



Our Top Priorities for EPA and USDA

Two days after Michael Regan was confirmed as the new EPA Administrator, PAN delivered 22,863 of our supporters' signatures to his desk, urging him to act quickly to get some of the most dangerous pesticides off the market.

With complete disregard of scientific evidence, the previous administration had approved the following hazardous chemicals for continued or expanded use: aldicarb, atrazine, chlorpyrifos, dicamba, glyphosate, isoxaflutole, paraquat and sulfoxaflo. We called for immediate review and reversal of these decisions.

Out of the gate, our community sent a strong message to the Biden administration about the importance of taking urgent action to protect farmworkers, farmers, rural communities, and children from health-harming chemicals. But we know this is just the first step.

An encouraging course correction

On day one of his administration, President Biden signed an Executive Order on public health and the environment, ordering federal agencies to reinsert science into policymaking, limit exposure to pesticides and other dangerous chemicals, and hold corporations accountable for contaminating low-income communities and communities of color.

The new administration also committed to several high-level priorities, including urgently addressing both the climate crisis and racial injustice, making these shared objectives across all agencies of the federal government.

These are very encouraging goals. But translating them into policies that make a difference is another thing altogether—particularly when it comes to the food system, where Big Ag and

pesticide corporations hold tremendous power and influence. That's exactly why reducing the influence of corporate lobbyists tops our list of priorities for the new leaders at EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Translating goals into action

Here's the list of recommendations PAN recently shared with both Administrator Regan and USDA Secretary Vilsack:

- **Reduce the influence of corporate lobbyists** like the pesticide industry on agency policymaking. It's well documented: policies resulting from corporate influence harm families, workers, and the environment.
- **Ensure farmers receive technical and financial support** to reduce their reliance on dangerous pesticides by building healthy soil and biologically diverse farm ecosystems.
- **Listen to and invest in community-scale farmers and farmers of color**, shifting public resources away from petrochemical-intensive, industrial agriculture.

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PAN & Partners Urge FAO to “Stop the Toxic Alliance”

by Simone Adler

In mid-February, internal government emails revealed CropLife America’s behind-the-scenes lobbying urging U.S. officials to pressure Mexico to abandon its recently announced plans to ban glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto’s (now Bayer’s) flagship weedkiller Roundup. This revelation of the lengths CropLife will go to undermine government decisions comes on the heels of a contentious announcement that CropLife International and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are proposing a formalized partnership.

CropLife International (CLI) is the global trade association representing the interests of corporations that produce and promote pesticides. Over a third of these corporations’ sales come from highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs).

FAO’s unprecedented move to formalize collaboration with CropLife provoked a sharp rebuke from civil society, independent scientists and researchers, and philanthropic organizations from around the world.

Mobilizing to “Stop the Toxic Alliance”

In November, 352 civil society and Indigenous peoples’ organizations from 63 countries sent a letter to FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu, urging him to stop FAO’s plans to deepen collaboration with CLI. The letter outlined the documented harms from HHPs—products that CropLife member corporations are well known for aggressively marketing.

An international group of 250 scientists and researchers delivered a similar letter of concern on the same day. In his response to these letters, Director-General Qu did not adequately address the concerns raised. Soon after, a group of 47 foundations and donor networks delivered their own letter of concern, to which Director-General Qu has yet to respond.

Dissatisfied with the Director-General’s response, PAN International requested a meeting to discuss civil society’s concerns. When two meeting requests went unanswered, PAN North America and PAN Asia Pacific brought together the 11 co-sponsoring groups of the November letter to send a formal meeting request.



A glaring conflict of interest

There’s no denying that CLI member companies’ primary goal is to maximize profits through the sale of pesticides, seeds and genetic material, specifically targeting countries in the Global South. CLI’s public messaging of “environmentally friendly” technologies and innovation provides cover for its agenda of boosting sales through chemical-intensive inputs, ensuring continued profits from an ever-escalating pesticide treadmill.

FAO is tasked with promoting sustainable agriculture and access to food to achieve zero hunger. A formal partnership with CLI would undermine FAO’s priority of minimizing the harms of chemical pesticide use worldwide, “including the progressive ban of highly hazardous pesticides.”

Agroecology or “bluewashing,” FAO?

FAO risks its integrity, credibility, and neutrality by strategically aligning with CLI. Instead, the agency should robustly support countries that are banning HHPs as a means to improve climate resilience, and increase farmer access to practices and tools that help them grow their crops sustainably without harming their health.

If FAO moves forward with this strategic alliance with CLI, it paves the way for even more “bluewashing”—giving the pesticide industry cover and credibility through their association with a UN agency.

FAO leaders have a choice to make. Will they maintain the agency’s role as a global leader supporting innovative farming approaches that promote food security, sustainability and resilience? Or will they give pesticide corporations their stamp of approval for the deadly consequences of pesticides? PAN and our partners are pressing hard to convince them to do the right thing: Stop the toxic alliance. —

Meet Simone

Simone Adler is PAN’s new Organizing Co-Director, bringing their grassroots organizing expertise to our national and international teams.



Simone has over a decade of experience organizing in local and global movements for food sovereignty and economic justice. Simone co-coordinates the “Stop the Toxic Alliance” campaign with Ilang-Ilang Quijano of PAN Philippines.

A Look Inside the New Pesticide Info



PAN is so excited to share that a newly updated, more intuitive, and easier-to-use pesticide information database is now available to the public, accessible at pesticideinfo.org. Pesticide Info brings together a diverse array of information on pesticides from many sources, providing human toxicity, ecotoxicity, regulatory information, and more for over 15,000 pesticides.

We chatted with two key members of the Pesticide Info update team, PAN Senior Scientist Margaret Reeves (MR) and PAN Digital Production Manager Andrew Olsen (AO) to get some insight on what the update process was like, and their hopes for how folks will use the new Pesticide Info going forward.



What was the initial idea for the Pesticide Info tool back in 2000, and what gaps did it fill in research and advocacy?

MR: We wanted to make information about pesticide health hazards readily available, for free, to anyone. As we believed it would, having access to this information has directly supported many campaigns, from state-based pesticide bans to imposing greater restrictions on how and where the most hazardous pesticides can be used.



Why is community access to information like this important?

MR: When a community-based problem arises, you need a quick, targeted, well-informed response. If, for example, a

poisoning incident occurs, the affected groups and those acting on their behalf want to know right away what the short- and long-term human and environmental health effects are. In California, where use data are available, we'd also want to know where this pesticide is commonly applied so we can make clear the likely extent of the problem throughout the state.

What was the motivation for updating the tool, and what did that process entail?

AO: Pesticide Info has been a great resource that provides real data transparency. However, the design was really out-of-date and we were motivated to make this tool much more intuitive for our users. There are multiple, complex elements to the process of redesigning a site like this. They include audience surveys, data surveys, structurally digging into the code and seeking ways to modernize the delivery of the data, plus an entire redesign of the front-end interface. It was many months of work to get the site launch-ready.

What do you think is the most useful or compelling piece of the new Pesticide Info site?

AO: For me, number one is how much more intuitive the site is, and how the data is now organized into both tabs and cards. This creates readable chunks of information, and hopefully it's much easier for someone to find the information they're looking for.

MR: I really like the new data from our international PAN partners that show both the pesticide bans by country and the PAN International categorization of Highly Hazardous Pesticides.

PAN sees the updated Pesticide Info as an important and useful tool that brings transparent science and data to the people, and we hope you'll be able to use this in your own communities and advocacy work! —

Can we text you?



We're excited to share that PAN can now send out action alerts via text! Email inbox overload is real, and being able to text our supporters lets us ping folks for urgent actions like sharing our priorities with new EPA Administrator Regan, or urging a national ban on brain-harming chlorpyrifos.

To subscribe, keep an eye out for our next action alert in your inbox, and add your cell phone number to the mobile field. Change your mind? You can unsubscribe at any time!

ABOUT PAN PAN works to create a just, thriving food system, working with those on the frontlines to tackle the pesticide problem — and reclaim the future of food and farming. One of five regional centers worldwide, PAN North America links local and international consumer, labor, health, environment and agriculture groups into an international citizens' action network. Together, we challenge the global proliferation of pesticides, defend basic rights to health and environmental quality, and work to ensure the transition to a just and viable food system.

We also urged both leaders to ensure that independent (not corporate) science is the basis for decision-making, agency scientists are protected from political pressure, and (at EPA) loopholes that allow pesticides on the market without health and safety reviews (e.g., “emergency” and “conditional” use registrations) are firmly closed.

These are not small changes. But this kind of paradigm shift will be necessary to set in motion systemic changes in food and farming, which is in turn what’s needed to address both the climate crisis and racial injustice.

Legislation, too

When it comes to priorities for the new Congress, we’re looking forward to the reintroduction of the Protect America’s Children from Toxic Pesticides Act (PACTPA), the ground-breaking bill that was led by Rep. Neguse (D-CO) and Senator Udall (D-NM) in the last session.



PACTPA would make long overdue, fundamental reforms to our national pesticide rules, and is expected to be reintroduced in 2021.

PACTPA would not only ban the most dangerous pesticides (including organophosphates, pollinator-harming neonicotinoids, and paraquat herbicides), it would also close the loopholes described above, and:

- **Protect farmworkers from harm** by requiring injury reports with EPA review, improved pesticide labeling, and require labels in Spanish and any other language with 500 or more applicators using that language;
- **Create a petition process** allowing individuals to request review of pesticides that would otherwise be approved for use indefinitely;
- **Protect local communities** from preemption of local pesticide rules by state laws; and
- **Require suspension and review** of pesticides deemed unsafe by other countries such as Canada or the European Union.

Overhaul of our antiquated system of pesticide regulation is long, long overdue—as is a healthy food and farming system that supports local economies, provides solutions to our climate crisis, and addresses systemic racial injustice. Now’s the time.

Take action Send a message to EPA/USDA at www.panna.org/TopPriorities.

Meet Long-time PAN Supporters Sue Conley & Nan Haynes

Sue Conley and Nan Haynes share a strong connection with land and sustainable agriculture. Nan is a retired state park ranger with a passion for wild, open space and conservation of natural resources. Her last assignment was at Samuel Taylor State Park, which is how the couple ended up living in Petaluma, California.

Meanwhile, Sue has been in the food business for her entire adult life. She co-founded Bette’s Oceanview Diner

in the 1980s and Cowgirl Creamery in the 1990s. Both are dedicated to producing high quality, delicious food using local ingredients.

PAN founder Monica Moore introduced Sue and Nan to the organization’s work many years ago. She saw Cowgirl Creamery’s dedication to organic agriculture and believed they would support efforts to tackle the pesticide problem. As Sue shares, “We were naturally aligned with PAN’s mission.”

Now is the time to remake our food system, and PAN’s work is an important part of making farmers and food producers partners in climate change mitigation.

 Sue Conley



Sue and Nan often support PAN’s work with in-kind donations of their gourmet cheese for events, such as this platter for our 35th anniversary party!

Connect Online

- 🔔 Sign up for action alerts and the GroundTruth blog at www.panna.org/subscribe.
- 📍 Map your Honey Bee Haven at www.honeybeehaven.org. 
- 📱 Join us on Facebook  and Twitter [@pesticideaction](https://twitter.com/pesticideaction) 

Donate online at www.panna.org/donate

