Sarojeni V. Rengam  PAN AP, Malaysia
Fatima Burnad   SRED, India
Koa Tasaka   PAN Japan
Kuang Rongping  PEAC, China
Meriel Watts   PAN Aotearoa/New Zealand
Romeo F. Quijano  PAN Philippines
Kim Jai Ok   Consumers Korea
Nasira Habib   KHOJ, Pakistan

THANK YOU to our network partners who have continued their support through information sharing, networking and linking with us on key activities.

Our SPECIAL GRATITUDE also goes to the following organisations for their support without which we would not have been able to carry out our work:

- Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED), Germany
- Biodiversity Fund / Humanistisch Institute Voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (HIVOS), The Netherlands
- Katholische Zentralstelle fur Entwicklungshilfe (KZE), Germany
- Oxfam-Novib, The Netherlands
- Sigrid Rausing Trust, UK
- Swedish International Biodiversity Programme (SwedBio), Sweden
- Swedish Chemical Inspectorate (KemI)

**PAN AP Staff List 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Role</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Mourin</td>
<td>Deputy Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosmah Ismail</td>
<td>Administration and Finance Director</td>
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<td>Programme Coordinator (Food Sovereignty and Ecological Agriculture)</td>
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<td>Revathi Ramachandran</td>
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<td>Chandrika Subramanian</td>
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<td>Clara Guzman</td>
<td>Consultant (Information and Communications)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In its 17 years of existence as an independent organisation, PAN AP has situated itself in the grassroots movements in Asia and has gained strength from these linkages. This can be seen through the successes of its campaigns, training and policy advocacies that have strengthened people’s movements, publicised their issues, and united various movements. The interactions with local communities have enriched the solidarity among grassroots organisations, advocacy groups and individuals.

Currently, PAN AP has 108 partner groups in Asia and the Pacific region, and it outreaches to more than 390 CSOs and grassroots organisations in Asia and globally.

The empowerment of women has been a conscious effort within PAN AP staff, its programmes, and its network. It was able to systematically ensure women’s involvement and integrate gender views in various projects and activities.

The organisation works within the framework of food sovereignty i.e. people’s and communities’ right to decision making on food and agriculture, right to land and productive resources and, the right to safe and ecologically produced food. The reduction and elimination of pesticides is still its mandate but it is also focused on other hazardous technologies.

Overall, PAN AP’s work continues to provide impetus to improve the lives of the marginalised communities. The organisation empowers communities for change and advance food sovereignty, ecological sustainability and gender justice.

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