

Brasília, April 29th, 2009.

E.M. nº - 003-2009/CONSEA

Your Excellency Mr. President of the Republic,

The National Council on Food and Nutrition Security - CONSEA, in a plenary meeting on April 29th, 2009, having analyzed the technical document on the impacts of sulfluramids and of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) on human health and the environment, produced by researches of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Ministry of Health, manifests its preoccupation in relation to the position which Brazil could adopt in the international negotiations of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS), for the following reasons:

1. The Examining Committee on the Persistent Pollutants (POPRC) will meet in May 2009, to decide which substances will begin to be part of this convention;

2. Among the substances to be assessed in the Convention's scope, we quote the PFOS, having a risk profile which involves the capacity of being transported for long distances, not only by water, but also by air, and could provoke serious adverse effects on human's health and the environment. The toxicological studies show that this substance, as well as being bio cumulative, that is; accumulates in living organisms, has a negative impact on animal development and reproduction, and presents a potential carcinogenic effect;

3. Brazil has knowledge and methods developed by public institutions of teaching and research, financed by agencies such as; CAPES, CNPq, FINEP e FAPESP for the control of leaf-eating ants which do not impact the environment and human health;

4. Added to these, the experiments developed by various organizations of family agriculture, based on agro ecological principles, which diminish the vulnerability of the agriculture systems and the dependency on external raw materials;

5. While various countries have demonstrated responsibility towards public health and the environment, taking effective measures to banish the use of PFOS, Brazil seems to be adopting an inverse posture, as some of the productive and government sectors have been defending the use of sulfluramids, as agro toxics, putting in risk the country's sovereignty and food security.

Therefore, this Council requests that the Brazilian Government:

a) Defends the proposal of the inclusion of sulfluramids and of perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS) as one of the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS) to be banished, on a rationality base contained in the premises of chemical security of the Convention of Stockholm, for the guarantee of food security, public health and the preservation of the natural resources;

b) Promotes rigorous and transparent mechanisms of control on the import and production of agro toxics, object of the Health and Environment Conventions in other countries, eliminating from our country all these substances which put in risk the environment, human health and food and nutrition security.

Respectfully,

Renato S. Maluf
President of CONSEA