



2020  
**Annual  
Report**

# Introduction

In 2020, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic had a drastic impact across the world. It increased the hunger, suffering, and repression faced by rural communities and further exposed the ills of the dominant profit-driven, unsustainable food and agricultural production.

PAN Asia Pacific responded by strengthening its advocacy for a toxic-free Asia and mobilising its partners across the region into the ever-growing movement for agroecology, food sovereignty and people's rights to land and resources.

Here are PANAP's major achievements for 2020.

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# Pesticides Programme

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## Phasing out Highly Hazardous Pesticides towards a toxic-free Asia

- **Protect Our Children Campaign**

On June 5th 2014, PANAP and partners launched the global campaign, Protect Our Children from Toxic Pesticides (POC) on World Environment Day, June 5th to address the special vulnerability of children and impacts of pesticides on their mental and physical development. The campaign has since raised awareness for more than 110,000 people across the world and contributed to UN documents in relation to children and human rights.

In 2020, PANAP hosted a webinar on "**Protecting Children from Toxins Amid COVID-19,**" with medical experts from Malaysia and the Philippines as guest speakers. The topics covered are common methods of pesticide route and exposure, impacts of pesticides on children's health and development, and natural methods to boost children's immunity.

The **No Pesticide Use Week** (3 to 10 December), held annually to commemorate the victims of the Bhopal disaster, was organised this year with online seminars and outreach activities by 10 partner organisations in India, Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Laos. In India, PAN India organised a series of awareness-raising workshops as well as organised a network of pesticide poisoning survivors in Yavatmal district, Maharashtra to campaign for the ban of certain pesticides. In Vietnam, an agroecology bazaar was held for about 200 women in Hai Hau district. The bazaar featured vegetables and produce from women organic farmers who were previously trained by Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED) and partners. In Son La province, PANAP partner Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) organised a seminar on the impacts of children and pesticides in a local school for around 200 students and teachers. In Laos, around 30 government officials were made aware of the impacts of pesticides in a public seminar. In Pakistan, educational videos on safe vegetables for children were created and distributed on social media. In Indonesia, PANAP partner Gita Pertiwi organised an outreach programme on the impacts of pesticides—including a Tiktok competition—for 30 students and several educators and the media. The Society for Rural Education in Tamil Nadu, India, organised small group activities—including educational film showing and a feeding program—for around 100 children affected by pesticide poisoning in flower farms, as well as those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Let's spend a healthy life without using pesticides and protect the environment using natural materials.

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- Hiruni Kavindhaya, Grade 7E  
Sri Lanka

# NO PESTICIDE USE WEEK



VIETNAM



INDIA



PHILIPPINES



SRI LANKA

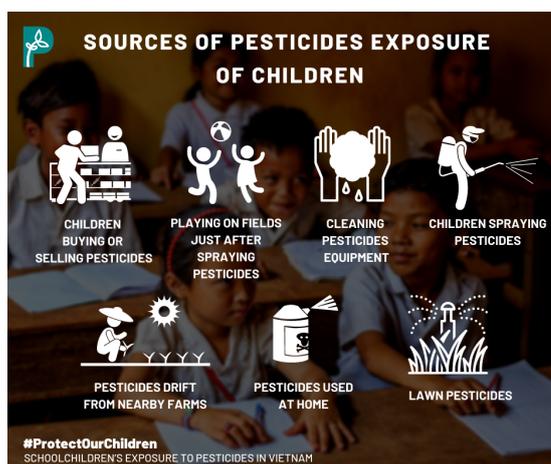
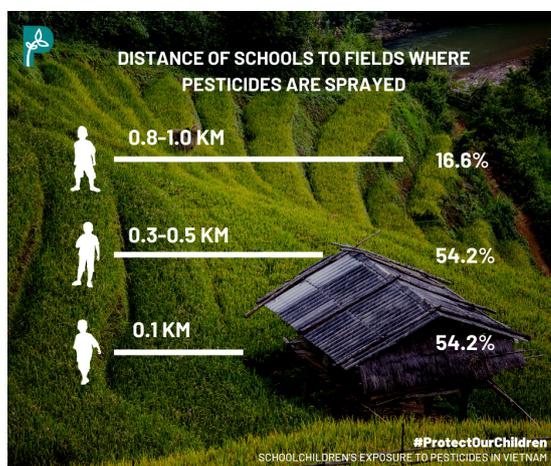


AOTEAROA (NEW ZEALAND)

In Auckland, New Zealand, a public seminar was organised to raise awareness on the use of glyphosate. A proposal before the city council to standardise weed control across the whole City and environs with a glyphosate mix was resoundingly defeated with unanimous support from councilors and the inputs of PANAP partner Weed Management Advisory and PAN Aotearoa NZ. In Sri Lanka, a poster making contest was organised for 30 students on the impacts of pesticides and the environment by Vikalpani National Women’s Federation. The Protect Our Children from Toxic Pesticides booklet was also translated in Sinhala and distributed to the children and teachers.

During the No Pesticide Use week, PANAP launched two reports using the Community Pesticide Action Monitoring (CPAM) tool: Children and Pesticides. The first report was entitled **“Toxic Blooms: Impacts of Pesticides on Children in the Floriculture Industry in Tamil Nadu, India.”** In the report children are found to be engaged in child labour in floriculture farms in Tamil Nadu, plucking flowers in fields newly sprayed with pesticides, and at times even helping in the application of pesticides. Children are also frequently poisoned during the pesticide spraying season in mango orchards in Andhra Pradesh, through fumes that reach nearby schools and homes. In the CPAM done by PANAP in those areas, pesticides that are especially toxic to children—such as chlorpyrifos, lambda-cyhalothrin, cypermethrin, paraquat, and monocrotophos—were found. These pesticides are produced by both Indian manufacturers and the Big 4 agrochemical transnational companies, including Dow Chemicals, formerly Union Carbide of the Bhopal tragedy. PANAP noted that the pesticide companies are accountable for violations of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, such as the right to life, the right to education, and the right to enjoy the highest standard of health.

The second report is entitled **“Schoolchildren’s Exposure to Pesticides in Vietnam: A Study in Three Districts.”** The report is a combination of two studies conducted by PANAP partners CGFED and SRD. A total of 140 junior high school pupils participated in the study conducted by CGFED in Hai Hau and Nghia Hung Districts in Nam Dinh province, North Vietnam. Meanwhile, 80 school students and 20 teachers participated in the study conducted by SRD and the Phu Luong District Agricultural Extension Station in Phu Luong District, Thai Nguyen province, Northeast Vietnam. The study found schoolchildren exhibit symptoms of pesticide poisoning whenever they are exposed to pesticides inside homes and schools, which are located less than one kilometer from agricultural fields where pesticides are sprayed. Furthermore, the study found that children purchase and spray pesticides for their parents; and that they mix pesticides with their bare hands. Children also play in the agricultural fields where their parents work and pesticides are sprayed. Partners shared the results of the report to local communities and policymakers



during the No Pesticide Use Week activities. PANAP also published the report online with relevant memes and posters.

PANAP submitted case studies and monitoring reports on the impacts of pesticides on children to the UNICEF secretariat. Our recommendations included the phase out of Highly Hazardous Pesticides and more support for agroecology and children's rights. These inputs were referenced in the thematic report "**Realizing Children's Rights Through Healthy Environment**" by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which was submitted to and discussed in the 43rd session of the UN Human Rights Commission on June 2020.

PANAP also submitted comments and input to the new Principles & Policy Guidance for the ASEAN region on child rights and the environment. This policy guide is an initiative of the regional offices of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the OHCHR. Its purpose is to identify, clarify, and consolidate policy guidance which governments, civil society, and businesses in Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) can use to advance efforts to incorporate children's rights to a healthy environment in policies, legal frameworks, and operational guidelines, as well as to strengthen the awareness of and reinforce the political will to protect children's rights to a healthy environment

- **Unintentional Acute Pesticide Poisoning (UAPP)**

In December 2020, after 2 years of work, research led by PANAP on the global incidence of unintentional acute pesticide poisoning was published in BMC Public Health. The global distribution of acute unintentional pesticide poisoning: estimations based on a systematic review provides the first such estimate since WHO published figures in 1990. The authors analysed data from 141 countries in over 150 peer review published studies, PANAP and PAN UK studies, a Government of India report, and the WHO Mortality database, to arrive at an estimate of **385 million cases of unintentional acute pesticide poisoning every year**, with the vast majority of these being occupational. That means that about 44% of the world's farmers suffer acute poisoning very year. This is a dramatic increases on the figure of 1 million published by WHO in 1990. Deaths have reduced from an estimated 20,000 per annum to approximately 11,000 per year (note that this does NOT include suicides), although these figures are regarded as an underestimation as many countries did not report them or differentiate between unintentional and intentional deaths.

Of the 11,000 deaths reported nearly 7,000 were in India alone. The South Asia subregion had the highest rate of UAPP, with a mean rate of acute occupational poisoning of 64.75%, with Pakistan, Nepal and India the worst affected countries. Information was almost completely absent for the Pacific.

The results of this study have been well received by UNEP and FAO, and are published in the UNEP report to UNEA5 on the impacts of pesticides and fertilisers. The paper notes that "Implementation of the international recommendations to phase out highly hazardous pesticides by the FAO Council could significantly reduce the burden of UAPP."

REGION	SUB-REGION	COUNTRY	UAPP (%)
ASIA	Eastern	China	10.88
		South Korea	23.00
		Mean	16.94
	South-Eastern	Cambodia	62.00
		Indonesia	53.83
		Laos	39.00
		Philippines	57.99
		Thailand	36.03
		Vietnam	57.35
		Mean	51.03
		Southern	Bangladesh
	India		62.00
	Iran		59.35
	Nepal		65.00
	Pakistan		81.75
	Mean		64.75
	Western Asia		Georgia
		Kuwait	82.00
		Palestine	34.50
Mean		45.50	
OCEANIA	AUS,NZ,Mel-Mic-Polynesia	Australia	0.08

Extract from Table 10: Incidence of yearly non-fatal UAPP among the farming/occupational population by regions and countries.

- **International Advocacy**

**SAICM** – PANAP has continued to contribute to the international discussions on the development of a replacement for the voluntary Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, which expired in 2020. COVID-19 has prevented agreement being reached on a replacement Agreement, which is still loosely known as “Beyond 2020”. It is anticipated that the new agreement will not be concluded now until 2022 or 2023. Negotiations continue by virtual means in the interim, and PANAP together with other PAN offices are focussed on trying to get the best deal we can on HHPs and agroecology.

**SAICM Community of Practice on HHPs** – The SAICM secretariat together with the Pesticides Management Programme at the University of Capetown has established a virtual Community of Practice to further discussions and exchange information on HHPs. PANAP, together with PAN UK, are members of the lead team organising the discussions.

**UNEP report to UNEA** – PANAP provided information and reviews of the draft report, Environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers and ways of minimizing them. At this stage only a draft synthesis for policy makers is published, but the full report is due to be released in May 2021. The report is the result of a request for information by the



PANAP continues to push for a legally binding mechanism to phase-out and ban Highly Hazardous Pesticides

European Union at the 4th UNEA meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and will be presented at the 5th UNEA meeting – which was to have been in February 2021, but is delayed until 2022. Whilst the recommendations in the report are inadequate, PANAP is already calling for the goal of phasing out HHPs by 2030.

**Stockholm Convention** – The European Chemicals Agency ECHA is in the process of nominating chlorpyrifos for global phaseout under the Stockholm Convention. PAN International, led by PANAP, provided information to the draft PANAP ECHA nomination. The nomination should proceed to the POPs Review Committee meeting in September 2021.

**JMPM** – PANAP has continued to participate in the WHO/FAO Joint meeting on Pesticide Management and to provide input into a number of new and revised guidelines that are developed under the Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, including on aerial spraying, monitoring and compliance, and the regulation of pesticides used in suicide. PANAP continues to promote the need for a revision of the Code, including the addition of agroecology and the discontinuing of export of pesticides that are banned in their country of origin, and to make the Code legally binding.

# Food Sovereignty Programme

## Rising up for land and rights amid a pandemic of hunger and terror

2020 will be forever remembered as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic and all its calamitous impacts. By the end of 2020, the novel coronavirus has infected more than 83.42 million people worldwide (20.69 million in Asia), killing almost 1.82 million (337,412 in Asia). Those who survived the virus will likely not outlast hunger and destitution. The pandemic wiped out an equivalent of 225 million jobs and took away about USD 3.7 trillion in income. It is estimated that the number of poor facing starvation could jump to as high as 270 million due to the pandemic. And as ironic as ever, bearing most of the brunt of hunger are those who directly produce the world's food - the small and landless farmers and farmworkers, indigenous peoples, fishers and other marginalised rural sectors.

Many authoritarian regimes in Asia took advantage of the COVID-19 crisis to impose even more restrictions on human rights. From India to the Philippines, strict lockdowns were enforced under the guise of fighting the spread of the coronavirus even as data show they were ineffective. In the rural areas, the reality was that these lockdowns were used to pave the way for even more encroachment into the farms and ancestral lands of rural communities in Asia.

Based on the **Land & Rights Watch** monitoring of PANAP, more farmers, indigenous peoples and land activists were killed amid the pandemic. About 123 rural people were murdered related to land struggles from January to November 2020 - 15 more killings than during the same period in 2019.



But 2020 was not only about despair for the rural people. It was also a year that saw an upsurge in their fight for land and for food sovereignty, in their struggle against neoliberal policies in agriculture, and in their assertion of people's rights and democracy. From the historic farmers' protests in India against the Three Farm Laws to the massive rallies against the Omnibus Law in Indonesia, the people have strongly pushed back against deregulation and

# DAY OF THE LANDLESS



PAKISTAN



INDONESIA



PHILIPPINES

**Rohana Yage berada di Pengawu Ji Padan Jakaya.**  
2 jam yang lalu

**THANK YOU FARMERS!!!**

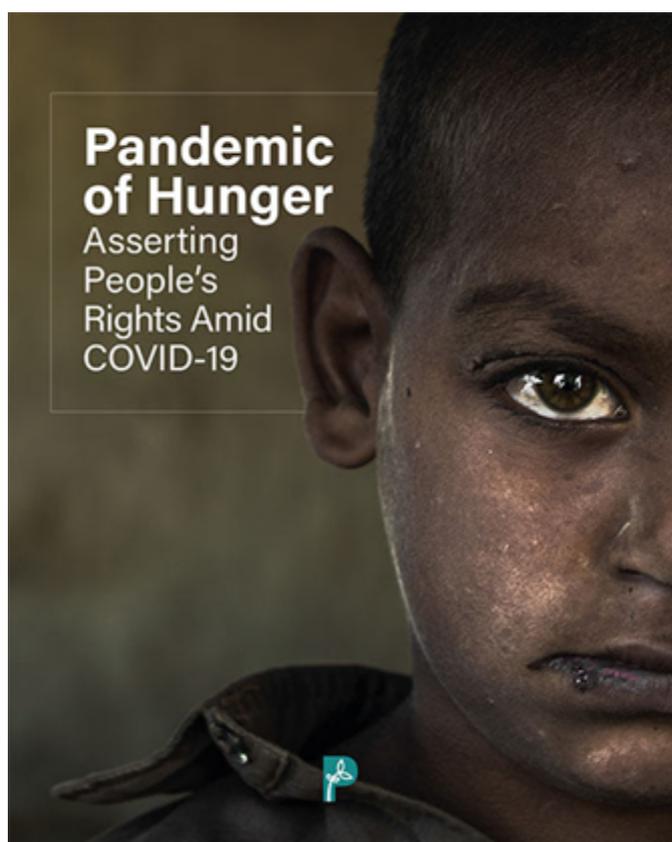
"TerimaKasihPetani"  
#ThankYouFarmer  
#NoLandNoLife  
#LandForTheLandless

#LandToTheTillers

liberalisation of state policies that will allow further corporate takeover and monopoly control of land and resources.

Throughout this year of survival and resistance, PANAP worked closely with organisations of farmers and farm workers, indigenous peoples and fishers as well as advocates of food sovereignty and people's rights to land and resources. Through the No Land, No Life! campaign, PANAP and our partners implemented **relief operations and production support campaigns** in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka to assist rural communities impacted by the pandemic. These initiatives benefitted about 7,900 rural people in about 69 communities across 17 provinces in the four countries. In the Philippines, these grassroots efforts to address the food security needs of the people amid the pandemic and despite the intense political repression that farmers face were documented in "Bagsakan: For Food and Rights amid COVID-19," a short documentary film that PANAP produced.

Beyond the provision of immediate relief, the campaign also supported grassroots community actions in these countries to push for policy reforms to address the urgent and long-term needs of rural peoples through mass mobilisations before government offices in Cambodia and the Philippines; dialogues with local authorities such in India and Indonesia; and awareness raising in Sri Lanka. All in all, these grassroots actions mobilized more than 4,000 farmers, indigenous people, fishers and other rural poor.



PANAP's book "Pandemic of Hunger" places the spotlight on how rural peoples are affected by the COVID-19 crisis and pushing back to assert their rights.

At the global level, the No Land, No Life! campaign, with the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) and People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS), was able to mobilise the support of 126 international, regional and national/local organisations from 32 countries to push for a set of immediate demands of landless and all toiling peoples amid the pandemic during the annual **March 29 Day of the Landless**. These later developed into a set of broader and longer-term demands around the principles of food sovereignty, agroecology and genuine agrarian reform under the #Hungry4Change campaign with PCFS and others for the October 16 World Hunger Day (a counterpoint to the FAO's World Food Day).



PANAP led coordinated field researches on the impacts of land and resource grabbing.

Despite the pandemic and the increasingly repressive environments in the region, PANAP and our partners continued to document the impacts of land and resource grabbing on rural communities. In 2020, we launched and finished a coordinated field research to study more closely specific cases of infrastructure projects, private foreign investments, and government programs that displace farmers and indigenous peoples in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka. The results of the coordinated research were published as book entitled "**No Land, No Life! Land Conflicts and Struggles in Asia.**" The coordinated research is meant to push sustained grassroots and policy-level campaigning and advocacy to expose and stop land and resource grabs in the region.

Meanwhile, to further strengthen and deepen the solidarity among rural people's movements and advocates of food sovereignty and agroecology, PANAP, with our partners MASIPAG and Misereor and more than 40 organizations from Southeast Asia and South Asia, launched in 2020 the **Asian People's Exchange for Food Sovereignty and Agroecology (APEX)**. Through sub-regional and regional trainings, workshops and exchanges, the platform facilitates the sharing of experiences, aspirations and struggles on people-led development, advocacy and agroecology among organisations of rural peoples in the region and their advocates.

# Agroecology In Action Campaign

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## Promoting agroecology towards transformation of food systems

Two new publications published by PANAP this year gave evidence to the transformative power of biodiversity-based ecological agriculture on the economic, social and cultural life of farming communities. **The Enduring Narratives of Agroecology: 14 Case Studies from South Asia, Southeast Asia and Africa** gathers fourteen inspiring stories from six countries (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal and Vietnam). These case studies demonstrate how diversified agriculture systems helped farmers abandon chemical inputs, increased their income from organic methods, improved soil health and biodiversity, developed climate-resilient production, advanced farmers' knowledge and practice, and fostered women and youth leadership. As part of its Youth in Agroecology initiative, PANAP also published a Rural Youth situationer, **Towards Economic Empowerment, Participation and Agroecology**, based on a survey conducted among youth groups in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

The **International People's Agroecology Multiversity (IPAM)** is a research-learning-action approach to agroecology that focuses on small-food producers and farming communities. It is a network of Field Learning Sites (FLSs) or training centres and campuses of farmers' fields, NGOs, institutions and universities that offer on-site learning and collaboration on agroecological farming methods, innovations and techniques. PANAP partners continued to conduct different activities in the FLSs in 2020, such as:

In India: In October 2020, Kudumbam organised a 3-day work camp in their FLS, Kolunji Ecological Farm. This was participated in by 30 college students who engaged in soil preparation, seed sowing seeds, and planting of seedlings along road sides and tank bunds. School children (around 20 students per village) were enrolled in training programmes on establishing backyard kitchen gardens for their household food and nutritional securities. On International Rural Women's Day, 15 October, 20 women farmers gathered in a celebration, and discussed how to identify the health and nutritional benefits of uncultivated crops and how their livelihoods could be improved by food processing and marketing. The women were also oriented on how to prepare Kabasurakudineer, a mixture of various herbs, leaves, roots and flowers that acts as an immunity booster. On 16 October, World Hunger Day, 60 women and rural youth highlighted the importance of food and dietary diversity of local food systems through the revival of millets and traditional rice varieties.

In Pakistan: In January 2020, Khoj Society for People's Education and Organica Pakistan conducted a Training Workshop on Growing Summer Vegetables. Due to its success, a similar training workshop was held the month after. Khoj runs a school in the rural area of Punjab. With a total of 110 students, agroecology is taught as a part of the school curriculum, which involves both classroom information as well as farming within the school yard. When the produce is harvested, the children enjoy a feast and the rest of the produce harvested is used for awareness building at a farmer's market in Lahore.

In the Philippines: On October 2020, as part of the 16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology, Sama-samang Artista para sa Kilusang Agraryo (SAKA), SINAGBAYAN (Sining na Naglilingkod sa Bayan), and Anakpawis Party-list partnered with Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA) to re-start the Bungkalan LAND (Learning and Demonstration) Project. Bungkalan LAND Project has been running for two years, in an effort to till and reclaim a rich agricultural land in Quezon City that is in the process of being grabbed.

In Senegal: As part of the 16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology, PAN Africa, an IPAM FLS, organised a day of exchange and discussion with women farmers in the Niayes zone in Senegal. The meeting took place in the village of Beer (Senegal) and participated in by more than 30 women farmers. The meeting allowed women farmers to discuss the issues of agroecology and the challenges and struggles they face during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Activities of IPAM Field Learning Sites in Sri Lanka and Pakistan

In Sri Lanka: In August 2020, students from the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Rajarata, Sri Lanka visited the Ecological Farming Training Centre (EFTC) to learn technical and practical knowledge on agroecology and the environment. The centre also conducted practical sessions on SRI methods. Also in August, EFTC conducted a training for the farmers group from Monaragala on agroecological practices in seed and soil conservation. In September 2020, EFTC held a workshop on ecological farming for the refugees who have settled at Negombo and are temporarily staying in small houses. The training provided knowledge on managing home gardens with vegetables. In December 2020, EFTC conducted a training for a farmers group in Divulapitiya District. These farmers, who have abandoned conventional farming and adopted agroecology, were guided on how to secure PGS certification for their farmlands.

The IPAM website has been redesigned for usability and more efficient information structure. It is continuously being used to highlight the three platforms comprising IPAM, i.e. Knowledge, Learning and Action platforms. The Knowledge platform was further re-organised to easily locate resource materials on agroecology. The Learning platform highlights the various Field Learning Sites and their activities as well as video tutorials on their innovations and best practices. The IPAM website has recorded a total of 22,992 visits, 153,852 page views and a monthly average of 874 unique visitors in 2020.



(Left) PANAP staff joined a protest action against the commercialisation of Golden Rice in the Philippines  
 (Right) An agroecology Fair in Quezon City, Philippines, part of the National People's Food Summit build-up, laid down alternatives to corporate-controlled, chemical-intensive agriculture.

PANAP, as a convener of the **Stop Golden Rice Network (SGRN) Asia**, continued to be active in the campaign to stop the commercialisation of genetically-engineered Golden Rice, which threatens indigenous rice varieties, erodes rice farmers' livelihood and sovereignty, and is not proven safe for human consumption. It actively participates in meetings held by SGRN Asia and SGRN Philippines. On December 2019, the Philippines' Department of Agriculture approved the direct use of Golden Rice for food and feed, paving the way for its commercialisation. As a response, the SGRN released a statement *Why We Oppose Golden Rice*, which was widely disseminated. PANAP co-organised the Global Day of Action Against Golden Rice last August 8. PANAP was also among the groups who joined a protest action in front of the Philippines' agriculture department, and submitted a letter to DA Sec. William Dar petitioning to stop the commercialisation of Golden Rice last November. PANAP also helped disseminate a petition to pressure the local government of Bohol, Philippines to keep the province GMO-free. In order to establish plantations of Bt corn and Golden Rice, the local government reportedly plans to revoke an earlier ordinance that bans the production of GM crops.

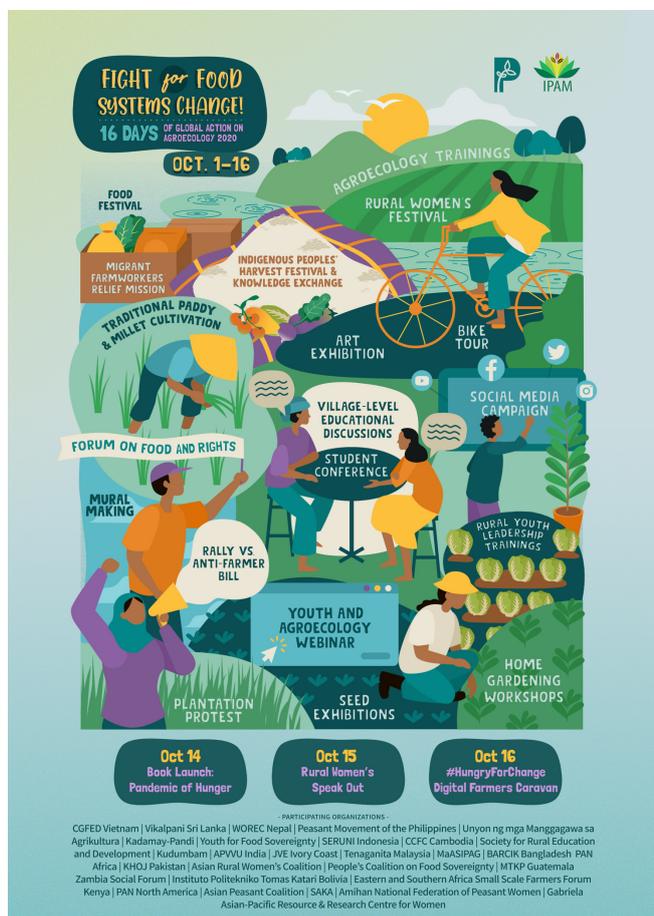
PANAP is also a convener of **Agroecology X**, an alliance of organisations promoting agroecology in the Philippines. It co-organised the Agroecology Fair held in Quezon City, Philippines to showcase how farming communities doing agroecology can adequately provide for consumers' needs amid the COVID-19 lockdown. It also participated in a workshop in Los Baños, Laguna last December 6 to 7, which refined the interlocking concepts of agroecology, food sovereignty and land reform. The workshop also laid concrete plans on how to lead a people's response to the corporate-controlled United Nations World Food Systems Summit, and advocate for agroecology as the alternative to the current chemical-intensive industrial agriculture model.

As part of the campaign to promote the need for agroecology amid the COVID-19 pandemic, PANAP carried out a series of interviews with our partners across the region to find out the situation of rural communities, and how the practice of agroecology helped them become more resilient. These interviews, along with analyses on how the pandemic affects food systems and what are the rural peoples demands, were published in the book **"Pandemic of Hunger: Asserting People's Rights Amid COVID-19,"** launched during the 16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology.

With the theme **“Fight for Food Systems Change!”** the **16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology (1 to 16 October 2020)** focused on promoting agroecology as a way out of the hunger crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; it also promoted the youth’s initiatives and leadership role in the movement for agroecology. The 16 Days of Global Action was participated in by 37 organisations in Asia Pacific, Africa and Latin America reaching out to over 120,000 individuals, despite challenges in mobility amid lockdowns. The 16 Days of Global Action featured various activities at the national and local levels such as community mobilisations, dialogue with local officials, agroecology trainings and workshops, seed exchanges, organic market, and conferences, among others. There were also new kinds of activities such as a bike tour among farming communities (Vietnam), mural-making and shadow play (Philippines), musical performances (Indonesia), a radio program (Zambia), and relief efforts to rural communities gravely affected by the COVID-19 crisis (Malaysia, India).

The 16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology successfully mobilised the rural youth, particularly through the Youth for Food Sovereignty, which organised a webinar among the rural youth of Indonesia, Cambodia and the Philippines. Youth in Mindanao led by our partner MASIPAG also led an online workshop and discussion on agroecology and the future of farming.

To culminate the 16 Days of Global Action on October 16 (World Hunger Day), PANAP held an **online video & photo exhibit and cultural rally**, wherein food producers from around the globe spoke up on the vulnerability of their situation, the benefits of agroecology, and the need for a transformation of food systems. The culmination event was part of the **#Hungry4Change: Digital Peasant Caravan** participated in by farmers groups and food sovereignty advocates from Asia Pacific, Africa and Latin America.



# 16 DAYS OF GLOBAL ACTION ON AGROECOLOGY



INDIA



VIETNAM



NEPAL



CAMBODIA



PHILIPPINES



IVORY COAST

# Women In Agriculture Programme

## Women lead the way in responding to the COVID-19 crisis

ANAP integrates the gender perspective across all its programs and make concerted efforts to ensure that activities and initiatives are geared towards bringing out the voices of and facilitating the empowerment of rural women. Rural women have led several partner activities, particularly feeding programs in response to COVID-19, as well as awareness-raising programs on the impacts of pesticides and benefits of agroecology.

On International Women’s Day 2020, PANAP spearheaded a statement by the Asian Rural Women Coalition (ARWC) entitled, **“Asian Rural Women Call For Food Sovereignty And Gender Justice.”** It highlighted various activities of rural women in India, Cambodia, Pakistan and the Philippines—such as a Women’s Tribunal and participation in the Global Women’s Strike—to bear witness to the stories of women and hear their demands for land reform, respect for human rights, and an end to gender-based violence.

On October 15, International Rural Women’s Day, a **Rural Women’s Speak-Out** was also organised by PANAP and ARWC, focused on how rural women are affected by the COVID-19 crisis and what they are doing to cope, highlighting agroecology as a means to promote health and food self-sufficiency. Grassroots women from India, Nepal, Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka all spoke on the impacts of the pandemic on women—including increased burdens at home and lack of access to health services. The speak-out also highlighted positive stories of how communities of women practicing agroecology, who are not dependent on commercial seeds and inputs, were better able to cope with lockdowns and able to feed their families and communities with nutritious food. The speak-out garnered around 1,300 views on Facebook and served to revitalise an important regional formation of rural women, drawing in the participation of new groups (Beyond Beijing Committee and Women’s Awareness Group in Nepal).



Testimonies of rural women affected by COVID-19 at the Rural Women’s Speak-Out

# Information and Communications Programme

## Maximising online platforms to amplify rural peoples' demands

Through the Infocom Programme, PANAP maximised online platforms to drumbeat the need to phase-out or ban Highly Hazardous Pesticides. Together with PAN India, it conducted a webinar supporting the Indian government's proposal to ban 27 toxic pesticides on 16 July ("**Why India Should Ban 27 Pesticides**"). Tackling the scientific basis of the ban and the existence of agroecological alternatives, the webinar was attended by the academe, farmers' groups, as well as public influencers. It served to increase public pressure on the Indian government to stand by its ban order, which the pesticide industry is actively lobbying against. On 15 December, PANAP also co-hosted the webinar "**Highly Hazardous Pesticides: A Global Challenge,**" together with the other regional centers of PAN. With the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Toxics Marcos Orellana and various experts such as toxicologists as guest speakers, it drew almost 200 participants and was livestreamed as well on PANAP's social media platforms. The webinar provided fruitful discussions on how to move towards a global phase-out and ban of HHPs, and provided a clear framework for action.



**PAN** Pesticide Action Network International  
Webinar  
**HIGHLY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES (HHPs) – A GLOBAL CHALLENGE**  
ON 15 DECEMBER 2020  
12 - 1:30 PM 2020 CET (UT+1)

**Speakers:**

- Dr Marcos Orellana, UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights
- Susan Hoffmanns, PAN Germany
- Jayakumar Chelatan, Director of PAN India
- Dr Keith Tyrrell, Director of PAN UK
- Dr Peter Clousing, Toxicologist, PAN Germany
- Laurent Guberell, Public Eye CH
- Arnaud Apoliker, Justice Pesticide
- Dr Meriel Watts, Director of Science and Policy, PAN Asia Pacific
- Sarojini Rengam, Director of PAN Asia Pacific
- Lars Neumeister, Pesticide Expert

Please join us to learn from the involved experts, pose your questions and share your comments.  
Note that participants need to register in advance (registration is required, but free).

**REGISTER HERE**  
<https://bit.ly/banHHPs>

Interpretation in English, French & Spanish will be provided.  
Webinar program with speaker details available in English, French and Spanish.

### ABOUT

In this webinar, you can deepen your understanding of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs). You will get an overview about their characteristics, and an insight into their implications for human rights, human health, and the environment. And you can learn about policy options for a phase-out of HHPs.

### Co-Sponsors



Webinars provided fruitful discussions on how to face the challenge of global pesticides use

PANAP also co-produced and released "**Seed Keepers and Truth Tellers: From the Frontlines of GM Agriculture.**" The animated short reveals the impacts of genetically modified seeds on food producers and how it is linked to the increase of pesticides usage, biodiversity loss, and adverse health, economic and social impacts globally. Publicly launched

on 17 November, the video was a product of a unique collaboration with PAN North America and the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, involving advisors from various organisations working with GMO and pesticide-affected communities in the Asia Pacific, Africa and the Americas. The animation has been translated to different languages and is being used by grassroots organisations in understanding the links between GM crops and pesticides and campaigning against the corporate control of seeds.

For the 16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology 2020, PANAP developed a poster, calendar of events, flyer, banner and memes to highlight the activities and calls. The 16 Days poster and banner was translated in Vietnamese, Sinhala, Khmer, and Tamil and displayed in communities as well as disseminated online. A Facebook cover photo and profile frames were created and extensively used by social media users in our network to popularise the campaign. Memes that highlight the activities in each country were also released throughout the 16 Days. PANAP also released a series of **video testimonials on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on farmers and the need for agroecology**. The testimonials came from our partners in India, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal, Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Ivory Coast and Indonesia, and brought the voices and demands of rural peoples to the fore.

During the No Pesticide Use Week, the Infocom Programme made sure that the Protect Our Children (POC) Campaign poster—asserting the demand for pesticide-free buffer zones around schools and a ban on chlorpyrifos (a pesticide linked to brain damage in children)—was translated to Bahasa Indonesia, Malay, Vietnamese, Filipino and Hindi. The posters were displayed in communities and disseminated on social media. The report on the impact of pesticides of Vietnamese schoolchildren was also popularised online through a series of infographics.



'Seed Keepers and Truth Tellers' animated short co-produced by PANAP showed the global impacts of genetically modified seeds.



We must convey the message that farmers can rediscover their role as caretakers of agro-biodiversity...not just passive receivers of technologies.

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- Alfie Pulumbarit, MASIPAG  
"Seed Keepers and Truth Tellers" media launch

PANAP has published a total of **23 feature stories, 27 press releases and statements, and 33 bulletins** which include 21 issues of Food and Rights Now! Bulletin and 12 issues of the No Land, No Life! regular bulletin. These information materials were sent out to various listserves which support its programmes and campaigns.

In 2020, PANAP received coverage from major mainstream media outfits as well as community or niche media outfits. PANAP had 23 landings in various media outfits in the region which include the following:

- South China Morning Post
- Radio Free Sarawak
- Bulatlat
- The Times of India
- Firstpost
- Navdanya International
- Internewscast
- Hindu Business Line
- Free Press Journal
- The Hindu
- Vikatan
- Hindustan Times
- Bangkok Post
- The Ecologist
- Delhi Post
- Global Bar
- First Post
- News Click



Some of PANAP's media coverage in 2020



No one disputes that the measures are needed to flatten the [epidemiological] curve ... but, really, policymakers seem to have totally ignored the interests of these farmers who depend on daily wages to survive.

- Sarojeni Rengam,  
PANAP executive director

Quoted by the South China Morning Post

Most of the media coverage were on our advocacy efforts to phase-out or ban HHPs. These include the complaint filed to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development vs. the agrochemical firm Syngenta in behalf of poisoning victims in India; letter of concern to the Food and Agriculture Organization regarding its formal partnership with CropLife; findings of our study on pesticides affecting children working in floriculture farms in India; and findings of a landmark study commissioned by PAN that updates the estimated number of acute pesticide poisonings globally.

In 2020, PANAP has distributed a total of 3,042 print information materials to our partners, in various meetings and events globally.

**PANAP's website (www.panap.net) was redesigned** for better user accessibility. For the year, the website recorded a total of 3,018,768 hits and 150,698 visits with a monthly average of 6,330 unique visitors. It has recorded a total of 31,511 online downloads of various publications and information materials.

PANAP's Facebook page had a total of 734 posts which gathered 260,730 impressions and 21,025 engagements. By the end of 2020, a total of 426 new likes were recorded on PANAP's FB page which now totaled to 4,335 FB page likes. On Twitter, PANAP posted 903 tweets that gathered 510,415 impressions and 8,965 engagements. There are now a total of 1,712 followers on its Twitter handle. With the videos that were uploaded into PANAP's YouTube account, it has recorded a total 9,521 views with a total of 377 hours of watch time which gathered 126,517 impressions.

As a support to its Protect Our Children from Toxic Pesticides campaign, PANAP continues to call for a pesticide-free buffer zone of at least one kilometer around schools. The online petition has now gathered 1,815 signatories.

There are now 205 organisations that signed on in support of the "End Corporate Greed! Rights Now!" statement to Stop the Poisoning of the People and Planet. In addition, there are around 2,180 individuals who have signed on.



**Toxic Blooms: Impacts of Pesticides on Children in the Floriculture Industry in Tamil Nadu, India**



**SCHOOLCHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDE IN VIETNAM: A STUDY IN THREE DISTRICTS**

Publications by PANAP's Protect Our Children from Toxic Pesticides campaign

# APPRECIATION

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

- Bread for the World, Germany
- Misereor, Germany
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Sweden
- Japanese Fund for Global Environment, Japan
- Marisla Foundation
- PAN North America

PANAP would like to thank you 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 the vision we have adopted

## PANAP STEERING COUNCIL

Glorene Das  
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Malaysia  
SRED, India  
Thanal, India  
PAN Japan  
PEAC, China  
KHOJ, Pakistan  
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
- Food Sovereignty Task Force Members
- Agroecology Task Force Members

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Sarojeni V. Rengam	Executive Director
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In its 28 years of existence as an independent organisation, PANAP 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, PANAP has 109 partner groups in Asia and the Pacific region, and it outreaches to more than 400 CSOs and grassroots organisations in Asia and globally.

The empowerment of women has been a conscious effort within PANAP staff, its programmes, and its network. It has been 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, PANAP'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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