

## Newsletter about Pesticides

N°9 – September 2022

### Civil society activities



#### **Unacceptable partnership agreement between FAO and CropLife International**

Justice Pesticides was a signatory to the June 9, 2022 NGO [appeal](#) denouncing the partnership agreement between the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and CropLife International (CLI), a global trade association whose members are the world's largest agrochemical, pesticide and seed companies.



Upon the announcement of the [agreement](#) between FAO and CLI on October 2, 2020, Justice Pesticides and 350 organizations from around the world had [written](#) to the Director of FAO, Mr. **Qu Dongyu**, to express their concern. It was also denounced by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Mr. **Michael Fakhri**, at the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council from February 28 to April 1, 2022.

Eleven international NGOs, including PAN International, had also [written](#) to Mr. **Qu Dongyu** in December 2020 to request an exchange of views regarding their concerns about the agreement. It was only more than a year and a half later that their representatives were able to meet with the Deputy Director General of the FAO, Ms. **Beth Bechdol**.

The appeal, signed by 430 representatives of civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations, was presented at the 170th session of the FAO Council, from June 13 to 17, 2022. It considers the agreement incompatible with the obligations of the FAO to defend human rights, given the dangerousness of pesticides for humans and the nature of the activities of the companies that are members of CLI.

However, the Director General of the FAO [considered](#) that "*fostering innovative partnerships for a food-secure world is a top priority for the United Nations*" before adding that "*the priority is embedded in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31*", on June 18, 2022, without detailing the nature of innovative partnerships although such an agreement with the international pesticide lobby is in every sense opposed to a food secure world.

On August 15, 2022, PAN International therefore [called](#) on the FAO to end its existing agreement with CropLife International, publicly clarify the nature of its ties to the pesticide industry, and subject those ties to greater transparency and accountability.

*If you have made it this far, can you make one more small effort to allow us to continue this work of investigation and information to help the victims of pesticides?*

*Justice Pesticides needs you.*

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