

Caribbean Agrochemicals Management Project (CAMP)

Promoting a strategy for improved agro-chemical management across the Caribbean

Introduction

July 2004

This flyer describes the Caribbean Agrochemicals Management Project (CAMP) to take forward a **Strategy for improved agro-chemical use and management across the Wider Caribbean**. It covers:

- What is the Strategy?
- Why is it necessary?
- What is contained within the Strategy?
- How will the CAMP project take it forward?
- Where can you find further information?

CAMP and the preceding 3-year research project in St Lucia and Jamaica are funded by DFID's NRSP Programme.

What is the Strategy for improved agrochemical management?

The Strategy was developed and endorsed by the Coordinating Group of Pesticide Control Boards (CGPC) of the Caribbean in June 2003.

It is based on findings from a 3-year research project (2000-2003) that analysed the present management and impacts of agro-chemicals on public and

environmental health. The research focused on two case study countries: St Lucia and Jamaica but the resulting strategy achieved wide applicability through the coordination of the CGPC (consisting of representatives from each CARICOM country responsible for national pesticide control).



Why is a Strategy necessary?

Misuse and mismanagement of agro-chemicals across the Caribbean results in: health threats to the user (e.g. farmers); health threats to the public owing to residues on food; contamination of the environment (e.g. rivers, reservoirs and coastal waters); and threats to agricultural trade links. Trade partners such as the

EU require certain standards of good agricultural practice, including agro-chemical management, as a prerequisite to trade.

The CGPC recommends an holistic and strategic response. Action is required: At the *national level* where a number of sectors need to be

better coordinated to tackle the problem successfully.

At the *regional level*, where the current varied systems employed for agro-chemical management need to be streamlined to ensure a more efficient system for importers, regulators and farmers.



What is contained in the CGPC Strategy?

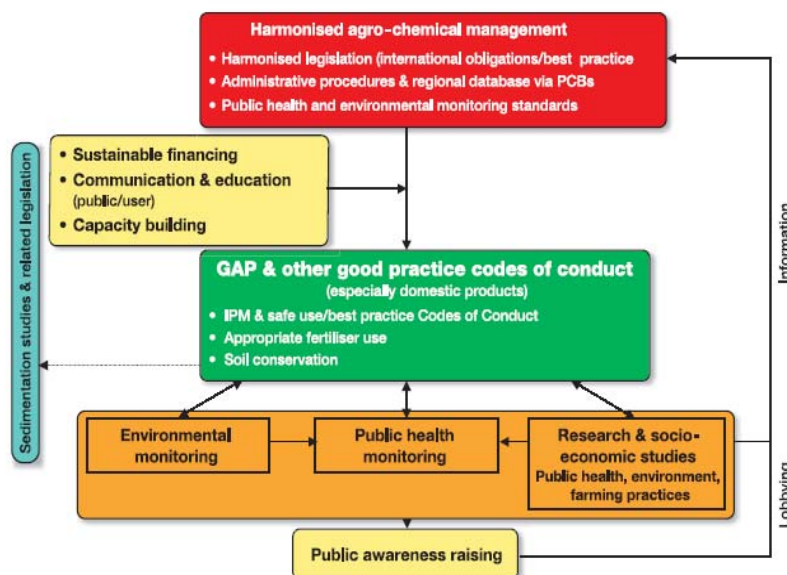
The Strategy provides a framework for taking action at the regional and national level. It promotes an holistic approach encompassing the various stakeholders involved in agro-chemical use and management, from import or manufacture through to monitoring the impacts on the environment and public health.

Ten key *recommendations* were derived by CGPC. The strategy takes forward their implementation through the following components:

1. **Harmonised agro-chemical management across the Caribbean;**
2. **Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) e.g. Integrated pesticide control;**
3. **Environmental and public health monitoring and research**

To support these sustainable financing, capacity building and improved communications and public awareness raising are also required.

In order to achieve this strategy each country will need to take forward National Action Plans and the CGPC will drive coordination through a Regional Action Plan.



How will CAMP take forward the CGPC Strategy?

CAMP will focus on raising awareness of the need for improved agro-chemical use and management and will promote the adoption and initiate the implementation of the Strategy.

At the *national level* and within the two case study countries (St Lucia and Jamaica) CAMP will facilitate government endorsement of mechanisms to develop National Plans of Action for the implementation of specific recommendations within the strategy.

At the *regional level* the project will seek CARICOM endorsement for the strategy, develop proposals to implement regional activities supporting the strategy, and provide information for raising public awareness across the Caribbean.

Where can you find further information?

You can obtain a copy of the CGPC Strategy and six associated information briefs from the following websites:

1. **CaribPestNet website:**
http://www.caribpesticides.net/report1_v03e1.pdf

2. **MRAG website:** <http://www.mragltd.com>
Select the 'Land Water Interface' option in the left-hand margin and then select the link to 'Selected Project Examples' and look under project R7668

3. **CEHI website:** <http://www.cehi.org.lc/agrochemical.htm>

4. **CARDI website:** <http://www.cardi.org/item05/agrochemical.php> or go to <http://www.cardi.org>
Select Publications, then select the link Agro-Chemical Management and Use.

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Partners of the project include: CGPC, MAFF & PCB St Lucia, CARDI, CEHI, MRAG

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