

EMPOWERING PEOPLE FOR CHANGE

PANAP
PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK
ASIA & THE PACIFIC

Annual Report 2011



Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP) is one of the five regional centres of PAN, a global network dedicated to eliminating the harm caused to humans and the environment by pesticides and promoting biodiversity-based ecological agriculture. PAN AP's vision is that of a society which is truly democratic, equal, just, and culturally diverse; based on the principles of food sovereignty, gender justice and environmental sustainability.

It has developed strong partnerships with peasants, agricultural workers and rural women movements in the Asia Pacific region and guided by the strong leadership of these grassroots groups, has grown into a reputable advocacy

About PAN AP

PAN AP's mission lies in strengthening people's movements to advance and assert food sovereignty, biodiversity-based ecological agriculture, and the empowerment of rural women; protect people and the environment from highly hazardous pesticides; defend the rice heritage of Asia; and resist the threats of corporate agriculture and neo-liberal globalisation. Currently, PAN AP comprises 108 network partner organisations in the Asia Pacific region and links with about 400 other CSOs and grassroots organisations regionally and globally.

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OVERVIEW

The PAN movement went into 2011 with renewed vigour and hope that the survivors of pesticide poisoning receive a strong favourable judgement from the Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT) Session on Agrochemical Transnational Corporations (TNCs). In December 2011 in Bangalore, India, over 20 victims and survivors of gross human rights violations committed by Syngenta, Monsanto, Bayer, DuPont, Dow, and BASF delivered moving testimonies that were broadcasted live to the global community. The PPT session was the first of its kind, documenting the wrongful acts and omissions of the six largest agrochemical companies and how they have resulted in deep and widespread suffering. The PPT jury came out with a strong verdict convicting the 'Big 6', their home states, and three international institutions, and made recommendations to ensure corporate accountability for human rights violations. This whole action had been initiated by PAN International, with a large part of the preparatory work coordinated by PAN AP. (Details are expanded under the International Advocacy Chapter of this Annual Report.

Another triumph lies in the achievement of the endosulfan ban. After several decades of our persistent policy advocacy campaigns working with partners and other groups, endosulfan, one of the most hazardous pesticides (HHPs) known to mankind, was finally listed in international conventions. Endosulfan is due for a global phase-out under the Stockholm Convention and exporting countries must obtain Prior Informed Consent from importing countries under the Rotterdam Convention. Furthermore, pesticide formulations containing the HHP paraquat, have been recommended for listing in the Rotterdam Convention by its Chemical Review Committee. A major success in the continuing campaign against HHPs, this victory has reverberated around the world and will benefit future generations.

PAN AP believes that strengthening people's movements is the best defence against pesticides and other hazardous technologies. Thus, 2011 was yet another year of vibrant community and national level actions to promote biodiversity-based ecological agriculture, campaigns against pesticides and genetically-engineered (GE) crops, resistance to rampant land-grabbing and building community resilience to the effects of climate change. Once again, our network partners proved that collective regional actions can create significant impacts. The 2011 Collective Rice Action Campaign involved partners in 15 countries and the No Pesticide Use Week engaged participants in five countries. Through joint workshops, public fora, festivals, caravans, demonstrations, and other events, our ties with grassroot partners and communities remain PAN AP's greatest strength. We addressed the threat of Bt eggplant in the Philippines and the resurgence of Golden Rice in Asia. A roadshow by our consultant genetic scientist had an enormous impact on policy-makers and academicians in the Philippines, persuading some to withdraw their support for GE in agriculture.

We strengthened the Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC) and Coalition of Agricultural Workers International (CAWI) by organising the 2nd ARWC Conference and planning for a CAWI General Assembly, in order to promote the growth of these two important networks.

Overall, 2011 was a leap forward for PAN AP in terms of capacity and advocacy outreach. PAN AP continues to take pride in its work advancing food sovereignty in rural communities, the bedrock of global food security. PAN AP remains committed to its role of empowering the people towards achieving their inherent and fundamental human rights to safe food, a healthy environment, and access to the resources needed for secure and sustainable livelihoods.

PESTICIDES PROGRAMME

The **Pesticides Programme** this year achieved increased collaboration with partners who worked to reduce or eliminate Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in their own countries and in the region. There were significant successes in terms of advocacy and mobilising communities to resist HHPs and in the promotion of alternatives.

Partnerships in Advocacy Campaigns

PAN AP sustained its efforts in mobilising communities and partners in the Mekong Region. Network partners from Cambodia, China, Vietnam and Laos positively assessed the achievements of the project “Towards a Non-Toxic South-East Asia,” and shared valuable experiences and lessons at the **Keml Steering Meeting** from 10th-12th January. They committed to accelerate their policy advocacy efforts and use Community-based Pesticide Action Monitoring (CPAM) as a tool to document the impacts of pesticides on health and for organising community action against pesticide use.



Interview session with farmers

In June, the Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED) organised a **CPAM training course in Hanoi, Vietnam**, attended by more than 20 farmers, local CSOs, health and environment ministry officials, and women’s and farmers’ union members. PAN

AP collaborated with CGFED to develop the programme and methodology as well as participated with 4 resource person who carried out most of the training. A **survey on illegal pesticides was also conducted in Lao PDR and Cambodia** in July, in collaboration with the Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA) and Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC). The survey collected important information on the movement of pesticides into these countries, with a special focus on banned pesticides.

Once again, the highlight of the Pesticides Programme was broad network participation in the **No Pesticide Use Week (NPUW)** from 3rd - 10th December. The NPUW, coordinated by PAN AP, is an annual commemoration of the Bhopal Tragedy. With the theme “Save Women, Protect Our Future,” the 2011 campaign called for corporate accountability, utilised media to highlight the impacts of pesticides on women and children, and engaged national and local officials to promote reduction in the use of HHPs. Eight organisations in **nine** countries participated,

In **China**, the Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Centre (PEAC) engaged university students and the general public through an **online advocacy campaign** and **campus-based advocacy activities**. A public education website (<http://www.6weidu.com>) was launched, containing various materials on HHPs and their adverse impacts on women. Exhibits were held and posters and brochures were distributed by concerned students and teachers at the Yunnan Forestry Technological College, Southwest Forestry University and Yunnan Agriculture University. The adverse



Student-led advocacy during NPUW

impacts of HHPs on women and children were also popularised through media broadcasts in the farming villages of Heinigou, Pingzhai and Chenguan.

In Cambodia, the Cambodian Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC) conducted various awareness raising activities including workshops, media work and key farmer outreach on the impacts of pesticide use and biodiversity-based ecological agriculture (BEA) that have reached thousands of farmers. After attending previous trainings from CEDAC, some farmers from Sambour, Prek Krabou, Prek Chrey and Koh Roka Krou have stopped using banned pesticides. CEDAC also collaborated with a local radio station (Radio Sarika) to promote BEA and new innovations in agriculture for an hour, five days a week. CEDAC was also interviewed by several newspaper agencies, radio and television stations such as the Cambodian Television Network (CTN), Phnom Penh Post, Raksmei Kamphuchea, Radio Free Asia, Voice of America, Australian Radio, and the Cambodian Centre for Independent Media (CCIM).

In South Vietnam, Research Centre for Rural Development, An Giang University (RCRD) distributed pamphlets and trained 30 women on the impacts of pesticides on their health, especially on reproductive health and child bearing during the “No Pesticide Use Week”. A capacity building workshop was held for 30 pesticide applicators on the impact of pesticides use and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Two studies were done on pesticide use, pesticide alternatives and fertilizers.



Women participants in the trainings



This demonstration showed how pesticides could enter an applicators' body via the skin, eyes, nose, and mouth

In Laos, the Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA) held a capacity building workshop in 10 villages in the Sangthong district on pesticides risk reduction and on techniques to monitor pesticide use in their community. During the No Pesticide Use Week, SAEDA held a workshop on the impact of pesticides for 51 participants.



Multiday protest march against agrochemicals in the Philippines



Colouring Contest during NPUW

In India, Thanal's week-long exhibition at a public bus stand attracted a great deal of attention and collected signatures for a campaign against the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) Bill, a law expected to facilitate the expansion of genetically-engineered crops in the country. In Indonesia, Gita Pertiwi's cultural and art events livened up protests, with a colouring contest for children, a healthy food exhibition, and a demonstration corner. The local media was abuzz with the issue of pesticide hazards. PAN AP partners distributed posters and calendars, arranged for radio talk shows, and sent out press releases. In the Philippines, PAN Philippines and the Citizens Alliance Unified for Sectoral Empowerment- Davao del Sur (CAUSE-DS) held a five-day, 150-kilometer protest march starting from Digos City, Davao del Sur on to Koronadal City, Cotabatao from the 6th to 10th December, International Human Rights Day. The march highlighted the right to health, livelihoods, a safe environment, and the violations of human rights associated with the use of HHPs. In South Vietnam, the Research Center for Rural

Development (RCRD) trained more than 30 women pesticide sprayers on the impacts of pesticides on their health, especially on reproductive health and child bearing.

Global Phase-Out of Endosulfan and Paraquat: A Step Closer

Thousands of activists, including politicians, in India let the central government know that endosulfan was part of an antiquated technology that must go. Kerala Chief Minister led a hunger strike at the start of the Stockholm Convention to demand that the federal government support a global ban of endosulfan. For months, prior to the 5th Conference of the Parties (COP 5) of the Stockholm Convention, victims, students, health practitioners, and local activists led a campaign to pressure the Indian government not to block the listing of endosulfan in the convention. India was among the world's top producers and users of endosulfan.



Endosulfan-free Organic Café

Communities around the world celebrated when at COP 5 of the Stockholm Convention, 25th-29th April, 2011, in Geneva, Switzerland, governments included endosulfan, a highly toxic persistent organic pollutant, to Annex A of the Convention for global phase-out. Endosulfan is linked to severe birth defects,

intergenerational crippling illnesses, long-term neurological damage and death. At the meeting, PAN International and the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) hosted the Annex A Café that served endosulfan-free organic coffee, tea, cashews, and chocolate sourced from countries that used endosulfan on these products to highlight the fact that chemical-free food was possible and indeed produced in these countries. PAN activists, including indigenous people, wore organic cotton t-shirts from India and West African, countries that used endosulfan on cotton plantations. PAN AP's partner, Thanal from Kerala, India led a media campaign communicating directly from the Stockholm Convention to news sources in India. This was crucial as activists in India increased the pressure on the central government to agree, and not derail, listing endosulfan in the Convention. Rural communities particularly in Kerala, severely affected by endosulfan poisoning, could see an end to the human rights violations perpetrated on them. At the **5th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention in Geneva, Switzerland in June, endosulfan was added to Annex III of the Convention.** This makes the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) by importing countries necessary for the export of the pesticide to such countries. PAN AP was there to bear witness to this long-awaited victory for the people as well as to push the HHPs campaign forward. In a statement to the Convention on behalf of PAN International, Dr. Meriel Watts highlighted that alternatives to endosulfan existed. At an FAO side event, Dr. Watts also presented PAN International's HHPs list and Global Community Monitoring Report, as well as PAN AP's Asian Regional Report on Community Monitoring of HHP Use. Developed through years of research, both reports proved to be invaluable resource materials for the campaign against HHPs. Several months later at the **7th Meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC 7)** in Geneva, Switzerland, PAN (represented by Dr. Watts) and IPEN made a joint submission on alternatives to endosulfan.

Workers around the world would be relieved when governments are asked for prior informed consent before allowing into their countries severely hazardous pesticide formulations containing paraquat. This step may reduce significantly the countless paraquat victims worldwide. The Chemical Review Committee (CRC 7) of the Rotterdam Convention at its meeting from 28th March – April 1st, 2011 proposed that the deadly herbicide paraquat be listed in



Participants of the TOF

Annex II of the Convention. Paraquat is moving forward in the review process despite strong objections by its largest manufacturer, Syngenta, and the Indian government, a large user of the pesticide. At this meeting, PAN AP, as part of PAN International, and together with the Swiss-based NGO, Berne Declaration, supported the proposal to include paraquat in the Convention. The campaign continues as COP 6 of the Rotterdam Convention in 2013 will make a decision on the listing of paraquat.

Developing Monitoring and Lobbying Capacities

A priority of the Pesticides Programme last year was to develop capacity to monitor the compliance of countries to various international agreements. In Penang, Malaysia, participants from 10 countries underwent a **Regional Training of Facilitators on FAO Code Monitoring** organised by PAN AP. The participants developed plans and

recommendations to identify and monitor non-compliance of the FAO Code at the national level.

PAN AP staff attended the **Joint Workshop for the Effective Implementation of the POPRC and PIC CRC** held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and took the opportunity to speak with government representatives from Asia Pacific on reducing and eliminating HHPs. A **Regional Workshop on Curriculum Development for Community Education on Pesticide Risk Reduction** was also held in Kunming, China. At the workshop, country Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programmes under the FAO were discussed, with PAN AP lobbying to widen the scope of these IPM programmes. PAN AP also attended the FAO-facilitated **27th Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission Meeting** in Makati City, Philippines. It called for a closer working relationship between the IPM and Pesticide Standing Committees, and a reduction in the use of HHPs. Meanwhile, the **9th Roundtable and 8th General Assembly (GA) meeting of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)** was held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia amid growing concerns over RSPO's credibility. PAN AP voiced its reservations on certain draft resolutions presented at the GA and took the opportunity to further develop alliances.

In general, the Pesticides Programme succeeded in bringing people's concerns into the campaign against HHPs, the need for which was articulated by partners at the **Pesticide Task Force Meeting** organised by PAN AP earlier in the year.

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME

The Women in Agriculture (WIA) Programme made significant strides in leadership building, policy advocacy, gender mainstreaming, and strengthening the rural women's movement in 2011. These achievements were among those envisioned by the **Task Force on Women in Agriculture**, which met on 28th March in Chennai, India, to assess the performance of the WIA Programme and formulate plans for the year.

Women's Contribution to Rio+20

With the promise of sustainable development unfulfilled twenty years after the historic Earth Summit, it has become more crucial for the voices of marginalised rural women to be heard in the global discussions leading to the 2012 **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)**. The WIA Programme provided critical inputs and concrete recommendations to Rio+20 through the Women's Major Group and Farmers' Major Group. In the **Asia Pacific Preparatory Process** held in Seoul, Korea, from 16th - 20th October, PAN AP asserted that sustainable development should focus on women's rights, food sovereignty, biodiverse ecological agriculture, an end to corporate agriculture, and uphold the principles of gender equality, democracy and human rights. To articulate and strengthen this alternative framework, PAN AP developed and distributed a monograph assessing Rio+20 and the proposed "Green Economy." PAN AP submitted it for inclusion in a document that served as a basis for the preparation of the Zero Draft Outcome Document of the Rio+20.



Participants of the Major Groups and Stakeholders at the Asia-Pacific Meeting

Bringing Forth the Gender Perspective



WIA Programme Coordinator, Ms Marjo Busto, (right), at the National Rice Congress

The gender perspective was actively promoted by PAN AP in various national and regional processes. The WIA Programme Coordinator participated in meetings and consultations such as the **Joint Briefing on the Outcomes of the UN Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD) and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Implications on the Philippines; National Rice Congress on Corporate**

Control, IPRs and Farmers'; Women's Rights'; Towards Implementing Farmers' Rights in the Philippines; Roundtable Discussion on Golden Rice; Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation with the UN

Special Procedures Mandate Holders; and the Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on Women's Right to Development. With many of these events co-organised by PAN AP, the WIA Programme ensured the inclusion of gender perspectives in peoples' issues and partners' campaigns, highlighting the concerns of women in agriculture and the various strategies that rural women employ to resist corporate control over their land, seeds and productive resources.



PAN AP, also representing the Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC), is one of the coordinating committee members of the CSO Mechanism for the FAO's Committee on Food Security (CFS), which has been reformed to be a unique global multi-stakeholder mechanism on food and agriculture policy. PAN AP was actively engaging in the debate, discussions and provided inputs to strengthen the recommendations with the Task Team on Gender, Food Security and Nutrition, particularly in forwarding policy recommendations on (1) recognizing and guaranteeing women's rights to food, health, land tenure, water and other productive resources; and access to credit, market training, appropriate technology and social services; and (2) protection of biodiverse ecological agriculture including protection of traditional seed varieties and crops and gender-based knowledge.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND ECOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME

Crucial issues such as climate change, agricultural and rural development and land-grabbing were confronted this year by PAN AP's Food Sovereignty and Ecological Agriculture Programme. The programme considerably expanded its network of CSOs and

people's organisations to promote food sovereignty and the practice of ecological agriculture.



Group of women performing at the ASEAN Conference.

PAN AP helped draw attention to the concerns of peasants, women and children, migrants, indigenous peoples, fisherfolk and other vulnerable groups at the **ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum 2011** from 3rd- 5th May in Jakarta, Indonesia. The conference aimed to promote people-government dialogue and featured workshops on climate change, gender and women's rights,

and agriculture and economic justice. The output of these workshops, which PAN AP co-organised, posed

grassroots challenges to the ASEAN leadership on these issues.

Through a fact-finding mission (FFM), PAN AP successfully assisted some 20,000 small food producers of Sompeta in their struggle against development aggression imposed by a construction company and the state government of Andhra Pradesh in India. Some 80 organisations from 22 countries signified their support for the struggle which led to the abandonment of the power plant project in early January 2011. Aside from this, **PAN AP also was able to determine the concrete situation of Sri Lankan Tamil women and children when it conducted a FFM in May.** The FFM team was able to identify their needs and such will be the basis of the future project proposals for the Sri Lankan Tamils and the International Women's Alliance (IWA) proposed a resolution of support for the Tamils during the IWA Assembly held in Manila in July. The **follow-up documentation of the land grabbing case in Singur, West Bengal** became a viable policy document that PAN AP's partners in the state are using for policy advocacy.

PAN AP's support in bringing the local community issues to the attention of the international community, via online campaign that aims to win more **support for the farmers in Bukidnon Philippines**, has proven to be useful in the struggle of the local peoples. Local partners expressed their gratitude to PAN AP "for ringing the bell to the international agrarian reform and human rights communities. At the ground level in Bukidnon, far from the eyes of national and international media and support groups, the struggle of the BTL farmers have become very vulnerable to the culprit's persistence. Your effort to internationalize the issue helped a lot. Our sisters in various organizations under the Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC), for inspiring members of the BTL Women's Association to pursue their life-and-death struggle for land and life. Your solidarity message aided the fighting fervor of our women after the June 14 violent dispersal."



Women farmers of the Buffalo-Tamaraw-Limus (BTL) Women's Association are steadfast in defending their land in Bukidnon, Philippines.

PAN AP also added its voice to the **People's Speak Out on the Rights of Migrants in ASEAN**, which was organised by one of its partners, the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants. Attended by over 250 participants, the Speak Out was a gathering of grassroots organisations and served as the launch of the ASEAN People's Caravan for Migrant's, Women's and Human Rights, a year-long educational and advocacy campaign closely linked to PAN AP's campaigns.

PAN AP also made its mark in an international event that gathered advocates working on a wide array of people's issues around the globe. At the **International Festival of Peoples' Rights and Struggles/ International League of Peoples' Struggles (ILPS) International Assembly** from 4th-9th July in Quezon City, Philippines, PAN AP participated in several assemblies such as those of the **International Women's Alliance**, **International Migrants' Alliance** as well the **International Forum on Democracy and Cooperation**. Based on its own extensive experience, PAN AP provided concrete insights and strategies for action on issues concerning women, migrant workers, policy advocacy and governance. It was able to expand its outreach especially to grassroots organisations and CSOs engaged in related advocacies.

Another breakthrough for the programme was the **National Consultation on Land-grabbing** held on 15th November in the Philippines. Farmer representatives from the country's major regions, representatives of women's groups, Ms Anja Mertineit of Misereor (a donor agency in Germany), and PAN AP staff participated in the consultation organised by the Peasant Movement of the Philippines (Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas or KMP).



The consultation raised the alarm over rampant land grabbing due to foreign land investment, as revealed by actual cases all over the country. At the conclusion, there was a commitment from all parties to document and monitor foreign land investments and land-grabbing cases, and to organise local communities to resist land-grabbing. The Philippine consultation was one of PAN AP's initial steps in a campaign to stop land-grabbing in the region.

Participants of the national consultation on land grabbing in the Philippines.

Genuine, people-centred solutions to deal with climate change were put forward at the **17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, held from 28th November- 9th December in Durban, South Africa. PAN AP together with the People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty (PCFS), Wellspring of Science and Technology (SIBAT), IBON International, and the People's Movement on Climate Change, organised a side event entitled, **“Weathering the Climate Crisis: The Way of Ecological Agriculture.”**



PAN AP delegate to COP 17, Ms Victoria Lopez (far left) stressed that fundamental to farmers' self-reliance is the issue not just of access to, but control of resources such as land, seeds and water.

A highly successful side event to the negotiations, it engaged government officials, farmers' groups, and NGO representatives from different countries. Resource persons delivered their critique of the World Bank's attempts in the UNFCCC negotiations to cover-up the huge amounts of Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) emissions produced by agrochemical TNCs as well as the aggressive push by TNC-backed groups (such as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) for “climate-smart agriculture,” options that will only benefit corporations. Meanwhile, farmers and other advocates from Europe, Asia and Africa pushed for ecological agriculture and food sovereignty as the best option for saving the planet and its people from the effects of climate change.

THE SAVE OUR RICE CAMPAIGN

Thousands of Asians from all walks of life were invited to campaign on their rights to health, livelihood and safe food through the Save Our Rice Campaign. The Collective Rice Action (CORA) 2011 organised by PAN AP and its partners provided diverse and wide-reaching activities with significant impacts in many Asian countries.



Women during the BEA/SRI training of the Iban community

The Collective Rice Action (CORA) 2011

From 1st January to 15th March 2011, 29 anchor partners in 15 countries and the Save Our Rice Campaign organized the **Collective Rice Action (CORA) Asia 2011** with the theme, “Safe Rice for Health and Livelihood!” Culminating on World Consumer Rights Day, CORA 2011 comprised 82 activities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. CORA 2011 activities included festivals, workshops, food fairs, agricultural exhibitions, caravans, forums, trainings, rallies, discussions, seminars, conferences and a peasants' tribunal.

A **Biodiversity-based Ecological Agriculture (BEA) Workshop** launched CORA Sarawak in East Malaysia. In a remote community of Iban indigenous people, PAN AP and MASIPAG Philippines conducted an intensive three-day training workshop. A total of 48 participants, including 26 women, took part. The indigenous people of Sarawak became aware of alarming rice issues, such as genetically engineered crops and climate change. They have continued to practise their new skills in ecological pesticide and fertilizer management. A food and seed exhibition and farmers seed exchange also took place, highlighting the nutritional and cultural values of traditional rice. In BacKan, Vietnam, a **“Safe Rice for Human Health and Sustainable Livelihood for the Community” Workshop** was held for CORA by the Center for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) in collaboration with the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development office. Pressing issues concerning rice production in BacKan Province were discussed, as well as the conservation and development of traditional rice varieties; climate change; rice planthopper and other pests and diseases; protection measures to reduce chemical use; and the value of using BEA.



Workshop on “Safe rice for human health and sustainable livelihood for the community”

Meanwhile, the hugely successful **CORA Peasants' Tribunal on Saving the Rice of Nepal** stressed the need to recognize food sovereignty as a fundamental right, and to institutionalise pro-farmer scientific research. Held on 15th March in Kathmandu, the Tribunal was organised by PAN AP partner, the All Nepal Peasants' Federation (ANPFa). The testimonies of rice farmers, scientists and activists on the rice situation in the country were heard by a panel of three judges and attracted widespread media coverage. Four rice farmers testified on how they have suffered crop failure, economic losses, loss of traditional rice varieties and livestock, and health problems. In its judgment, the jury recommended that the government integrate farmers' wisdom/technology into mainstream agricultural policies; conduct an awareness program on the negative effects of pesticides and synthetic fertilisers; establish food sovereignty as a fundamental right in the constitution and promulgate a law to make scientific research pro-farmer; ensure that adopted technologies are geographically appropriate and encompass the wisdom of farmers; and protect traditional seeds.

Below are photos of more CORA events in different parts of Asia:

SOUTH ASIA



CORA rice festival and seminar in Bangladesh



CORA Caravan on the global ban of endosulfan in Kerala, India



CORA workshop on ecological agriculture in Andhra Pradesh, India

SOUTH EAST ASIA



CORA forum on organic food in the Philippines



CORA fair in Buarai District, Thailand



Governor inaugurating the national agricultural exhibition for CORA Lao PDR

EAST ASIA



CORA Campaign on Traditional Rice in Yunnan College, China



CORA Workshop on Climate Change in South Korea

Strengthening the GE Campaign

In light of the aggressive development of GE in the region, the Rice Campaign initiated a **GE Strategy Workshop** in Penang, Malaysia to



Some participants of the GE Strategy Workshop

develop strategies on how to move forward the GE campaign. External resource persons, Dr. Michael Hansen, Senior Scientist from the U.S. Consumers Union, and Shalini Bhutani, formerly of GRAIN and PAN AP consultant, shared important developments regarding the science and development of GE crops and the international instruments governing genetic resources. Shalini also outlined IRRI's policies and public-private partnerships. Partners from countries where GE crops were being field-tested and/or grown were invited to participate in the workshop. Several strategies were drawn up for the GE Campaign, including the formation of the first-ever Asia-wide coalition against GE, a focused campaign on Golden Rice, developing local capacity to campaign on GE and biosafety issues, and building community capacity to save traditional crop varieties.

Stopping Bt Eggplant in the Philippines

The attempt to commercialise Bt eggplant in the Philippines was thwarted by the **Advocacy Campaign to Stop the Commercialization of GM Eggplant**, led by the RESIST Network in collaboration with the Rice Campaign of PAN AP. A series of lectures, public hearings and fora with the public and legislators, an organic festival, a photo exhibition, sign-on petition, lobbying at the House of Representatives, and mass mobilisation marked the powerful campaign. Among the impacts was a resolution by village councilors in Brgy. Pangasugan, Baybay, Leyteto oppose a field testing site located in Visayas State University while several policy-makers at the national level were made aware of the serious dangers posed by GE crops.

GE Roadshow 2011

A third **GE Road Show with Dr. Hansen** took place in Malaysia, and the Philippines in 2011.

In Kuala Lumpur, Dr. Hansen gave a talk entitled “The False Promises of Genetic Engineering in Food and Agriculture” at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) on 16 August which was well-received by university lecturers, students, and representatives from the industry. TV and radio outlets also interviewed Dr. Hansen on the viability and threats of genetic engineering.



the Philippine Parliament

In the Philippines, Dr. Hansen’s various media interviews, field visit to Isabela Province (where Bt corn was being grown), and dialogue sessions with farmers, legislators, consumer groups and students from August 19th-24th highlighted the issues of Golden Rice, Bt eggplant and Bt corn. His presentation on the hazards of GE crops/food created widespread interest, especially among members of the Philippine House of Representatives. Most of the legislators present questioned and cautioned IRRI and PhilRice regarding their conducting field tests of Golden Rice, a GE Rice modified to contain Vitamin A. Concern was also expressed against field testing of Bt eggplant locally. Some scientists and academics even reversed their support for Golden Rice and other GE crops.

Similarly, a **GE Campaign in Orissa, India** from 8th to 9th December attracted the attention of scientists from the University of Agriculture Technology and Central Rice Research Institute, after talks on the issue of genetic engineering (GE) and GE Rice, including Golden rice, by Dr. Hansen and Dr. Ricarda Steinbrecher. Organized by network partner Living Farms, the campaign in Orissa also garnered media attention.

BEA Outreach and Seed Conservation

In an unprecedented **Visit to Iran**, Biodiversity-based Ecological Agriculture (BEA) was promoted by PAN AP’s Clare Westwood and Dr. Charito Medina of MASIPAG Philippines. Upon an invitation from CENESTA, a local NGO working with farmers and



Dr. Medina visiting a rice field in Iran

pastoralists, meetings and workshops were held in several locations in Iran to explore the problems faced by farmers. Dialogues and exchanges with farmers and policy-makers may lead to possibilities of future cooperation based on the recommendations PAN AP delegates made on BEA.

BEA/SRI Trainings were held in two villages in Andhra Pradesh, India, in collaboration with Sahanivasa and Kudumbam LEISA Network, to promote BEA. The participants were mostly women who promised to implement the technologies learned (such as vermin-compost, herbal pest repellents, seed treatment, selection methods, etc.) and teach them to fellow farmers. Some declared that they would carry out SRI experiments in the next season and that they would mobilise farmers in collective vermiculture programmes.



Farmers at the BEA/SRI training in Andhra Pradesh



A woman farmer doing a cross breeding demonstration during the workshop in Uttarakhand

In Uttarakhand, India, two **Seed Conservation Workshops** were held by the Rice Campaign in collaboration with Beej Bachao Andolan. The first workshop in September was attended by 15 farmers from three different districts and focused on the development of rice varieties through cross-breeding. Participants declared they would implement cross-breeding to develop rice varieties, and use similar techniques for corn and wheat. In the second workshop, held in December, the previous workshop was reviewed and participants enthusiastically shared their experiences in cross-breeding.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

This year, 14 publications were completed in the form of bulletins, fact sheets, handbook, monograph and reports which focused on HHPs, IRRI, climate change, the food crisis and the upcoming Rio+20 Earth Summit. Most notably, PAN AP together with Berne Declaration and Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK) came up with a third edition of the report “Paraquat: Unacceptable health risks for users”. Factsheets on paraquat, monocrotophos and metamidophos, including a Draft Report on Sustainable Palm Oil which talks about non-chemical insect management alternatives in oil palm production, were prepared in time for the 9th Roundtable meeting of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

In recognition of the women, men and children who occupied the Wall Street, and in commemoration of the World Food Day, PAN AP launched its new Turning Point entitled “Deeper into the Food Crisis: How they Play with Our Food” which takes on the impact of food and commodities price speculation to the swelling incidence of world hunger, poverty and underdevelopment. In anticipation of the historic United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in June 2012, PAN AP has released the monograph “Rio+20: Will the Option be the Usual Crisis, or a Far Greater One?” which highlights PAN

AP's articulation of the sustainable development concept adopted by the UNCSD during the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992.

Three factsheet series of "Eye on IRRI" entitled "IRRI and Hybrid Rice", "IRRI - Moving Down the IPR Alley" and "IRRI's Not-So-Green Revolution" were released this year, aiming to monitor and review the policies, technologies and actions of the International Rice Research Institute to assess whether IRRI is truly serving the interests of small rice farmers and rice consumers and living up to its claim to bring about "a better world". PAN AP has also compiled a report on the Impacts of Climate Change and Existing Adaptation Strategies by Rice-Growing Communities in Asia. In addition, "PAN AP Rice Sheets: Volume 3" which is handbook of previous Rice Sheets was also completed this year.

These publications were made available online on the website for easier access by our network partners.



PAN AP was able to distribute 6,316 copies of its various publications, including those printed in previous years but which remain highly relevant and popular.

PAN AP gathered timely and pertinent information on particular issues related to its programmes and campaigns. Four e-updates are sent out regularly through mailing lists and listserves: the **E-Rice Monitor**, **E-Pesticide Updates**, **No to Land Grabs E-Updates**, and **PAN AP Diary (e-newsletter)**. These are appreciated by network partners.

Hundreds of CDs containing information materials were also distributed during important events and meetings, such as the Committee on Food Security meeting in Rome, the UNFCCC COP17 in Durban, South Africa, and the Permanent People's Tribunal Session on Agrochemical TNCs in India.

The **PAN AP website** (<http://www.panap.net>) remains an online source of information for its focus areas, generating a monthly average of 10,558 visitors and 49,127 page views. PAN AP maintains three other websites: the **Rice Wisdom website** (<http://www.ricewisdom.org>), the **Asian Rural Women's Coalition website** (<http://www.asianruralwomen.net>), and the **Coalition of Agricultural Workers International website** (<http://www.agriworkers.org>), which also attract thousands of visitors. In addition, PAN AP launched in the last quarter of 2011 the **Agri-corporate Accountability website** (<http://www.agricorporateaccountability.net>) in time for the Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT) Session on Agrochemical TNCs. The website proved effective in garnering global support for the PPT Session through information provision, timely media articles, and an online petition.

PAN AP has embarked on using popular social media such as Facebook and Twitter to highlight its issues. For example, during the PPT Session on Agrochemical TNCs, live

social media updates and livestreaming publicised the event in India and throughout the world, attracting significant public interest and support.

NETWORK & INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING

PAN AP made important strides in strengthening women's movements through the Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC) and the International Women's Alliance (IWA), with both networks taking the lead in linking grassroots women and women activists throughout the globe. It continued to support the growth of PCFS and CAWI, two global networks that it helped establish, and built on its alliances with existing and new network partners.

Honouring Women, Linking Movements

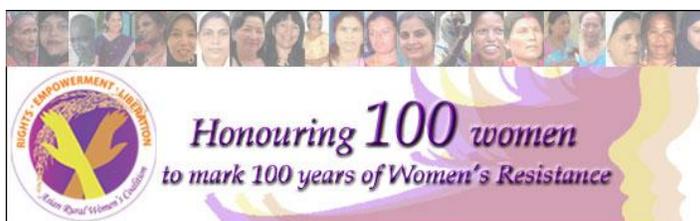


Some of the participants at the ARWC Conference

The ARWC continued to thrive with the support and commitment of PAN AP, which serves as its Secretariat. Through PAN AP's initiation and facilitation, the Asian Rural Women's Coalition has established and gained its visibility through the different actions. It continued to influence different levels of engagements (from local actions such as online campaigns in support of local struggles, to regional conferences and campaigns; and international work - policy level through the FAO and alliance building thru the International Women's Alliance. For instance, a network from Pakistan mentioned, *ARWC has a strong history with women and women's organisations leading the way to many policy improvements and important social reforms. ARWC is paving the way by creating linkages between rural women and other women/men working in agriculture sector in Asia.*"

In the **ARWC Conference** last 29th - 30th March in Chennai, India, around 40 rural women leaders from eight Asian countries gathered under the theme "100 years of Women's Resistance: Rights, Empowerment, Liberation." Co-hosted by the Tamil Nadu Women's Forum (TNWF) and Society for Rural Education and Development (SRED), the conference tackled a wide range of issues confronting women, such as corporate control over land and productive resources, workers and migration, climate change, sexual and reproductive health and rights, war and militarisation, and ethnic and caste conflicts. *"There is a pressing need to strengthen women's solidarity and advance the struggle of Asian rural women beyond the gains that have been achieved over the past 100 years,"* said PAN AP Executive Director Sarojeni Rengam, a member of the ARWC Steering Committee. The participants took stock of the gains of women's movements as well as trends and emerging issues affecting rural women. The women from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines and Japan then came up with a collective plan of action to challenge corporate control and advance women's collective strength and resistance. This plan will serve as the ARWC's road map for the next two years.

To mark the 100 years of women's resistance (or the centenary of March 8 International Women's Day), ARWC and PAN AP embarked on the campaign, **Honouring 100 Women**, for asserting gender and social equality in their homes and communities.



Banner on Honouring 100 Women

Fifty women who have displayed creativity in rural life, courage, empowerment, and resistance, and who have tirelessly worked to improve the quality of life in rural communities were honoured in 11 Asian countries, based on nominations from individuals and organisations. The activity drew attention to their struggles and contributions of rural women leaders and advocates in homes and communities and provided opportunities for them to be recognised globally. Their stories inspired other women to empower themselves. For instance, a rural woman leader from Bangladesh said that, *"I feel proud being honoured, and hoping that the awarded women in Asia will be more devoted to the public cause and interest"*. From India, a rural woman said, *"I feel glad and honoured to be selected and be part of these exceptional women. I am going to share all the success stories on rural women within my network and at a global level. Thank you for acknowledging my efforts that I am trying to materialize on the ground."*

Fifty more women are expected to be honoured in October 2012, as more nominations are received. Furthermore, a campaign on **The Right to Sustainable Livelihoods** was launched by PAN AP and ARWC as an online platform for ARWC members to share their projects and issues with other groups.

PAN AP also participated in the momentous **1st General Assembly of the International Women's Alliance (IWA)** in Manila, Philippines, last 5th - 6th July. Almost a hundred delegates and observers from 20 countries across the globe attended the first IWA GA. IWA was formed to link the women's movement with the people's movement for national and social liberation and gender equality. The assembly adopted two resolutions forwarded by PAN AP; one in support of Sri Lanka's war widows and children, another calling for the release of activists and clean elections in Malaysia.

PAN AP also took the initiative in setting up a **Coalition of Agricultural Workers International (CAWI) Meeting** in Sri Lanka on 24th January, stressing the importance of the coalition's revival. As a result, Steering Committee members agreed to hold a general assembly in 2012 to focus on five areas: wages, land and livelihood, discrimination, forced migration, and occupational health hazards of agricultural workers.

From 7th- 9th April in Tanzania, the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) organised a series of events that harnessed the interest and participation of African organisations in it, a network that PAN AP helped form. The **CSO Consultation on Aid and Development Effectiveness in Agriculture and Rural Development**, **CSO Consultation on CSO Development Effectiveness**, and the **Africa-wide Regional Multi-Stakeholder Forum** became venues to discuss and debate aid effectiveness issues relating to Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD). The discussions contributed to advancing the aid and development effectiveness agenda on ARD. Furthermore, five African organizations were attracted to the PCFS and agreed to become part of its Global Steering Committee of the PCFS.

Networking on People's Health and Trade Issues

Upon the invitation of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) of Malaysia, PAN AP joined several Malaysian NGOs in discussing Malaysia's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). At these **Consultation Sessions with MITI**, PAN AP raised concerns over the

issues of intellectual property rights; the impact of trade and industry on agriculture, biodiversity, traditional knowledge, and genetic resources; the rights of small scale farmers; and the transparency of the FTA process itself, among others. Along with other NGOs, PAN AP called for Malaysian FTAs not to subscribe to the World Trade Organisation's TRIPs-Plus Agreement.

PAN AP participated in the **People's Dialogue on Health** entitled "**Our Health Is Not For Sale,**" and the **People's Health Global Roundtable**, both held in Penang, Malaysia. These became venues for networking and information exchange with groups such as Health Action International Asia Pacific (HAIAP), International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), and the People's Health Movement (PHM), among others. All groups present committed to move forward a people's health agenda for Malaysia, including the preparation of a draft text for the Malaysian People's Health Charter. PAN AP was also invited to speak at the **CSR (Corporate Social Governance) Conference 2011: Can Technology Feed the World? – A Debate on Food Security**, held in Kuala Lumpur. The Rice Campaign Coordinator, Clare Westwood, and Dr. Charito Medina from MASIPAG, Philippines, promoted BEA as an alternative to hazardous technologies, in direct opposition to Bayer CropScience's talk promoting the corporate model of agriculture.

Meanwhile, a **Visit by the Slow Food Movement** to PAN AP became a fruitful exchange between the two organisations with the promise of future collaboration, especially with respect to the Rice Campaign. A popular global movement that promotes alternatives to fast food, the Slow Food Movement, and PAN AP have been liaising for the past few years. This first-time visit by Elena Aniere and Carlotta Baitone produced plans for co-organising a Traditional Rice Conference in Italy in 2012 and building the newly-established Traditional Rice Network. The visit was followed by a Roundtable Discussion at Gandhi Ji Ashram, Penang, organized by PAN AP partner, the Right Livelihood College, where the Slow Food Movement delegates shared their vision and philosophy with the general public.

Steering PAN AP into the Future

PAN AP ensures regular and thorough reviews of its performance, successes and challenges through its annual Staff Planning Meeting, Mid-year Review and Steering Council Meeting. These institutional building activities also set the direction and formulate strategies for the year for each programme/campaign and for PAN AP as a whole. The Steering Council Meeting is of particular importance as it is a council of highly experienced resource persons who continue to guide PAN AP with their expertise and wisdom.



Ms. Kim Jai Ok (Consumer Korea), one of the Steering Council Members

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

In a historic bid to make the six largest agrochemical companies liable for human rights violations committed against peoples around the world, PAN International organised the **Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT) Session on Agrochemical Transnational Corporations**. After four years of preparation, the landmark PPT Session was successfully held from 3rd - 6th December in Bangalore, India, and produced a strong verdict by a distinguished independent jury which unequivocally convicted Syngenta, Bayer, Monsanto, Dow, DuPont, and BASF of human rights violations. The PPT heard the testimonies of victims and survivors of cases such as the mass death of bees caused by Bayer's neonicotinoid pesticides, poisoning of the Arctic region, Syngenta's harassment of US scientists and shooting of farmers in Brazil, Monsanto's biopiracy suits against US farmers, and poisoning of Indian child labourers in GE cotton fields and Malaysian women pesticide sprayers, among others.



In the case of the death of eleven-year old Paraguayan Silvino Talavera who died last January 7, 2003 because of exposure to glyphosate (Round-up Ready) being applied to Monsanto's genetically engineered RR soybeans. Petrona Villasboa, the mother of Silvino Talavero said, "We have proof that there was poison in his blood." "We are trying to hold Monsanto accountable for the death of my son from pesticide poisoning".



Syngenta has harassed and attempted to discredit Dr Tyrone Hayes, scientist who exposed the negative impacts of Syngenta's pesticide, Atrazine. Dr. Hayes said, "Syngenta asked me to manipulate data, hide data or to purchase my data. I refused."

In the verdict that was hailed around the world as a breakthrough in the growing global call for corporate accountability, the PPT found the Big 6 TNCs liable for systematic violations of the right to health and life; economic, social and cultural rights; civil and political rights; and women's and children's rights. The jury also found that home states had failed to protect human rights by not regulating and holding these corporations to account. Home states were indicted for promoting a double standard by allowing the unrestricted sale of hazardous pesticides to other countries while banning the same pesticides in their own countries. The jury also found the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organisation complicit in enabling and facilitating these human rights violations. The jury recommended that national governments "prosecute the defendant agrochemical companies in terms of criminal liability rather than civil liability." It also urged governments to take action to "restructure international law" to ensure the accountability of TNCs, to "accept a less heavy burden of proof on the victims", to fully commit to and legislate for the precautionary principle", and "to prevent TNCs from directly or indirectly harassing and intimidating scientists, farmers and human rights and environmental defenders."

The PPT was attended by hundreds of farmers and people from rural communities, health and environmental advocates, scientists, and journalists. Formed in Italy in 1979, the PPT has held over 35 sessions on various human rights violations of people who have no other legal recourse and whose voices are unheard. Among the five regional PAN centres, PAN AP served as the lead coordinator for the PPT Session.

PAN AP is also active in international advocacy platforms to promote the principles of food sovereignty, environmental sustainability and gender justice. The Executive Director of PAN AP participated actively in various meetings/conferences, including the **FAO Asia Policy Consultation and CSO and FAO Planning Meeting** (Bangkok), **Consultation on Aid and Development Effectiveness in Agriculture and Rural Development** (Tanzania), **Women's Constituency at the Coordination Committee Meeting** (Spain), **International Festival of Peoples' Rights and Struggles** (Philippines), **Global Strategic Framework/Gender Roundtable on Food and Nutrition Meeting** and **CFS Session**(Rome), **Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) - Food Security and Gender Workshop** (Singapore), and **IFOAM Organic World Congress** (Korea).

APPRECIATION

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
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Sarojeni V. Rengam	PAN AP, Malaysia
Fatima Burnad	SRED, India
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Kuang Rongping	PEAC, China
Meriel Watts	PAN Aoteaoroa/New Zealand
Nasira Habib	KHOJ, Pakistan
Romeo F. Quijano	PAN Philippines

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

Pesticides Task Force members

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Rice Council members

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KMP, Philippines
 AMIHAN, Philippines
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 PEAC, China
 CEDAC, Cambodia
 SHISUK, Bangladesh
 BARCIK, Bangladesh

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- ♦ Oxfam-Novib, The Netherlands
- ♦ Swedish Chemical Inspectorate (KemI)

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Mridula C.P.	Administrative Assistant
Shakunthala Shanmugam	Programme Assistant

In its 19 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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