

## **Introduction**

Many pesticides can be harmful to people and the environment, but they're still commonly used because of a lack of understanding about their effects and/or lack of sustainable alternatives. Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP) are pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly severe risks to producers' and workers' health and the environment.

GCP [Coffee Sustainability Reference Code](#) (previously known as Baseline Coffee Code) presents [two lists of pesticides](#): the Prohibited List (pesticides not to be used) and Phase-out List (pesticides to be reduced and phased out by 2030 if feasible).

The development of the lists in the last Code revision highlighted the challenges that producers face to eliminate or phase out some of these pesticides, due to lack of alternatives and/or risks to their livelihoods. To be able to support coffee farmers in the transition to eliminate and/or phase out of the pesticides in both lists, collective action is needed, involving key local and international stakeholders in the supply chain.

The Pesticides Working Group is an action oriented and problem-solving group convened by GCP as a Working Group of the Technical Committee.

## **Scope**

Highly Hazardous Pesticides that are included in both the Prohibited List and the Phase-out List that pose challenges for producers to eliminate or phase out.

## **Objectives**

1. Identify and prioritize those pesticides from the revised Prohibited List for which collective action is needed.
2. Identify and prioritize those pesticides from the revised Phase-out List for which collective action is needed.
3. Collect and disseminate information about use of alternatives to these pesticides in main coffee producing origins as well as best practices.
4. Coordinate with other related initiatives for alignment and shared learning, for example GCP Collective Action Initiatives and ISEAL Integrated Pest Management Coalition.
5. Knowledge sharing with relevant national or regional regulatory bodies. In exporting countries for producers to be aware of changes in legal frameworks, in importing countries for legislators to be informed about relevant information of coffee origins and decisions are more in line with countries' realities. This includes liaising with Country Platforms and with relevant actors in the sector that monitor and provide input into policy recommendations related to pesticides (e.g. ECF, NCA).
6. Explore and catalyze effective, feasible and financially viable alternatives for the phase out of pesticides.
7. Define target dates for pesticides in the Phase-out List.

## Deliverables

1. A framework for the phase-out of hazardous materials on the Phase-out List to support achievement of the 2030 target (including for example: identification of pest targeted, desk and/or field research into alternatives, capacity building projects, establishing and communication of phase-out target).
2. Agreed list of pesticides for hazardous materials in the Prohibited List to be prioritized for elimination or for collective action, including rationale.
3. Agreed list of pesticides for hazardous materials in the Phase-out List, to be prioritized for phase-out, including dates, or for collective action, including rationale.
4. A timebound, credible plan for phase-out of prioritized hazardous materials on the Phase-out List, that may include research and capacity building interventions and phase-out target date.
5. Interventions identified in selected countries to explore effective, feasible and financially viable alternatives and/or concept notes for potential Collective Action Initiatives to address the replacement and phasing out of the materials.

## Composition

- Up to 12 members who are knowledgeable about the challenges and opportunities that the elimination and reduction of pesticides pose to producers and to the different actors in the supply chain. The group may will be supported by a roster of external experts to provide technical advisory support.
- Balanced representation of different actors in the supply chain (producers, traders, roasters/retailers, civil society, certification schemes). The Chairman, with agreement of members of the Group, to have the mandate to invite other stakeholders at his discretion for one or several meetings.
- Balanced geographical representation of different actors.

## Governance

- The Pesticides Working Group will be a group answerable to the Technical Committee of GCP.
- Through the report of the Technical Committee, the Pesticides Working Group will submit a progress report to each Board meeting, and also an annual report to the Membership Assembly.

## Duration

- Two-years initially, to be extended after evaluation of activities by the GCP Board.



## Resources

- GCP will convene and coordinate the meetings and develop an annual action plan of the Pesticides Working Group.
- Time costs to participate in meetings/activities will in general not be reimbursed and there are no per diems or honoraria on the Pesticides Working Group. However, 1 or 2 seats with small honoraria will be considered for civil society representatives (e.g. with HQ in global south or representatives of coffee producing countries.)
- The Pesticides Action Group is expected to meet every two-three months for circa two hours and their members are expected to prepare the meetings, participate actively in the discussions, and follow up any action points resulting from the meetings.

**Are you a GCP member, have technical knowledge about pesticides and are interested in participating in the Pesticides Action Group please send by 13 January 2022 your expression of interest including CV and motivation to participate in this group to [info@globalcoffeeplatform.org](mailto:info@globalcoffeeplatform.org).**