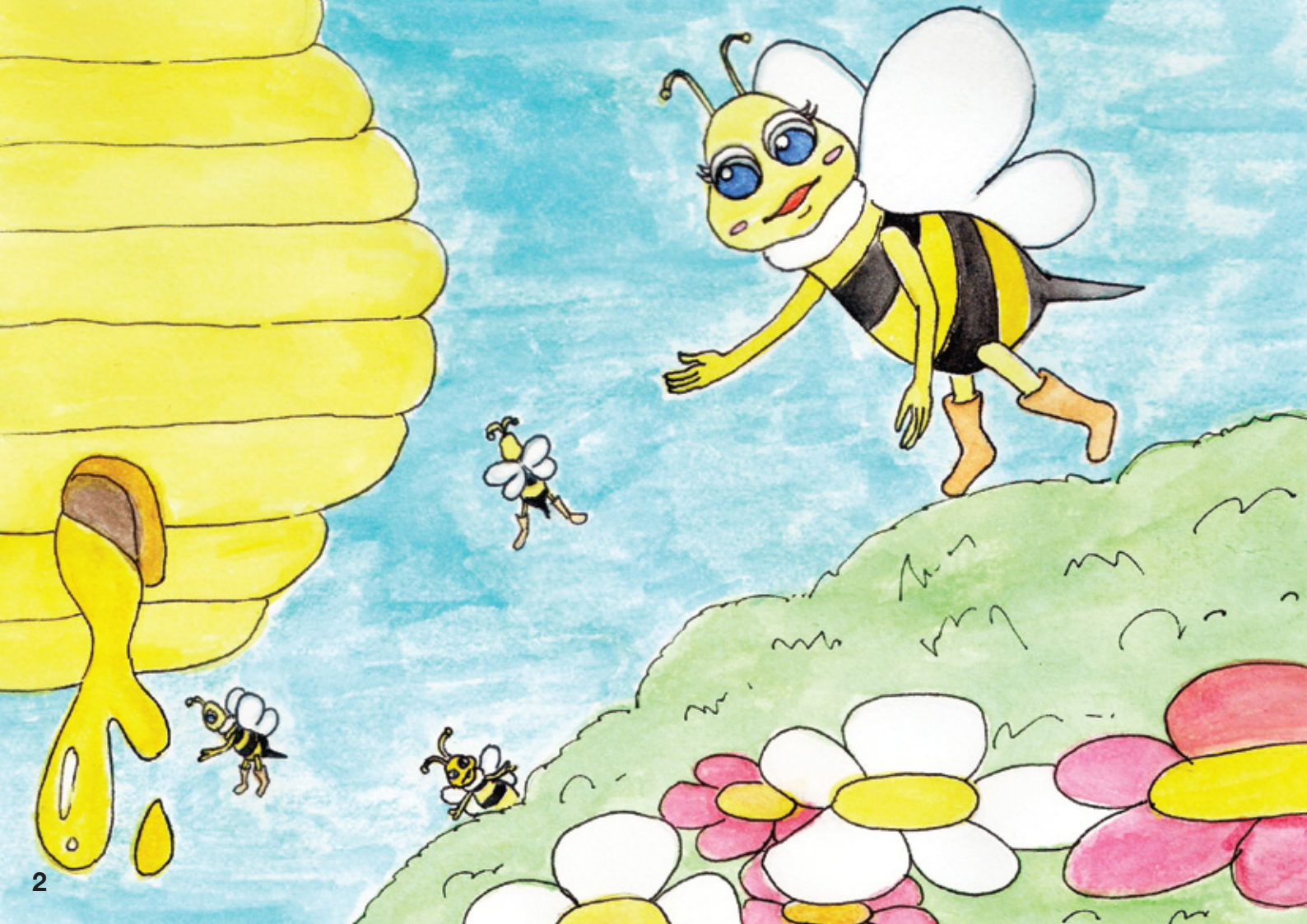




Story of Zee the Bee

story of
Zee the Bee



There once was a bee named Zee
Who had a great big GINORMOUS family!
She had brothers and sisters and a daddy and a mummy
Cousins, grandparents, uncles and aunties!

Everyday Zee and her family
Flew far and wide
To search for flowers
To make some yummy honey! *Mmmm!*

They flew in the rain
They flew in the sun
They flew wherever they could have fun! *Yay!*

Now who else like to have fun?
Do you like to have fun?



May and Jay like to have fun too!
May and Jay are best friends.
They enjoy playing with each other everyday.

During the school holidays,
They decided to visit
Farmer Leeta's farm in Cauliflower Highlands.

Farmer Leeta's farm sits atop a hill.
The land is green as far as the eye can see.
May and Jay love playing tag there.



One day Zee flew into Farmer Leeta's farm
She saw rows of fresh lettuce and green cabbages
Juicy red tomatoes and strawberries
And sweet smelling flowers as far as the eye could see!

A rainbow of flowers!
Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet!

Zee was very happy to see so many flowers
She began collecting honey
To take back home to her family

Tool: The reader may want to teach the colours of the rainbow to the children



She met a beautiful butterfly called Rosie
Who was a beautiful deep dark rosy red
Rosie helped in pollinating the flowers
Just like what Zee does
She introduced Zee to her friend Jeni the ladybug
Jeni helps by eating aphids
Which destroy Farmer Leeta's crops

Yang is a dragonfly
And she could fly as fast as lightning
She flew around and above the pond
Searching for mosquitoes to eat
In the pond was her best friend Romi the frog
Romi loved to eat mosquitoes too!
He would catch them using his long, sticky tongue *slurp!*

Zira is the top earthworm engineer
She digs tunnels underground and help loosen the soil
So that Farmer Leeta can grow many healthy vegetables in it
Zee was very happy to make so many new friends
In this amazing garden
She decided to thank Farmer Leeta
For everything



But just before she reached Farmer Leeta
A man in a black business suit and dark shades
Gave Farmer Leeta a white bottle
And told her to spray the vegetables and flowers with it
To make them grow big and healthy
And KILL all the insects

Zee was shocked and scared
She immediately flew to tell her new friends what she saw
They told her to fly back home quickly
To warn her family about the white bottle

Tools: The reader may want to dress up in a suit and dark shades with devil
horns holding a spray



Just as she was flying up into the deep blue sky
A grey mist surrounded her Clouding her vision
Turning her world black

Zee, Rosie, Jeni and Yang fall down to the ground

“Wake up! Wake up Zee!”

“Wake up Rosie, Jeni and Yang!”

Cried Romi and Zira

“What happened??” asked Zee

“One second you were in the air,
The next you were down here,”
said Zira the earthworm.

“Luckily I loosened the soil so much
It didn’t hurt you all as badly.”

“It must be that grey mist!” said Romi



“What can we do to stop it?” asked Jeni
“We are not big or strong enough to tell Farmer Leeta
to stop the grey mist!” said Rosie
Zee thought and thought
Finally, she said: “I think we should talk to those nice children over there,
They have such kind faces, surely they will help us!”

They hurried to find Jay and May
“Children, my dear children!”
Shouted Zee as loud as she could



“Could we talk to you for a minute?”
Jay and May were very surprised
To hear a bee speak to them
But they soon got over it and listened in shock
When Zee and the others described the grey mist to the children
“Jay, we must help them!” said May
“Come, we must not waste any more time,” said Jay
Quickly, the children hurried back to Farmer Leeta’s farm

Zee saw Jay and May talking to her



Then she saw Farmer Leeta give the white bottle back to the man in the suit
“I don’t need it. It is destroying lives on my farm.
Things are already good enough for me and my family without it” said Farmer
Leeta



She brought two small cherry tomato plants
For Jay and May to plant them in the earth
Jay and May found the perfect spot
A small little patch of ground
On their favorite hill
Surrounded by beautiful flowers

“Hurray! Hurray for May and Jay!”
Shouted the little creatures happily
Zee smiled

She knew that she had found the perfect place to stay

Questions for Discussion

1. What did you think of the story? Did you like it?
2. What is your favourite character and why?
3. The farmer used the spray to get rid of the insects. Why do you think she did that?
4. Then what happened to the insects?
5. What do you think is in the spray?

6. You have seen what happened to the insects, what do you think will happen to us if we are near the spray?
7. Do you think the spray is safe to use? Why?
8. Who do you think the man in the business suit is and why did he give Farmer Leeta the purple bottle?
9. Why did Farmer Leeta ask May and Jay to plant the tomato plant?
10. Do you think there are other pesticide-free methods to control pests?

Tools & Suggestions

The book can be read on its own as well as with an interactive audience where the reader can give roles to the children before the story begins.

Roles are as follows:

1. Zee the bee
2. Farmer Leeta
3. Jay
4. May
5. Rosie the butterfly
6. Jenny the ladybug
7. Yang the dragonfly
8. Romi the frog
9. Zira the earthworm
10. The guy in a dark suit and shades holding a spray

The rest of the children can be flowers

Backdrops and other props should be available on hand as well to make the story more interesting

A sock puppet making workshop can be made as a follow up activity for children

Reuse clean unwanted old socks and let children decorate using markers to bring the characters to life.

A play could be made with the children all dressed up and playing the parts of the beneficial insects.

A song or two could be incorporated into the play about insects and flowers.

Eg: Our Bee Song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oST_t2XaBaY

Dancing could also be incorporated into the play

Eg: Butterfly Dance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-G3ToelkGm8>

Please visit
panap.net/childrenandpesticide/
for more ideas

What are pesticides?

Pesticides are toxic substances (poisons) intended to kill living things that are perceived as pest, but they can also be harmful to humans. Pesticides are poisonous and were designed to kill.

Where are pesticides found?

Pesticides are widely used in agriculture and food production, homes, schools, gardens and public places.

Pesticides can also pollute our water, air and living environment. Pesticides can travel far and wide and be found almost anywhere in the world. Some pesticides can stay in our bodies and in the environment for a very long time.

How Are Children Exposed To Pesticides

ROUTES AND SOURCES OF EXPOSURE

From the womb through infancy to adolescence, children are exposed to pesticides in many ways

EXPOSURE IN THE WOMB



BABY FOODS AND DIETARY EXPOSURE



CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE AND PESTICIDES



EXPOSURE AT HOME, SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC PLACES



AFRICA AND SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

children work in cotton fields in conditions that expose them to highly hazardous pesticides during or immediately after spraying.

EGYPT

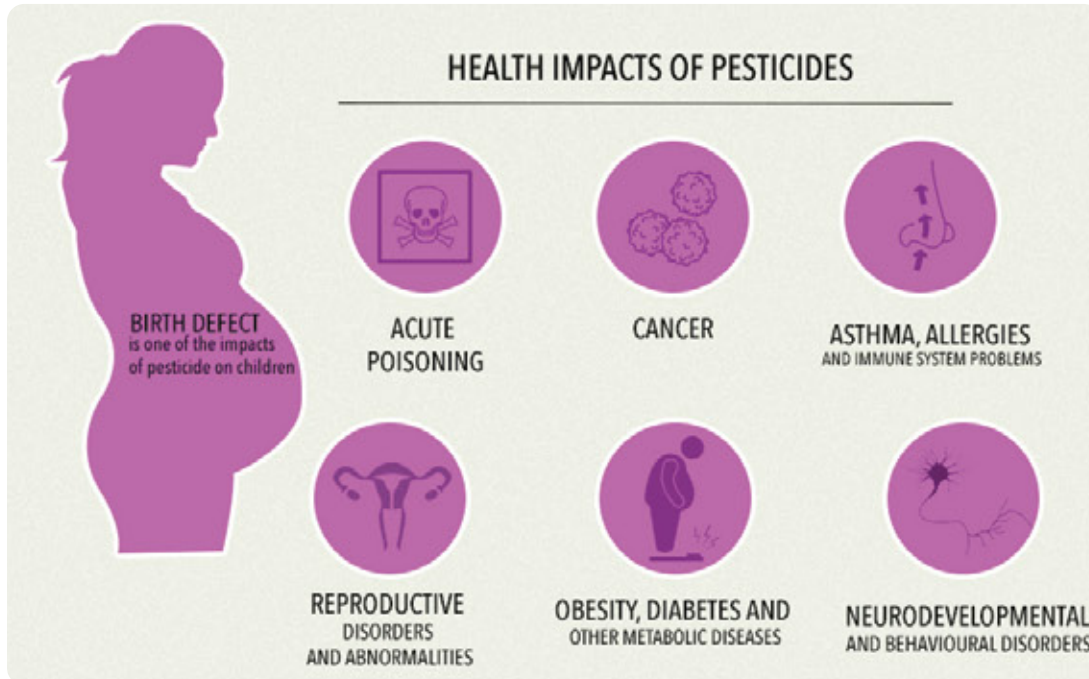
About one million children, 7 to 12 years of age, are employed to help with pest management in cotton crops.

INDIA

Cottonseed production has the highest percentage of child labour in any sector. In the year 2009-10, nearly 170,000 children below the age of 14, and 211,600 aged 14-18 years worked in cottonseed production; about 70 per cent were girls.

Health impacts of pesticides

Pesticides have been linked to birth defects, endocrine disruption, cancer, damage to the nervous system, breathing difficulties and adversely impact intellectual and behavioural development.



Do We Need Pesticides

No we don't. Some 70 years ago, big agricultural companies sold pesticides to earn lots of money. These big companies told farmers that they needed pesticides to grow crops. However there are other alternatives to grow food without chemicals. We don't need pesticides. This is a myth promoted by pesticide industry is that pesticides are needed to avert hunger. However, pesticides harm children, adults and the environment while killing beneficial insects and predators of pests.

In 2008, 400 experts from all over the world delivered the final report on the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD).

The report stated that the emphasis on increasing yields and productivity had had negative consequences on environmental sustainability, the paradigm of industrial energy-intensive and pesticide-dependent agriculture was outdated, and that small-scale farmers and agroecological methods provided the way forward.

More importantly, the report analysed 286 projects covering 37 million hectares in 57 countries, and found that on average crop yields increased by 79%. In Africa, organic farming consistently outperformed conventional agriculture.

What are beneficial insects?

Beneficial insects are any of a number of species of insects that perform valued services like pollination and pest control. For example, butterflies and bees pollinate flowers, spiders trap brown plant hoppers, ladybugs eat aphids and dragonflies eat mosquitoes. Once pesticides are used, beneficial insects are killed giving way to more pest attacks.

In a 2014 study, the mysterious vanishing of honeybees from hives can be directly linked to insecticide use, according to new research from Harvard University. The scientists showed that exposure to two neonicotinoids, the world's most widely used class of insecticide, lead to half the colonies studied dying, while none of the untreated colonies saw their bees disappear.

What is the Protect Our Children from Toxic Pesticides about?

PAN Asia Pacific wants to raise awareness about the impacts of harmful pesticides on children both at the national and regional level. We believe that children have a right to enjoy a chemical/pesticide free environment.

How can you get involved in our campaign?

1. Spread the word to other parents and friends that pesticides are toxic to children's health.

Pesticides have been linked to birth defects, endocrine disruption, cancer, damage to the nervous system, breathing difficulties and adversely impact intellectual and behavioural development. Please visit <http://panap.net/childrenandpesticide/> for more information.

2. Consume food that is pesticides free as much as possible.

In New Zealand, pesticides found in baby food were nearly 530 times more than that found in baby food in Europe. A study by Scandinavian institutes found that 12% of sampled fruit and vegetable imports from Southeast Asia have pesticide residues above the EU regulatory limits.

More families are moving towards pesticides free food. A study from Seattle found that children eating organic diets had 6 times lower level of pesticides (organophosphates) than children eating non organic food. Get in touch with your local farmers market or try growing food at home. It would be a fun family activity for all.

3. Keep your children away from pesticides including creating a safe home that is pesticide free.

Children face far greater risks of exposure to pesticides compared to adults. They breathe more air, eat more food and drink more water per unit of body weight and thus have greater exposure in a pesticide-contaminated environment. They face higher risks of poisoning due to accidental inhalation and ingestion of common household insecticides/pesticides.

There are natural ways to kill pests. To learn more download the book Debug Your Home the Natural Way at

<http://www.panap.net/sites/default/files/Debug-your-home-the-natural-way.pdf>

4. Speak to schools and day care centres to create pesticide free environments for children.

Pesticides can also affect children's ability to learn. A study from the US has found a 7 point drop of I.Q. scores in children with greater prenatal exposure to pesticides than children with lesser exposure.

5. Press policy makers to put children's health first.

Many of our laws and regulations on pesticides are strongly influenced by the agro-chemical industry. Take action by signing our petition to urge governments and corporations to ban and phase out toxic chemicals that harm our children.

Link to petition

[*http://bitly.com/1rrVsRQ*](http://bitly.com/1rrVsRQ)

Please like us and follow us on social media. Watch out for our updates on the campaign and call for action.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/panasiapacific>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/panasiapacific> or @PANAsiaPacific

Website

<http://www.panap.net/>

Post your photographs, messages and memes with the hashtag [#PesticidesFreeWorld](#)

We will be taking the campaign online to celebrate these following dates:-

June 5th - World Environment Day

November 20th - International Children's Day

Dec 3th to Dec 10th - No Pesticide Use Week

Story of Zee the Bee

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida which has been arranged by the Swedish Chemicals Agency, Keml. The views herein shall not necessarily be taken to reflect the official opinion of Sida or Keml.

Copyright © 2015 Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific.

Publication Date: May 2015

All rights reserved.

Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP) holds the rights to this publication. The publication may be cited in part as long as PAN AP is properly acknowledged as the source and PAN AP is furnished with copies of the final work where the quotation or citation appears. This publication is not for sale.

Comments and queries may be forwarded to:

PAN Asia Pacific (PAN AP)

P.O. Box: 1170, 10850 Penang, Malaysia

Tel: (604) 657 0271 / 656 0381

Fax: (604) 658 3960

E-mail: panap@panap.net

Homepage: <http://www.panap.net>

