

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

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The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) provides several policy tools regarding hazardous pesticides. The most important one is [The International Code of Conduct on the Use and Distribution of Pesticides](#). The objectives are to establish voluntary standards of conduct for all public and private entities engaged in or associated with the distribution and use of pesticides, particularly where there is inadequate or no national legislation to regulate pesticides. The Code makes the following recommendations:

«Pesticides whose handling and application require the use of personal protective equipment that is uncomfortable, expensive or not readily available should be avoided, especially in the case of small-scale users in tropical climates. Preference should be given to pesticides that require inexpensive personal protective and application equipment and to procedures appropriate to the conditions under which the pesticides are to be handled and used.»

In 2007, a [New Initiative for Pesticide Risk Reduction](#) was presented to the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and highly hazardous pesticides (HHP), which should be subsequently phased out, were defined. Paraquat qualifies as HHP because it has shown a high incidence of severe or irreversible adverse effects on human health.

The FAO further promotes [integrated pest management \(IPM\)](#) specifically in the southern hemisphere.