

## **Session 10.**

### **Special Topic: The Use of Pesticides and the PERSUAP**

#### ***Technical presentation and dialogue***

#### **Summary**

This presentation will inform participants on the regulatory measures that apply to the procurement and use of pesticides in USAID-funded programs. The presentation will establish the definition of a pest and a pesticide, and describe the human health and environmental risks that accompany pesticide application, handling, transport and storage.

As a response to an accident related to improper pesticide use, USAID has adopted an agency-level policy commitment to Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The agency has established standard procedures for the safer storage, application and disposal of pesticides. 22 CFR 216.3(b) defines the pesticide procedures that apply to every project. Among those, the Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) sets out the conditions that should govern project pesticide use.

#### **Objectives**

- Achieve a basic understanding of the definitions of pest and pesticides
- Understand the history and importance of pesticide use in agriculture across the globe
- Comprehend the environmental and human health risks associated with pesticide use, particularly in a developing country context
- Review the PERSUAP as a requisite analysis to approve a series of pesticides to be promoted by USAID projects and as a tool to promote safe pesticide use

#### **Key Resources**

- The webpage on [Specialized Compliance Topics](#) on the GEMS website has a section on Pesticides and PERSUAPs.
- The [EPA Pesticide Label database](#) has a searchable database to receive safe use information on thousands of commercial pesticide products.
- The [Pesticide Action Network \(PAN\) Database](#) is a searchable database for information on toxicity and regulatory status for pesticides.

#### **Discussion Questions**

In small groups with the workshop participants at your table, please discuss the following questions. Each group will have a workshop facilitator to assist in guiding the discussion.

1. Imagine your group is a team of project managers for a USAID-funded project to support small-scale farmers in the production of sweet potatoes. Part of the project involves the provision of credits that farmers can use to buy agricultural inputs in local supply stores. Should your project be responsible to carry out a PERSUAP to evaluate the pesticide products available on local markets to determine which pesticides beneficiaries can purchase?
2. Discuss what are some of the risks that derive from improper storage and disposal of pesticide containers.
3. Please discuss the concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Participants may conduct an Internet search on the concept and discuss their findings within the group.