

RESOLUTION 6n

Proposed Resolution to be adopted
At the 8th General Assembly of the
Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)
8 March 2012

TITLE:
**ELIMINATION IN THE USE OF PARAQUAT AND ADOPTION OF INTEGRATED WEED
MANAGEMENT**

SUBMITTED BY:
Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific

Sustainability in palm oil production entails that the health of workers and communities around plantations is respected and ensured, and environmental diversity is maintained or nurtured. Specifically, RSPO Criterion 4.6 and its indicators address the use of WHO Class 1a and 1b pesticides, pesticides listed in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, and paraquat to wit, “*Documentary evidence that use of chemicals categorised as World Health Organisation Type 1A or 1B, or listed by the Stockholm or Rotterdam Conventions, and paraquat, is reduced and/or eliminated*”;

Whereas, RSPO made a commitment as early as March 2006 to initiate the identification of safe and cost effective alternatives to chemicals but has failed to do so at the present time, and the failure of the CABI report to present agrochemical case alternatives is no reason for RSPO and its members not to actively seek alternatives for the highly hazardous pesticides;

Whereas, the inherent hazard of paraquat has made its use a major health danger to workers and users of this pesticide. The elimination in the use of paraquat by some growers or the use of non-chemical weed management technique by others demonstrates that sustainable palm oil production without paraquat is achievable. In spite of this, the unwarranted use of paraquat continues causing undue harm to workers, communities and the environment.

In order to maintain the integrity and credibility of RSPO before its consumers, market and the rest of the world, we call on RSPO that:

***The 8th General Assembly of the RSPO, on the 8th of March 2012 resolves:
To implement the elimination of all formulations of paraquat in the production of palm oil, and the rapid adoption of Integrated Weed Management.***

To achieve this goal, we propose the following activities and targets:

- a. RSPO in cooperation with growers and NGOs shall implement the elimination in the use and purchase of all formulations of paraquat, and elimination of existing stocks of paraquat within one year.
- b. In the process, RSPO shall prevent all risks to and ensure the independent health monitoring of workers or surrounding communities exposed to paraquat.

- c. RSPO shall ensure that no paraquat is improperly stored or disposed of.
- d. RSPO and Certification Bodies shall adequately and regularly monitor the elimination of paraquat taking into account the volume used, the manner of use and storage, and disposal of remaining stocks.
- e. RSPO, growers, NGOs and other stakeholders shall share information, experience and expertise amongst themselves towards the rapid adoption of Integrated Weed Management.

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Note to members on resolutions entered into 8th RSPO General Assembly, March 8, 2012

It is the responsibility of the RSPO EB to ensure RSPO members are duly informed of the impact of the decisions that might be taken during any General Assembly. Therefore, draft resolutions were screened for this purpose. The notes below are for information of members only, and do not reflect any preference on the part of the Executive Board.

Resolution titled:

ELIMINATION IN THE USE OF PARAQUAT AND ADOPTION OF INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT

The General Assembly at GA7, on the 11th November 2010, voted and resolved to adopt the following as policy i.e. *“that RSPO will only adopt any decision which impacts the content of the Principles and Criteria (or similar instruments) of the RSPO and/or the certification system guidelines for Certification Bodies (CB) following a formally agreed process which must include the acceptable methodologies.”* More details of this resolution can be found in the Draft Minutes of the 7th General Assembly, labeled as resolution 6d.

The use of Paraquat, is currently allowed for and documented in the RSPO’s Principles and Criteria and other key documents.

This proposed resolution has not followed *“a formally agreed process which must include the acceptable methodologies”* and would, if passed, lead to a change in the Principles and Criteria and other documents.