

# Chemical Regulations In the Caribbean: The NGO perspective

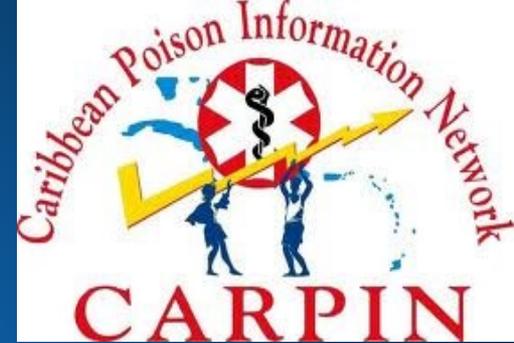
## Chemical Watch Virtual Regulatory Summit for Latin America and Caribbean Region

July 21, 2021

Sherika Whitelocke-Ballingsingh

Poison Information Coordinator

The Caribbean Poison Information Network, UTech, Jamaica



# About CARPIN

The Caribbean Poison Information Network is located in the College of Health Sciences, University of Technology, Jamaica.

In operation between 2005- 2021

Mission excerpt

***“Advocating for policies that will protect the health and welfare of the most vulnerable and at risk populations to poisoning.”***

***Contact: [carpin@utech.edu.jm](mailto:carpin@utech.edu.jm)***



# Regional Chemical Issues

**Public Health and  
chemical data**

## The Caribbean islands poisoned by a carcinogenic pesticide

By Tim Whewell  
BBC News, Martinique  
© 20 November 2020



**Population Culture  
towards chemicals**

**Inadequate/ Absence of**

1. Surveillance
2. Epidemiology data
3. Risk Assessment

**Predisposing Factors**

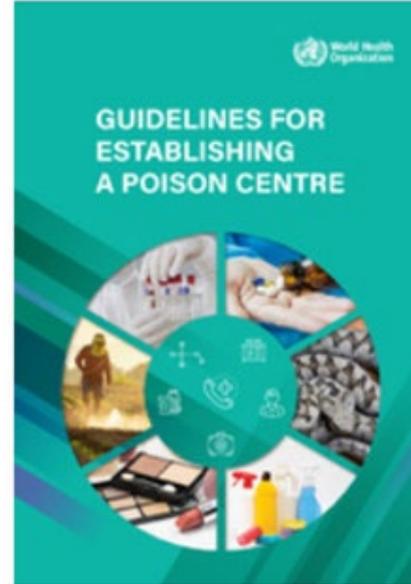
1. Knowledge
2. Perception
3. Behavior

# Regional Chemical Issues

## Chemicals in Environment

### Contamination

1. Air
2. Soil
3. Water
4. Food



## Poison Centres

**Absence of Regional Poison Surveillance network, which could be a source of tracking chemical incidence/prevalence.**

# Regional Chemical Issues

Where are the data on these Indicators ?



## Chemical exposure

1. # of chemicals exposure, acute and chronic
2. Ratio of male to female affected by exposure
3. # associate disease/ toxins as per chemical types
4. Morbidity: # disease development
5. # Mortality
6. # Disability

# Regional Chemical Issues

## Capacity Building and Funding: What is available?

1. Training, Research (specific to local context).
2. Technical Experts: Medical Toxicology, International Policy

1. Infrastructure: laboratories capacity
2. Finance for sustainability



# Regional Chemical Issues

**Chemicals in products**

**Chemical Industry**  
Are not held accountable for highly toxic/ Hazardous Chemical in products, that affect health and the environment.

**IT'S TIME TO REGULATE HIGHLY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES**  
It won't compromise agriculture, but it will save lives.

**Highly Hazardous Pesticides:**

1. Are highly toxic to humans and animals
2. Cause cancer and other chronic diseases
3. Cause reproductive and developmental problems
4. Cause neurological damage
5. Cause skin and eye irritation
6. Cause respiratory irritation
7. Cause allergic reactions
8. Cause environmental damage
9. Cause harm to beneficial insects
10. Cause harm to birds and other wildlife
11. Cause harm to aquatic life
12. Cause harm to soil and water

**Exposure happens through:**

- Inhalation
- Contact with skin or eyes
- Ingesting contaminated food or water

**People at risk include:**

- Agricultural workers and their families
- Spray operators
- Residents when pesticides are being sprayed



**The Dirty Dozen**

<p><b>Pesticides</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aldrin</li> <li>• Chlordane</li> <li>• DDT</li> <li>• Dieldrin</li> <li>• Endrin</li> <li>• HCB</li> <li>• Heptachlor</li> <li>• Mirex</li> <li>• Toxaphene</li> </ul>	<p><b>Industrial Chemicals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)</li> <li>• Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)</li> </ul> <p><b>Unintentionally Produced by-Products</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dioxins</li> <li>• Furans</li> <li>• HCB</li> <li>• PCBs</li> </ul>
--	--

**12 INGREDIENTS TO AVOID**  
*in Natural Skincare Products*  
HELLOGLOW.CO

- POLYETHYLENE/PEGS
- SODIUM LAURYL SULFATE
- BHA OXYBENZONE
- Aminophenol, Diaminobenzene, Phenylenediamine (Coal Tar)
- TRICLOSAN & TRICLOCARBAN
- PARABENS "FRAGRANCE"**
- Retinyl Palmitate, Retinyl Acetate, Retinoic Acid & Retinol
- Dibutyl Phthalate, Toluene & Formaldehyde
- PETROLEUM DISTILLATES
- ..... **HYDROQUINONE** .....

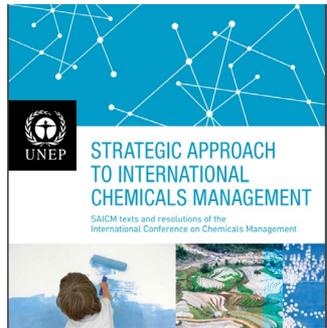
For

# Regional Chemical Issues

## Policy & Regulation What is implemented?

## International Conventions & Agreements

Are signatory Countries committing to agreements ?



Guide on International Chemical Conventions		
	Chemical Producer & User	Import/Export of Chemicals
Stockholm Convention	Yes	-
Rotterdam Convention	Yes	Yes
Basel Convention	Yes	Yes
Montreal Protocol	Yes	Yes
Minamata Convention	Yes	Yes
Chemical Weapons Convention	Yes	Yes
Convention on Drug Precursor	Yes	Yes
ILO's Chemicals Convention	Yes	-

1. Chemicals in: Toys, Pesticides, Paint, Electronics, Plastics...
2. Local and Regional Standards
3. Global Harmonizing System of Classification
4. Enforcement
5. Monitoring and Evaluation

# Policy Framework: What should it include?



Robust Chemical Regulations & Policies, Industry Compliance



Accountability, enforcement, transparency, sustenance, human rights to health and wellbeing



**What will it achieve?**

**Less Toxic Environment to achieve SDGs targets 1, 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 17**

# Recommendations

**CARICOM should consider:**

- 1. Developing legal frameworks that regulate all chemicals of public health significance. Less toxic chemicals or alternative be used.**
- 2. Establish regional Chemical Surveillance System amongst member states.**
- 3. Establish Poison Centers in member states.**
- 4. Create infrastructures and expertise in chemical monitoring and testing.**
- 5. Regulate Chemical industry to exercise due diligence in human rights to health and well being from chemical toxins.**

**Question and Answer  
???**

**Thanks for your attention**