



FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Committee: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Topic: Rubberness in Food Affecting Human Health

Written by: Jueun Park

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to our SPISMUN del Paseo 2025. We are very excited to have all of you delegates in our event! We hope you have a wonderful time learning and experiencing new things.

Your chairs will be made up of Valeria Sánchez as your Moderator, Maria Paula Pequeño as your Secretary, and myself Victoria Loza as your Director. As the committee and chairs, we worked hard to give you the best experience your delegates could have.

We can't wait to meet you all, and have a good time during the two days of the event! Enjoy and give your best with your creative resolutions! Good luck!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at:
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Sincerely,

Valeria Sanchez

I. Committee Background

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is one of the essential committees in the UN (United Nations). It was created on October 16th, 1945 by 42 states who participated in the UN action in Quebec, Canada, to form the committee we know today.

Nowadays, FAO is made up of 195 different members from 194 countries and the European Union. The committee was formed with a mission to defeat agricultural issues, eliminate hunger, and improve food systems. The principal goal is to ensure everyone has access to high-quality food. FAO always works to handle problems like malnutrition, sustainability of food systems, and hunger to achieve its mission of making a better world without people suffering from hunger. This committee does its best on what is known as food security for all human beings trying to eradicate hunger, eliminate poverty as well as sustainable management of natural resources used to make food worldwide. However, to accomplish most of this important points FAO provides technical assistance in the form of supplies and trainings, also offering legal advices, promoting sustainable practices, and most importantly providing tools immediate and long-term aid creating a forum that provides representation and discussion to solve all this major problems that are trying to be solved around the world in terms of food and agriculture.

The Food and agricultural organization works for 5 main strategic objectives to achieve which are making agriculture, forestry, and fisheries more productive and sustainable to human-eye, reducing rural poverty, enabling inclusive and efficient systems relating both of the topics of interest, and increasing resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

II. History of Topic

Pesticides are any substance or mixture of chemicals used to control, destroy, or prevent any small or big pest that might harm different crops. In addition, there are many kinds of pesticides specialized for each type of pest. For example, insecticides are used to prevent insects from contaminating the crops, rodenticides work to control contamination of

food by vermin and rodent-borne diseases, herbicides for an improvement of yields, and fungicides are specialized for preventing crops from fungal rot. The systems using pesticides have gotten better and better throughout the years. However, there is not a perfect pesticide yet, scientists and researchers are still working to get a more efficient one for the environment.

Throughout time, scientists and researchers have divided pesticides into 2 major categories: synthetic pesticides and organic pesticides, also known as biopesticides.

First, the synthetic pesticides are created in labs, where they have many different objectives like stability, good shelf life, easy distribution, and effectiveness on destroying specific pests with lower toxicity to other non-target organisms. Here are some of the classes or types of it:

- Organophosphates
- Carbamates
- Pyrethroids
- Organochlorines
- Neonicotinoids
- Glyphosate



On the other hand, there are organic pesticides (biopesticides), which occur in nature, where they can be evolved in plants. There are many types of these pesticides.

Here are some examples of the most important organic pesticides:

- Rotenone: Insecticide that is produced naturally as a beetle repellent.
- Copper sulfate: This pesticide destroys and prevents fungi, or weeds.
- Horticultural oils: Oils extracted to prevent insects, but they can harm helpful insects like beneficial bees.

Not forgetting that the word, “organic” doesn’t just mean that it is non-toxic. In other words, it refers to a specialized pesticide that occurs naturally and can be equally harmful as a synthetic pesticide.

Many diverse studies have been used to investigate the levels of pesticides that can be harmful to humans, animals, and the environment. Multiple regulatory organizations started making safety limits of pesticides that are conservative, to cause lower harm to humans, animals, and the environment.

However, many studies have shown how high pesticide exposure can affect our health both mentally and physically. Some studies even say that higher exposure to both synthetic and organic pesticides can be linked to an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease or Parkinson's disease. Also,



one study demonstrated a higher risk of getting some type of cancer. In 30,000 female wives of pesticide applicators, many of them had an increased exposure to organophosphates that was linked to an increased risk of getting cancer related to the hormone. Unfortunately, not just adults are the ones that can be affected by pesticides, kids can also have negative impacts from pesticides. Studies showed that pesticides can put children at risk of health-related diseases such as autism, cancer, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Additionally, low levels of pesticide exposure can even cause children neurological and behavioral problems. However, scientists suggest that more research is needed for an accurate result. Scientists are also predicting that high pesticide exposure levels can affect the plant's texture and flavor.

III. Current Issues

USA:

The USA (United States of America) is one of the largest countries of agricultural producers in the world. As a large country, it has a well-developed agriculture and other industries, where many people around the world immigrate to the US seeking for a better life. In the country, as agriculture has been a major industry, there is a high level of exposure to pesticides. In fact, on a daily-basis, most of the citizens are exposed to pesticides. This proved by analyzing that in most of the blood and urine of the citizens there is a big probability of pesticides flowing around. The reason why this is caused, is because more than a billion pounds of pesticides are being used each year.

Because these problems were getting bigger, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) studied 3 demographic groups: Mexican American, non-Hispanic white, and non-Hispanic Black populations. During the research, people noticed that Mexican Americans and non-Hispanic blacks had a higher amount of pesticides in their urine and blood than non-Hispanic whites. So, researchers asked themselves. Why are people of certain races more likely to have a higher level of pesticides? The answer was the inequality in the USA. For instance, Mexican American or non-Hispanic Black people had lower incomes than white ones, which caused those lower incomes, more likely for them to be exposed to the consumption of foods with higher amounts of pesticides, putting their health at risk in any way possible.

Brazil:

Brazil is a country located in South America, which is a developing country. One of the major problems in Brazil is food security. The Food Agricultural Organization says that Brazil is part of the top one country with the use of pesticides. According to the information from the 2nd National Survey on Food Insecurity in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic



in Brazil (II Vagisan), it came out that about 33 million people living in this country are suffering from severe food insecurity. On the other hand, Brazil is also known as one of the countries that consume and import the most pesticides in the world. As a result, the government uses as many pesticides as possible

to get as much food to the citizens. This is causing a huge problem in Brazil. Citizens are suffering from massive diseases that don't have a specific origin other than pesticides. In addition, the European Union has already banned 5 different best-seller pesticides out of 10 that are still consumed.

México:

Mexico is in North America and it borders the USA and it is still a developing country. Mexico has many different issues with the use of pesticides. Scientists showed that Mexico is the agricultural zone of the world with the highest health impact to its citizens

from pesticides. The overuse of these substances are because farmers often exceed the suggested level of pesticide. In fact Mexico is in 16th place worldwide for the most use of pesticides. Using about 47,128 tons every year. Also, the farmers after application of pesticides presented different symptoms like vomiting (19%) and hives (36%). So scientists concluded that many of the Mexican States are in the place of a risk zone because of the use of lots of pesticides that are allowed and prohibited.

Cambodia:

Cambodia is one of the least developed countries in the world. Also meaning that it has a lack of law enforcement for different things in the country. Some examples are non-other than the farmers. Banned and prohibited pesticides are being used by farmers in Cambodia but the problem is the management of it in the country. Products are often shown with banned pesticides in unregistered shops. Farmers illegally use pesticides for their own good. This can have a great impact on the consumers too. The consumer can result in a very high risk of diseases or symptoms that can put them at risk of death.

There are 3 important departments which are responsible for pesticide management:

1. the Department of Agriculture Legislation that is in charge of pesticide inspection.
2. PPSPS Department of General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA), testing different types of pesticides.
3. the National Agricultural Laboratory of GDA, which analyzes pesticides.

To solve this problem, researchers suggest that Cambodia should take actions like improving the security of the pesticide management law.

IV. UN Actions and Resolutions

The United Nations has done many things to solve this problem. In December 2017, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) opened a session to address the negative impacts of pesticides on the environment and human health. After the session, committees like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO),

and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) came up with a report on the impacts of pesticides and some actions to minimize them. This report talks about how taking actions to strengthen pesticide management will help to minimize the impacts of it on health and the environment, eliminating the high risk made by dangerous pesticides.

Here are some actions that the report suggests to strengthen pesticide management:

- Motivate people to make healthier consumer choices.
- Adopt the ecosystem-based approaches.
- Use more eco-friendly instruments to result in a greener environment for goods and products.
- Make and adopt corporate policies for better supply management.
- Create ecosystem-based crop management.
- Use low-risk pesticides so citizens are not as affected by them as they are at the moment.



Committees like the General Assembly (GA) have also made their ways to face this challenge, passing resolutions which emphasize the importance of food security and the right for the same.

There have also been Global Partnerships and Initiatives since the UN does encourage them pretty often among governments, NGOs, and the private sector to achieve sufficient and nutritious food.

VII. Essential Questions

1. What does food rubberness mean in the context of food systems?
2. What are pesticides?
3. What types of pesticides are being produced in your country?
4. How have fruits and vegetables been affected by pesticides?
5. How much pesticides are used in your country?

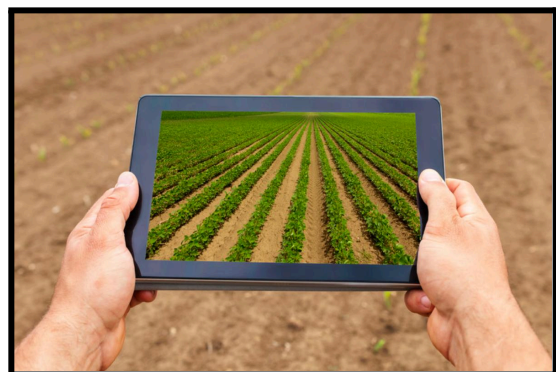
6. What has your country done to reduce the amount of pesticides used in fruits and vegetables?
7. Is there any degree of health impact in your country due to the use of pesticides?
8. How does your country set pesticide tolerances for food?
9. How can we measure and monitor food rubberness over time?
10. Organic pesticides can be equally harmful as synthetic pesticides?

VI. Conclusion

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is one important committee in the United Nations (UN), formed on October 16th, 1945. The committee is charged for ensuring that every person can access high-quality food.

One of the most important topics that the committee discusses is the issue of pesticides. Pesticides are any chemical substances used to prevent and destroy any big or small pest that may cause a problem in the crops. There are many types of pesticides and some are very harmful causing a great impact to the environment and health. Scientists are 100% sure that everyone has pesticides flowing in their urine or blood. Some diseases that are produced by pesticides are Alzheimer's, cancer, etc.

Many countries are being impacted by these issues like the USA, Mexico, Afghanistan, Nigeria, etc. As a result, the UN has taken many actions towards these issues. In December 2017 the different UN committees including FAO held a meeting concluding with a result report of solutions that can minimize the impacts of pesticides. So to deal with this issue, the diverse committees say that we shall improve the pesticide management security.



Now it's your delegate's turn to help solve this global issue as soon as possible. Good luck to you all delegates!

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