



LAC-IEE-04-13

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

Activity Location : Colombia

Program/Activity Number : SO2 514-008 (527-C-00-01-00091-00)

Program Activity Title : Expanded Strategic Objective: Provide Economic and Social Alternatives to Illicit Crop Production

Sub-activity Name : Amendment to the Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) for the Colombia Alternative Development (CAD) Program / Chemonics International, Inc.

Funding : \$87,400,000

Life of Project : FY 2000 to 2006

Supplemental IEE and PERSUAP Prepared by : Gabriel Escobar, MEO USAID/Colombia, and Mario Pareja, Consultant - Environment & Development

Ref : LAC-IEE-04-03

Recommended Threshold Decision : A Negative Determination

Bureau Threshold Decision : Concur with Recommendation but with conditions

Comments:

The Threshold Decision is based on the completion by CAD for USAID/Colombia of a PERSUAP amendment for pesticide use, addressing USAID's Pesticide Procedures, pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3 (b)(1)(i)(a - 1). **An overall condition is that the USAID Regional Environmental Advisor for South America will review the compliance to these conditions at least once each year of implementation.**

For future commodities, pests and pesticide products to be considered under the CAD program implemented by Chemonics, but not covered in the present PERSUAP as amended, **a further general condition is stipulated. An additional amendment to the PERSUAP shall be submitted**, pursuant 22 CFR 216.3 (b)(1)(i)(a - 1). Any additional amendment to the PERSUAP must be cleared by the USAID-Colombia MEO and USAID-South America REO before submission to the Mission Director for signature and before review by the BEO. Finally, the

third general condition is that all recommendations in the present amendment to the PERSUAP for the CAD program in Colombia, will be adhered to and all mitigating actions shall be part of Chemonics' or other implementing agents' contracts or grants. In addition, certain recommendations are repeated below as specific conditions for emphasis.

A significant number of the new crops to be promoted by CAD in this phase will be produced under eco-friendly agricultural production practices. Two separate groups of crops are to be produced under this approach. The first group is that of the “medicinal and aromatic plants” and includes the following species:

Medicinal and aromatic plants under ecological production: (1) ginger (*Zingiber officinale*), (2) curcuma (*Curcuma longa*), (3) anamú (*Petiveria alliacea*), (4) ruda (*Ruta graveolens*), (5) limonaria (*Cymbopogon citratos*), and (6) estevia (*Stebia rebaudiana*).

The second group includes “flowers and foliages” of the following species:

Flowers and foliages under ecological production: (7) platanillo or heliconia (*Heliconia* spp.), (8) ginger shampoo (Ahuaoei ginger), (9) iraca palm (*Carludovica palmata*), (10) cordyline (*Cordiline terminalis*), and (11) dracaena (*Dracaena massangeana*).

Specific Condition: The eco-friendly approach to production does not particularly preclude the use of pesticides but emphasises ‘clean production’ based on improved plant health and proper production management. Priority is given to non-chemical options to fertilisation, such as organic manure, and to pest management, such as biological (management of natural enemies, release of biocontrollers and use of biopesticides), cultural (poly-cropping, cover, repellent and trap crops, and others), and genetic pest control. Producers will resort to chemical controls only when all other measures have failed and, even in these cases, priority choices will be the bio-pesticides, described in further detail in PERSUAP-1. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) will be the approach to pest management.

The second most significant deviation from the conditions previously described in the PERSUAP already submitted to USAID, is the imminent initiation, in the context of the CAD programme, of the Patía Small Scale Irrigation Project. The project will reach small-scale land owners of the alluvial valley of the Patía River, in the municipalities of Balboa and Patía, Department of Cauca, and will support them in the development of irrigated agricultural parcels of 1-10 ha, in clusters of 30 ha each. The Patía Small Scale Irrigation Project will include the following crops:

Crops to be produced under irrigation in Patía: (12) bell pepper (*Capsicum annum*), (13) tomato (*Lycopersicum esculentum*), (14) onion (*Allium cepa*), (15) watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*), (16) melon (*Cucumis melo*), (17) papaya (*Carica papaya*), (18) mango (*Mangifera indica*), and (19) sweet potato (*Ipomea batata*).

Recommendation No.1: In order to mitigate the potential environmental and human impacts of pest management activities, the Patía project will use only pesticides that (a) have low human toxicity, e.g. are in WHO toxicological classes II, III and U; (b) have low

eco-toxicity, e.g. do not have or have a very limited potential impact on aquatic organisms, including fish, crustaceans and phyto- and zooplankton; (c) have low water solubility and so reduced mobility in the aqueous environment; and (d) when pesticides are used, a mitigation plan will be put into effect (see table on Pesticide Risk Analysis) .

Recommendation No.2: In order to prevent the environmental and human impacts of pest control methods, the Patía project will use a preventative approach to the potential development of serious pest problems in crop production, using poly-cropping systems and crop rotations as well as best agricultural practices appropriate to an irrigated area.

Recommendation No.3: The Patía project operator, Fundaset, will fully implement its Best Agricultural Practices (BAP) manual, specifically in relation to those activities that mitigate the potential impact of pest and pesticide management. The drip irrigation system will be, by itself, an important mitigation mechanism for potential environmental impacts.

These recommendations have the force of **specific conditions** to this **Negative Determination**.

CTOs are responsible for making sure environmental requirements are met. It is the responsibility of the SO Team to ensure that the SOAG and MAARDs or contracts and grants contain specific instructions to this effect.

_____ Date _____
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