

Eve Bureau-Point
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Introduction of the workshop

I am really delighted to open this workshop on pesticides concerns, thanks to a great collaboration with Ecoland team (special thanks to Heng Samnang, Sok Kimchhin, Chrin Bunsamkaneka and Heng Chenghuy) and the Dean of the Royal University of Agriculture in Phnom Penh.

Ecoland is a research institute based at the Royal University of Agriculture, created by Malyne Neang in 2014. This institute conduct interdisciplinary research on agriculture and environment. Ecoland have different missions: research, training and expertise with policy makers, international and national organizations.

This workshop has been possible thanks to the financial support of la Fondation de France.

The day will be divided into 3 sessions:

- 1) the first one deals with current research on pesticides conducted recently in Cambodia/or in process.
- 2) the second deals with regulation. We invited officers from the Royal Government of Cambodia to share their challenges in regulating pesticides at national and local level.
- 3) the last one will be dedicated to alternatives to the use of pesticides/to alternative to contamination of health and environment, with NGOs representatives involved in organic or agroecology initiatives.

The topic of pesticides is a **hot topic** everywhere in the world and it has been little discussed in Cambodia.

At first sight, we have to remind that pesticides had a lot of **positive effects in the history of agriculture and food production:**

- It has helped to produce more with less human resources.
- These quantitative aspects have been associated with progress and success stories in agriculture and food production during decades.
- The intensification of agriculture has helped to produce a bigger amount of food, useful in post-war context to face the growing demographic, and to struggle against poverty.

However, **qualitatively speaking**, this dominant model of production, often called « productivism » or « agrarian capitalism », has side effects that have not taken sufficiently attention by public policies. Plus, the effects on human and animal health and on environment have been under-estimated during decades.

¹ <https://centrenorbertelias.cnrs.fr/equipes-de-recherche/chercheurs/eve-bureau-point/>

Currently, researches are growing on that topic but they are still rare in so-called « Southern countries », alluding to countries that are not leader in globalized market.

Indeed, only a few researches have been conducted in Cambodia on pesticides.

Some cases studies and reports have been conducted by Cambodian researchers in universities and institutions, others by international NGOs (Alliance, WCS, CEDAC, Environmental Justice Fondation), and international researchers,

Some have focussed on

- rice production
- vegetables production
- urban agriculture
- fish and water pollution
- residues of pesticides in fresh product at the market
- illegal market
- In social science, except my programme, I've only identified one research in political studies dealing with this topic (the work of Jose Manuel Ramos Sanchez dealing with regulatory policies and their application).

These case studies and researches all raised health and environmental concerns.

However, the issue is complex and the use of pesticides is still growing.

We need to be more influent with our researches, and I hope it can start with organization of workshop, networking and sharing knowledge.

I wish you a very successful workshop.

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