



# **Grow the Crop**

## **Handout 6**

# **Guidelines Safe Handling of On Farm Chemicals**

# Guidelines for the safe handling of on-farm chemicals

## Safety

- Keep agrochemicals locked away from children and untrained workers or those that cannot read.
- Lock chemicals safely away in a separate store to prevent cross-contamination of food, feed, seed and fertiliser by means of spillage or vapours from volatile chemicals.
- In the case of fire or floods these materials will be confined to one area.

## Read the label carefully

- Make sure you do not get poisoned.
- Wash the applicator after you have used it.
- Keep away from the spray drift or dust cloud.
- Do not smoke, eat or drink while applying the pesticide.
- Take a bath when you have finished and put on clean clothes.
- Wash contaminated clothing.

When working with a pesticide you should wear:

- Rubber gloves
- Rubber boots
- A face-shield
- An apron
- Overalls
- Goggles



## Do not harm the environment

- Apply pesticides only when it is absolutely necessary.
- Keep to the dosage prescribed.
- Apply pesticides only on windless days.
- Choose pesticides that work quickly or that are safe to wildlife.
- Do not contaminate water either by drift or by washing application equipment.
- Use only pesticides that are prescribed for your particular problem.

## How to store and transport pesticides.

- Always pack or load pesticides in such a manner that the containers will not be damaged or leak.
- Keep the container in a cool place, away from direct sunlight and fires.
- Store pesticides away from food and feed.
- Do not transfer pesticides to containers which normally hold food or liquids, for example soft drink bottles.



• Never pour pesticides into soft drink bottles or food containers.



• Do not use pesticide containers or packaging materials for storing water or food.

## Application equipment

- Always use equipment that is in good working condition.
- Service your equipment regularly and fix leaks immediately.
- Clean the equipment properly after use, and do not leave pesticides in the applicator overnight.
- After you have cleaned the equipment, do not empty the washing water into rivers, dams or onto grazing.
- Application equipment must be calibrated properly.

In case of spills, have on hand a:

- Broom.
- Spade.
- Supply of dry fine sand.
- Large open-ended containers (1/3 of a 200-litre drum) for disposal of contaminated material and into which leaking containers can be placed



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## Disposing of Agro-chemical containers in a safe way

- Ensure the container is empty.
- Rinse the container three (3) times with clean water.
- Place rinsing water into the spraying tank and spray out onto the fields.
- Puncture the container and bury it in a specified area.
- Where a collection service is available for the empty containers make use of them.
- The pit must be at least 50 m from any water source (river, dam, spring, borehole, etc).
- Line the pit with a 3 to 5 cm thick layer of lime.
- Put flattened containers and other farm waste in the pit in layers of not more than 10 to 15 cm deep.
- Cover the pit between deposits to prevent the contents from getting wet when it rains.
- When the pit is full (50 cm from the top), fill it with compacting soil. A final mound topping will ensure rainwater to run off.
- Erect a signpost in the area to indicate it as a disposal site.

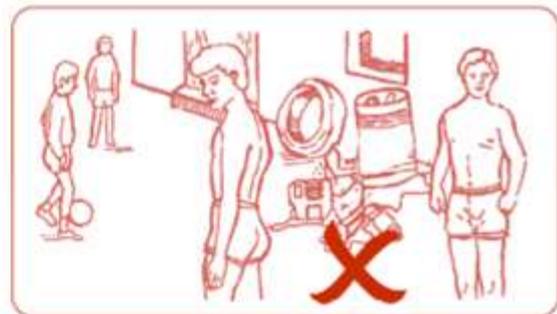
## Disposing of Agro-Chemicals



- Empty containers must be drained and rinsed **three times** with clean water:
  - Pour remaining pesticide into spray tank
  - Rinse with water and empty into spray tank



- Make holes into them so that they cannot be used again



- Do not dump containers in any place
- Bury them in a pit in the ground far from homes and animal pens
- The pit must be on ground that is relatively high and flat. The soil should not be too sandy

