



Chlorpyrifos is Finally on Its Way Out in the U.S.

PAN and our partners across the country celebrated a momentous win in late April. San Francisco's 9th District Court ordered the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to follow its own science and get chlorpyrifos off the market in the U.S. With just a few more steps in the legal process, a national ban is close to the finish line—and farmworkers, children, and rural families will no longer be exposed to this dangerous, brain-harming chemical.

Persistence is key

This has been a long time coming. PAN and our partners first sued EPA over chlorpyrifos in 2007, arguing that rural children and farmworkers should not be exposed to the harmful pesticide, which was withdrawn to protect children from home use way back in 2001. After years of delay and court orders, EPA finally dove into the science and found that agricultural uses of chlorpyrifos were in fact unsafe for children and farmworkers (as we had told them), and should not continue.

But the agency dragged its feet on taking action until 2017. Then, under a new administration that was clearly prioritizing corporate profits over public health, EPA blocked the in-motion plans for a ban. Outraged, we sued again, arguing that EPA acted illegally, as there was no new science proving that use of the chemical was safe.

In the meantime, as we watched the corrupt EPA leadership roll back one environmental protection policy after another, we pivoted to a state-focused strategy, and, in June 2018, saw Hawai'i become the first state to ban use of chlorpyrifos. In the following months, several other states introduced their own bills to ban the chemical, including Maryland, Oregon and New York. In 2019, California announced a near total withdrawal of chlorpyrifos use in the state, an administrative action which went into effect at the end of 2020.

And then, in late April, the federal court finally agreed with us and ordered EPA to act. If all goes as we expect it to, a national ban is finally on the horizon.

Next steps and building momentum

So what now? EPA has a small window to request a rehearing by the court, but our lawyers are hopeful they won't. The agency will then have 60 days to revoke all uses of chlorpyrifos that they cannot determine to be safe. And, while we celebrate this huge win, there's always more work to do! We're hopeful that a solid chlorpyrifos ban in the U.S. will pave the way toward an international ban as well.

At present, chlorpyrifos is either banned or "not approved" for use in 35 countries worldwide, and we expect the U.S. to join

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Mexico's Glyphosate Ban Survives Industry Attacks

At the end of last year, the government of Mexico decided to end the use of glyphosate in their country and block the planting of genetically engineered (GE) corn by 2024. Glyphosate, the main ingredient in Roundup, was found by the World Health Organization to be a “probable human carcinogen” in 2014, and contamination from GE corn engineered to withstand glyphosate application threatens the many Native maize species in Mexico.

This victory reflects years of organizing by our partners in Mexico, and has garnered widespread public support within the country. Not surprisingly, it also spurred fierce opposition from Bayer CropScience, which produces and sells Roundup products since their purchase of Monsanto in 2018.

When Bayer saw this decision on the horizon last year, they worked with CropLife America, the industry trade association, to urge the U.S. to block Mexico's policy decision. And under the previous administration, U.S. officials did exactly that. Last summer, representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) warned the Mexican government that this policy would threaten “the strength of our bilateral relationship.”

Mexico holds the line

Despite these threats, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador moved forward with the planned bans to protect the health of the people, the integrity of farming and “food sovereignty and security” in his country.

Bayer and CropLife America tried again under the Biden Administration, sending a letter in March to the new leaders of USDA and USTR, Secretary Tom Vilsack and Representative Katherine Tai, again urging U.S. interference in Mexico's policymaking.

This is when our partners at PAN Mexico (RAPAM) reached out for our help, and we responded with an emphatic yes. In late April, we delivered a letter on behalf of 80 U.S. organiza-



Despite pressure from pesticide corporations on political leaders and in court, Mexico is standing firm on a national glyphosate ban.

tions to Secretary Vilsack and Trade Representative Tai, opposing interference by U.S. government officials and agribusiness interests in Mexico's planned phaseout of glyphosate and GE corn. The groups signing on included farmer, worker, consumer, public health, sustainable agriculture, and food systems research and advocacy organizations.

We also delivered over 6,900 signatures from concerned individuals, telling Vilsack and Tai to respect Mexico's decision to protect their farmers and public health.

Completely unacceptable

In a press release highlighting the deliveries, Executive Director Kristin Schafer noted that it is “...completely unacceptable for U.S. public agencies to be doing the bidding of pesticide corporations like Bayer, who are solely concerned with maintaining their bottom line profits.”

While we have yet to hear back from the new agency leaders, we're confident that this public pressure will help keep them accountable. Meanwhile, numerous (17!) industry-led efforts to block the new regulations in court have all been overturned, with Mexico's ban holding strong.

Our RAPAM partners and the broad Sin Maíz No Hay País (No Maize No Country) coalition in Mexico will continue to organize to protect the ban—and for Mexico's right to protect its people and its food sovereignty. We'll be here to mobilize support for their efforts whenever needed. —☘

What is CropLife America?

CropLife America's 100 member companies benefit from chemical-intensive farming in various ways, from sale of pesticides, GE seeds and fertilizers, to extraction and sale of farm data. It is part of a global trade association, CropLife International, that represents the interests of industrial agriculture in policy spaces worldwide. The highly consolidated pesticide/GE seed industry is well represented in CropLife America's ranks, with members including:

- BASF Corporate
- Bayer CropScience (now owns Monsanto)
- Corteva (formerly Dow/Dupont)
- FMC Corporation
- Syngenta Crop Protection (merged with ChemChina)

Lesser known purveyors of chemical inputs, such as Koch Agronomic Services (yes, that Koch), Eurofins Agscience Services and Drexel Chemical Company, are also members.

Science With Integrity, Please

by PAN Staff Scientist Emily Marquez

When I was in graduate school, there was an ethics certification training at my university, I believe specifically for science students. One scenario discussed a conflict of interest (COI)—whether or not to disclose funding sources in an academic paper. This training was the only official opportunity I can recall where we discussed ethical conduct in research.

Conflicts of interest can be real or perceived, and it's important to recognize them as a serious issue that can interfere with scientific objectivity.

“When money speaks, all else falls silent”

A Russian friend of mine quoted the above proverb to me once, which speaks pretty perfectly to this issue of COIs. A public health academic once shared with me that he wouldn't do consulting work with a certain huge pesticide company, but added that it was tempting for some because it was so lucrative.

Recently, I saw a compelling and important presentation of the International Network for Epidemiology in Policy (INEP) position statement on COIs. The statement describes several cases of the misuse of epidemiological research to favor industry over public health (for example, what Big Tobacco was up to in the 1980s), as well as examples of COI-related policies

These editorials were timed to influence policy decisions, promoting chemical industry priorities at the expense of human health.

intended to protect the integrity of scientific research. INEP's publication serves as a reminder to public health scientists of their mission: public health comes first.

The presentation slides state: “If a scientist has a vested interest in how the TRUTH is presented, they can distort the truth.... Scientific integrity can be undermined.... Public trust in the science of epidemiology can be eroded...the public and the environment can be harmed.”

Sustain PAN's Work Give Monthly

When you join PAN as a Sustainer, you become part of a vital group that donates each month to fund grassroots science, collaboration with frontline communities, and policy change. We rely on consistent support from Sustainers to work towards a healthy, fair and resilient system of food and farming.

Become a Sustainer today by going to www.panna.org/give-monthly.



A lack of ethics

One example highlighted in INEP's position statement was an article on endocrine disruption published by 19 toxicologists in eight different journals. It was not, however, a work of original research; in reality it was an opinion piece by toxicologists with ties to the chemical industry. None of these toxicologists had studied endocrinology or endocrine-disrupting chemicals, and among the toxicologists were editors for six of the eight journals.

The timing of these 2020 publications came before the European Parliament's vote on their resolution on the European Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, which was expected to include endocrine disruptor data. Back in 2013, the same group of toxicologists published an article in six toxicology journals, around the time of a European Union legislative effort to regulate endocrine disrupting compounds.

Clearly, these editorials were timed to influence these policy decisions, promoting the views of the chemical industry at the expense of human health.

The Big Tobacco playbook

The tactics used to confuse the science around tobacco—and more recently around the climate crisis—have included distraction, creating doubt, and calling for further research (because of doubt!). Sound familiar? Here at PAN, we've seen the pesticide industry employ these same tactics time and time again.

Conflicts of interest lead to misuse (and ignorance) of epidemiological science, which can, in turn, lead to the continued use of highly hazardous pesticides like chlorpyrifos. Sound science is the basis of PAN's work, and we'll continue calling out and pushing back against COIs where we see them. —



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.

that list soon. Canada also just announced their own three-year plan to ban the toxic insecticide, and chlorpyrifos is now being considered for a global ban under the Stockholm Convention as well—we're already seeing momentum build.



For years, the science has been clear that even small amounts of chlorpyrifos can damage the human nervous system, and exposure is particularly dangerous for children.

Over the past two decades of this chlorpyrifos fight, we have faced a rollercoaster of wins and progress mixed with setbacks and frustrations as we've approached this issue from all angles. We've learned that the key to each victory we've celebrated is the multifaceted, collaborative approach of community organizing, grassroots science, and storytelling all working together to win protective policies. Over the years, PAN scientists have worked with partners around the country to review and amplify a wealth of scientific literature on exposures and health hazards, and the voice of farmworkers and rural families has remained front and center.

We also know that your support and activism made this big win happen. Thank you for being part of the persistent organizing and legal efforts that led to this victory. Keep an eye out for opportunities to join us in continued pressure on EPA to ensure they withdraw *all uses* of chlorpyrifos—without exception.

Together, we'll get this national ban to the finish line, adding one more milestone in our shared fight toward a system of food and farming that's healthy for all. 🌱

The Food We Want

On Earth Day, PAN staff joined our partners at PAN Asia Pacific for a global day of action against corporate control of food systems. We participated in #TheFoodWeWant campaign, sharing photos of the types of food we want to see in abundance in our food system—food that is pesticide-free, grown locally and agroecologically, puts farmers and workers first, and doesn't enrich Big Ag. Check out the beautiful bounty PAN staff came up with!



Organizing Co-Director Lorilani Keohakālole shared a Native tea that grows in her yard, Mamakī—plus the dried leaves and her finished product.



Organizing Co-Director Simone Adler shared a selfie with some locally grown chard in Seattle!



Organizing Co-Director Willa Childress shared a harvest photo from their garden in Minneapolis, including eggs from backyard quail!



Senior Scientist Margaret Reeves showed off her selfie skills with her backyard artichoke in Oakland.



Organizing Co-Director Zoe Hollomon shared a beautiful snapshot of produce grown by members of the Midwest Farmers of Color Collective.



Communications Associate and Iowa farmer Rob Faux shared a variety of produce from his diversified, organic farm, including these Tasty Evergreen tomatoes.

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