

No Pesticide Use Day 2009 in Pailin, Cambodia

December 3, 2009

With funding support from the NGO Forum on Cambodia, the Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PANAP), CEDAC, and 35 other members of the Pesticide Reduction Network in Cambodia, a campaign was organized on **No Pesticide Use Day 2009** in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Agriculture in Pailin Province.

The objectives of the campaign were:

- To raise awareness on the adverse impacts of pesticide use on health, environment and the economies of the general public and farmers
- To highlight the adverse impacts of highly hazardous pesticides
- To commemorate the thousands who died and the tens of thousands who still suffer as a result of the 1984 Bhopal disaster
- To call for other relevant partners to participate in the pesticide risk reduction and law enforcement, including the ban on the highly hazardous pesticides

There were approximately 650 people who joined the campaign that marched 4km in a parade from the Provincial Hall crossing Pailin market and Pa Hi market then back to the Provincial Hall. Participants included farmers, students, monks, NGOs staff members, schoolteachers, local authorities and governmental officers from agriculture and environment provincial departments. During the campaign march, the parade team handed leaflets on that included the history of the No Pesticide Use Day and information on pesticides use and issues to the public along the road and inside the market.

The campaign was continued with a meeting presided over by H.E Eang Vuth, a provincial vice-governor of Pailin; Dr. Preap Visato, a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery; Mr. Pan Pich, Director of the Department of Agriculture of Pailin; and Mr. Chhit Sam Ath, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia. The meeting highlighted the history of the No Pesticide Use Day, and the mechanisms for Pesticide Risk Reduction and pesticide management such as sub-decree 69 and circulation No. 598. These laws include the 116 banned pesticides and 40 restricted pesticides that are highly hazardous pesticides and state commitments to strengthening to manage pesticide trade and use in Cambodia.

The campaign strongly emphasized the concerns of pesticide impacts for farmers and consumers. The campaign also showcased the cooperative work between local and international NGOs, training and research institutes, and national and Government institutes to reduce pesticide use and stop the use of highly hazardous pesticides.

