Enhancing Public Awareness on POPs and other Chemicals and Raising Civil Society Participations in Managing Chemicals.

Final Report

2012 January – 2013 March

Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ)

1.0 Background

The project carried out by the Centre for Environmental Justice titled '**Enhancing public awareness on POPs and other Chemicals and raising civil society participations in managing chemicals"** is expecting to further enhance the public awareness on the wise use of chemicals, policy dialogue and positive policy changes and promote networking.

Objectives: The primary objective of the project is to mobile the citizens of Sri Lanka to engage in safe chemical management in their day today activities.

The specific objectives are;

- Educate target communities in the society on the safe use of chemicals in line with the SAICM objectives.
- Engage in policy dialogue in relation to the chemicals including the hazardous waste management.
- Networking the general public among the CBOs, NGOs, Businesses/Industries, University staff and other experts, testing laboratory staff and regulatory agencies .

Project Goal: Reduce health and environmental impacts and risks of hazardous chemicals by safe handling of household, agriculture and industrial chemicals

Proposed outcomes :

- Target communities have received adequate information in managing chemicals in the farm land, workplace and households.
- Initiate and/or fulfill Policy level changes in relation to the hazardous waste management, Asbestos policy and phasing out Mercury appliances.
- CBOs, NGOs , University staff, testing laboratory staff, Industries and regulators and others engaged in networking

2.0 Summary results:

The project so far produced necessary materials for the awareness and conducted 28 workshops in the North Central Province. Necessary background research has been carried out to engage in policy dialogues.

- As agreed in the subsequent meetings of the GEF-SGP, we have initiated policy discussion with Ministry of Environment, Department of Customs and the Ministry of Health, Industrial Development Board on the importation of PCB contaminated items and the International Mercury Negotiations.

- We produced two Occasional policy papers on the PCB and the Mercury and distributed among the policy makers and CSO networks, nationally and internationally.

As we were informed, the Ministry of Environment has initiated the followings.

1. Produced draft Gazette Notification to ban PCB contaminated HS codes. Treasury has already agreed to ban them. Also they have cleared the long due translation problems with the Gazette.
2. Ministry of Environment is taking the matters related to PCB contaminated products with the IDB which is the agency responsible for regulating such items.

- Subsequent to our letter on the International Mercury Negotiations, the Ministry of Environment organized a mini workshop to clear the Sri Lanka's approach on Mercury and Mercury contained equipment. CEJ representatives made our views during this meeting.

- CEJ was invited to the meeting held at the Ministry of Health to reveal the environmental consequences of Mercury contamination. The CEJ representative succeeded in emphasizing the threat on both environment and human by using the results of study conducted in the Negombo lagoon vicinity area and also the research on Mercury in cosmetics. Possible alternatives were also introduced at this discussion.

- CEJ made discussion with "Orange Company" on establishing a CFL Bulbs Collection Network through Orange dealers distributed throughout the country. Reading materials will also be produced in association with "Orange" on health and environmental hazards of Mercury and the dealers to whom people could submit their bulbs to be recycled.

- "Green Stores" were established in both Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa districts with the intention to prevent miss using of agrochemicals and to make available safer agrochemicals. The established "Green stores" were inspected for monitoring of their maintenance according to the guidelines provided by CEJ.

- CEJ also conduct initial research on the possible chemical hotspots. This includes Negombo lagoon, Diyawanna Oya, Bolgoda lake and Hamilton canal.

- As agreed at the GEF-SGP Chemical project core group meeting, CEJ produced a report on the GEF-SGP supported industrial POPs projects and awaiting to present the findings.

- The first National Symposium on "The Potential Health and Environmental Impacts of Exposure to Hazardous Natural and Man-made Chemicals and their Proper Management" organized by CEJ in association with the Department of Zoology,

University of Sri Jayawardenepura was successfully conducted on 23rd November 2012 from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm at Colombo City Hotel, Colombo 01. Seventeen research studies were published at the event with participation of about 63 personals representing universities, research organizations, government officers, members of CBOs, media and individual scientists.

- The regulations on PCB are yet in the process of developing.

- The initiation of discussions on phasing out mercury appliances came to a successful ending. As the Ministry of Health is now implementing a program through an internal circular in phasing out Mercury appliances, Mercury thermometers and barometers will be replaced soon with non mercury devices, in addition to safe management and disposal of other Mercury devices.

- CEJ successfully completed its research on Mercury contamination in whitening creams. It was discovered that 25 out of 46 samples recorded for contamination of Mercury within the range of 0.06 - 30167.66 ppm. This came a quite interesting issue after this was published in several printed and electronic medias. Public showed a great interest in getting to know whether the products which they use are in the list. One company was keen to visit CEJ and know all about the research and its every step. They requested CEJ to undertake this research once again including all the brands in the market, with their support. Rejecting the support of a single brand, CEJ is in the concern on availability of funds for such task. CEJ also sent letters to relevant authorities in this regard and waiting for their response in action.

- CEJ prepared a report on "importation of POPs" as per the activity scheduled in initial proposal.

- The discussion on "Hazardous waste Regulations, implementation and challenges" was conducted as a workshop with speakers from Ministry of Environment, Central Environmental Authority, Abans group And Geocycle. Participants from variety of industries, government authorities, individual scientists, professors and journalists enlightened the event.

2.1 Parallel works

- In parallel to this work CEJ implemented its work on IPEN project on "Asian Lead paint eliminating". With massive work on collecting paint samples, awareness raising among retailers and consumers on the government gazette enacted in January 2013, CEJ is in the process of clearing the market from lead contaminated paints.

- We have also carried out medical clinics in Dehiaththakandiya, Hingurakgoda, Rajanganaya and Padaviya. 242, 196,1902 and 807 people visited these medical clinics respectively. CEJ bought medical supplied such as medical syringes and glucometers for these clinics. We have also supplied file covers, hospital reference chits, attendance sheets, flyers printed to be used in these clinics. Two water filters were also donated for the Base Hospital of Dehiaththakandiya for the use of patients.

- CEJ made discussions with "Think Green" in developing the capacity of E-waste management.

- Para legal training workshop at Batticaloa and an EIA training session at Dehiattakandiya were conducted by the Legal Division of CEJ under the funding of SIEMENPUU on training local communities and CSO leaders to engage in project decision making through the EIA process and NED (National Endowment for Democracy).

- CEJ also worked with the Centre for Science and Environment based in New Delhi to collect water, soil, pesticide and Fertilizer samples to test for possible cause for the Kidney disease.

- CEJ also joined the Global mercury research conducted by the IPEN and sent fish and hair samples to a US laboratory. This is also part of the identification of chemical hotspots under the GEF-SGP project.

- CEJ also worked with Public Interest Law Foundation on revealing climate change adaptations implemented in agriculture.

Status of the Project Implementation:

Activity 1: Organize national, regional and local level workshops for medias, government officers, pesticide user farmers, industrial workers, university students, CBOs and school children.

We have conducted awareness programs for people in Bakmiedeniya, Dehiaththakandiya, Nagaswewa, Sooriyapokuna, Mahawanawela, Hungamalagama, Muwagammana, Ranawiru Gammanaya, Rambewa, Ikirigollawa, Sri Sudharshanarama Daham Pasala, Kalundagama, Unagalawehea, Hingurakgoda, Negambo, St. Joseph College – Negombo, Kadawatha, Gampaha, Padaviya, St. Mathiew's College and St. Jhone's College on agrochemicals and chemical management in houses and schools. It was found to be utmost important to aware them on agrochemicals as they already face a massive health effect on CKD (Chronicle Kidney Disease) & CKDue (Chronicle Kidney disease unknown ethical) which is suspected to be due to heavy metals in pesticides. In each meeting in these programs we have conducted two surveys on "Usage of agrochemicals" and "House hold chemical management". Both these were intended to measure their current knowledge on chemical handling in house and also to aware them on proper chemical management.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, Householders , CBO's and NGO's - Bakmiedeniya on 23/04/2012

The first awareness program on safety chemical management was held in bakmiedeniya a village situated in Ampara district where the effect of CKDue is clearly observed. The villagers are famous for their organic farming. Executive Director of Center for environmental justice- Mr. Hemantha Withange briefly touched the problems relating to the chemical management in Sri Lanka. He explained key suspected reasons for CKDue such as fluorides in water, heavy metals, and algae toxins ect. Also he pointed out the difficulties the people are facing due to the diseases and the ethical problems which are now arising. "People are afraid; they do not even get married from the families which have been affected by the disease." he said in his speech. Mr. Hemantha Withanage did not forget to emphasize significance of organic farming and the methods of improving their traditional Agricultural methods. As the program was in progress participants were divided into two groups according to the gender. Ms. Chalani Rubesinghe- the Environmental officer, had a discussion with the group of males who work as farmers. All

these famers were familiar with organic farming methods. Pesticide usage for cultivations is reduced; only some of them are being used as weedicides to eradicate weeds from the fields before they start cultivation. They are using safety methods in applying pesticides. As for the Female group who are mainly responsible for the day today work of households participated for a discussion with Ms. Induni Chathupama- the Environmental officer, about managing household chemicals. First they were asked to fill the questionnaire provided by the CEJ in order to understand their current knowledge on household chemicals. As a follow on discussion was took place in common mistakes they do in their homes in managing chemicals. Such as not having proper storage for the pesticides within the house, improper handling of chemical products such as mosquito coils, detergents, cleaners, paints, wood preservatives ect. The manner of disposing of CFL bulbs was also thoroughly discussed with participants because most of them bury dead CFL bulbs or simply break it and put it around a tree. Not only dead CFL bulbs but also dead batteries are being disposed in a same manner. Therefore providing the information about the toxicity of mercury in CFL bulbs and baterries was very important. And we also found that there are collectors who collect the pesticide bottles which then these bottles will end up in the heating part of the bakery oven. There were forty-nine participants.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, householders, CBO's and NGO's - Dehiattakandiya on 23/04/2012

The second meeting was held in Dehiyaththakandiya and twenty nine participants took part in that event. Mr. Gamini welcomed the participants and presented our objectives about the meeting, the importance of participation in his speech. He invited Mr.Hemantha withanage to address the meeting. As CKDue is a major issue in these areas, he started his speech with giving an idea of key suspect reasons. He pointed out that "improper handling of pesticides may lead to worst scenario of a farmer's health, and pesticides are considered as a key suspect for CKDue, too". He went through several sad stories of farming families which were affected by this disease. Then it was time for group discussions. While female participants discussed their common mistakes in chemical management in house and male participants were discussing on usage of chemical in their paddy fields. There was a farmer using a locked storage facility which we admired and made him an exemplary character among the other famers who were gathered. There were so many suggestions in chemical management in houses. Such as using turmeric powder to control ants, citronella oil and cleaning gardens to control mosquitoes, and using kohomba leaves (*Azadirachta indica*) sap to control pests in home garden were emphasized. Due to the previous experience we shared the safe disposal methods of CFL bulbs, pesticide bottles as well as selecting paints with low lead concentration. Questionnaires were also filled in between.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, householders , CBO's and NGO's - Nagaswewa on 15/06/2012

The third awareness program was held at Nagaswewa– dehiyaththakandiya with a participation of twenty seven (27) villagers. As the first event of the meeting Mr.Gamini gave a brief introduction about the program and gave the opportunity to Mr.Dilena Pathragoda – Director Project to address the gathering. In brief he explained about the chemical management project and why we need this kind of projects in Sri Lanka. As the speech in progress he discussed about the usage of polythine to lit fire. Most of them did use polythine therefore he carried out an explanation on their harmful effects. "due to the burning of polythine two chemicals which have been categoried under pops, will release into environment. If you absorb the chemical by breathing it can be accumulated in your body and will create adverse health effects to you and to your family. These chemicals are persistent. Therefore not only cause you health affects but it can create massive destruction to the globe also. Instead of using a lunch sheet it is better to pack your child's lunch in a lunch box, this is durable and eventually it will safe for your pocket too". As the group discussion proceeded, participants were informed on safe chemical handling. Because all the participants were females, we gave heavy weight to household chemical management. Reading labels on chemical products and obey its instruction, keeping chemical products in a separate storage., clean-up after using, aeration of areas when an evaporating chemical used was thoroughly discussed. Other than that we shared our experience on solid waste management in homes, E- waste and dead CFL bulbs, lead in paint with them. Finally one of participants addressed the meeting. She highly appreciated our attempt of distributing information among the civilians.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, householders , CBO's and NGO's – Suriyapokuna on 16/06/2012

The fourth meeting was held in suriya pokuna – dehiyaththakangiya with twenty two (22) participents. After the introduction session made by the Mr.Gamini , Mr. Dilena Pathragoda- Director Projects, shared his past experience in improper chemical handling of people. He forced participants to reduce the usage of polythene and encouraged using more green products explaining the harmful effects to environment and to their health. He emphasized the importance in reading the label before buying any product in the market. And during the discussion time we described the danger of improper disposal of CFL bulbs. We also encouraged them to buy unleaded paints. The most shocking discovery was that they use battery dust mixed with cow-dung to apply to the floor as an anti- ant compound. Most of them were burning polythene and plastic in order to get rid of them as well as to light hearth. But there were people who used alternatives such as dried coconut leaves, dry used strap coconut and they use many insecticides in their home, where keep these insecticides in "easily reachable places" instead of safe storage. We explained them about the danger of accidently poisoning which can be happen.

We also sheared our past experience on disposal of empty pesticide bottles, with them. Most of agricultural areas are lack of agricultural officers who will actively participate with famers in diagnosing diseases, cultivation process ect. But Suriya pokuna has actively participating Agriculture officer which famers admit that he gives enormous assistance in their work. During the discussion, they filled survey forms.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, householders, CBO's and NGO's - Mahawanawela on 16/06/2012

Fifth meeting of Chemical management was held in Mahawanawela- Dehiyaththakandiya with 55 participants. At the first event of the meeting, we divide the group in two as farmers and housewives and distributed two Questionnaires among the participants and gave time to fill it. After that we have had a discussion on each subject. Ms. Chalani Rubesinghe had a discussion with farmers. She pointed out the importance of proper pesticide management in their day today lives. She gave an idea of short term and long term health problems which can occur due to the over use of pesticides. All the farmers cultivate paddy but they usually grow vegetables and fruits for their consumption. But mostly over usage of pesticides is done for the paddy fields. They were quite interested in learning organic farming methods. They were interested in starting of organic farming if some organization or government authorities would provide those essential substances/ compounds. Most of them said that using traditional methods for pest controlling are not effective as the chemical methods. They have a habit of burying the pesticide bottles near to the paddy fields. These people are also not aware of the specific pesticide for the diseases. They either use their experience in selecting a pesticide or asking from a vendor. But they said that they are reading the label before using any pesticide. All the famers accepted that they do not use any type of safety equipment in applying pesticides. Therefore Ms. chalani highlighted health effects which can occur due to improper use of pesticides and forced them to use safety equipment. While this discussion going on, Ms. Induni Chathupama was shearing her thoughts on chemical management with the female group. At first she tried to get an idea of common errors in chemical product handling. Most of them were using polythene and plastic to light the hearth early in the morning. Some were using ant killers around the food containers which have high risk of contamination. There was a teenager

who used the CFL bulbs to drag circuit. Meantime they also had questions on Asbestos. Therefore she tried to explain the health problems. She asked not to use polythene to light fireplace. She explained the importance of keeping chemical products in separate containers and storing away from the food containers. Toxicity of the CLF blubs was explained to stop the misuses. Then Mr. Dilena Pathragoda addressed the meeting. He again explained about the health effects of inspiration of the gases release from burning polythene and plastic. He also explained the importance in having proper storage facilities to store chemical products in order to avoid accidently ingestion. Then it was time for a speech from the participants which the speaker revealed that she collected yogurt cups to light the fireplace and she was really grateful for explaining the affects and our encouragement.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, householders, CBO's and NGO's - Hungamalagama on 16/06/2012

Sixth awareness program of chemical management project was held in Hundamala gama with fourteen (14) participants. This was held as a discussion. As Ms. chalani Rubersinghe had a discussion with farmers Ms. Induni Chathupama was talking with housewives to convince their common mistakes in household chemical management. First both groups filled the questionnaires. Farmers complained that they did not get enough assistant from the government side to improve their farming. They said that they are willing to start organic farming if they would financially assist in any failure. We distributed gazette which contain a list of prohibited pesticides and forced them to take safety measures in using pesticides. Housewives were encouraged in reading the labels on bottles and act according to their instruction. Most of them were using many insecticides to control cockroaches, ants, but we explained them that "cleanness in the vicinity" is the secret of pest control in homes. Some mothers were complaining that "my daughter does not clean her hands after applying cream; she even has her breakfast like that". So we explained that facial creams can contain toxic substances and can cause adverse effect to our health as it change routing and enter to the body, such as some fairness creams are containing Mercury. They were using lots of instant foods as children's lunch. So we explained the terrible effects of instant food. At the end of the meeting they thanked us for giving such a good opportunity to participate in that meeting and invited us to do another meeting.

Awareness Programme for School Children - Muwagammana on 17/06/2012

Seventh awareness program was organized with students from Muwagammana. We conduct that program on safe chemical handling in school laboratories. Students from grade six and above were participated to that program. Only two students didn't have lab facilities in their school. First we distributed the leaflet that had been prepared and asked them to read it. Then the introduction of the meeting was done by Mr.Gamini and invited Mr. Dilena Pathragoda - Director Projects to address the gathering. He briefly introduced Center for Environmental Justice and its past work such as Lead in paint case, POPs awareness programs, Mercury research work etc. He further explained the situation of CKDue problem and its causes. He explained the importance of careful handling of chemicals not only in the schools but also in homes because

most of the kids who face chemical accidents occur due to lack of understanding. Then he invited Ms. Chalani Rubesinghe and Ms. Induni Chathupama to address the meeting. They explained how to handle chemicals in the school such as how to hold a chemical bottles, how to read a label and its signs/symbols and meanings, how to act in a chemical spill or chemical accidents in a simple manner. They were highly emphasized the toxicity of Mercury and not to touch or play with Mercury because students have used to play with Mercury which release from broken thermometers. And we also advised them about CFL bulbs, E –waste, lead levels in paints. We also asked them to use a lunch box to carry their lunch without using a lunch sheet. We explained about "three R, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" and it's importance in chemical management as well as waste management. At last of our session a student and a teacher addressed the meeting. They were thankful for giving the precious opportunity and making them aware of health hazards.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, householders, CBO's and NGO's - Mahamalgonnawa on 23/06/2012

The eighth meeting was held in Mahamal gonnawa. After Mr. Gamini explained the intention of this, Mr.Dilena Pathragoda addressed the meeting. He mentioned the consequence of improper chemical usage practice. He said "Amount of cancer patient increasing day by day, people are looking for the cure but most of them forget about preventing, toxicity of some chemical products can be key reason for cancers, therefore it is important to consider about the safety methods when you use chemical products. Customer can easily understand whether a product contain a toxic chemical by reading labels. Therefore you can decide yourself". He also explained the polythene issues around the country, how they should reduce and eliminate it. Then it was time to fill the questionnaires. As it was going on discussion on common errors in handling chemical in house and paddy field was started too. Famers said that they only use pesticides to eradicate weeds. Instead of pesticides they use Kohoba leaves' sap to prevent pest attacks. Though most of the farmers we met,

believed that traditional methods are not effective, it was nice to see those farmers practicing traditional methods to protect their crops. They use their customary methods in identifying diseases, and treating them. Therefore they do not ask for the acceptance from agricultural officers in the area. Discussion about house hold chemicals went smoothly. They were interest in toxicity of damaged CFL bulbs, how to select unleaded paints. We encouraged them to use compost to their home gardens. Also they were advised to keep a separate storage for chemical products to prevent chemical accidents. Not only the prevention we also advised them how to act in a chemical accident. And we also advised them the way of buying a chemical product from market. Participants energetically took part in the discussion.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, householders , CBO's and NGO's – Rambewa on 23/06/2012

The Ninth meeting was held in Rambewa with seventeen (17) participants. This meeting was on Agrochemical management. For this meeting not only farmers but also the agricultural officer was present. As the introduction of Mr. Gamini was finished, Mr. Dilena Pathragoda addressed the meeting. He sheared the information about Polythene and its ill effects to both environment and health. He advised to by unleaded paints as well as the toxicity of CFL bulbs. He did not forget to mention about the effect due to improper handling agrochemicals. Then Ms.Chalani Rubersinghe addressed meeting. In the discussion they said the traditional do not give yield as new verities. They only used pesticides, even they put Malathion to eradicate pest in stores. They used pesticides such as Gramoxon for weeds and so many other pesticides to control pests. Though they use high amount of pesticides they do not show any kind of allergies or adverse effect. All the farmers admitted that they did not use any type of safety method when they were applying

pesticides to crops. Also they have washed their pesticide tanks to water channels. Therefore she gave an idea of poisoning pesticides through water. And she also asked to use safety equipments. She emphasized to read the label before buying any type of pesticide.

Awareness Program for School Children- Thalawa on 24/06/2012

Tenth meeting was done for school children in order to provide information on chemical management in schools as well as in their homes. After Mr. Gamini explained the objectives of our meeting, we distributed leaflets on chemical handling in school as well as on waste and lead in paint, and polythene. Then Ms. Induni Chathupama addressed the meeting, as young students were present in the meeting it was bit difficult in explaining. She has to use simple methods. The major topics which discussed were how to use a laboratory in a safe manner, emergency actions in a chemical spill or accident, health effects of burning polythene, toxicity of Mercury, broken CFL bulbs and e waste. Children said that some of their schools have prohibited bringing polythene to their schools, which was a positive sign. These children were encouraged to go for greener products. In their speech which was done by the head prefect, said that it is important to have a proper knowledge on chemicals to avoid chemical accidents happen in schools, and she was thankful for CEJ to distributing knowledge with them. She said that the program was

interesting because they learnt lots of novel approaches in saving environment as well as the human health.

Awareness Program for Farmers, house wives, CBO's and NGO's - Thalawa on 24/06/2012

Eleventh meeting was held at Sri sudarshana dahampasala on household chemical management. The participants were teachers of the dahampasala. To identify their current knowledge on chemical management Ms. Chalani Rubesinghe gave the questionnaires first. After that Ms. Chalani Rubesinghe started her lecture on chemical management. She explained what were the hazard chemicals which could be found in houses such as pesticides, detergents ect. She explained about the routings, which a chemical could enter to your body. She also explained about the acute and chronic health effects that can occur. As in every awareness program, she explained about the usage and current situation of polythene in Sri Lanka. She gave an idea on pop chemical elimination due to the burning of polythene and its

health affects. Solid waste managing plans in their homes were interesting. Most of them were producing compost for their home gardens. They were informed not to dispose CFL bulbs but to return it to dealers who collect them. They were adviced on safe chemical handling as well as the lead amounts in paints, e waste, and artificial food products. She gave an idea of alternatives that can be done to prevent pest problems. They were also keen about learning asbestos and its health effects. As the lecture ended them were very thankful for giving that marvelous opportunity to participate in the program.

Awareness Programme for Farmers, house wives, CBO's and NGO's - Kumbukwewa, Padaviya on 22nd August 2012.

Twelfth meeting on this regard was held at Kumbukwewa, Padaviya with forty five (45) participants. Mr. Dilena Pathragoda, Director-Projects introduced CEJ and the project to the audience. In his speech he explained on the chemicals and wrong habits that cause chemical contamination. House wives took a special interest in his explanation on artificial food. It was found to be much interesting that a farmer came in such a hurry to leave pulled a back chair and ultimately listened till the end. Due to the spread of CKDue (Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown etiology) patients in the area, they all expected to listen to the reasons for this disease. CEJ shared their knowledge on the causes and the doctor's prescription on using safe water and attending clinics. Regarding the issue on polythene, "we were advised by the PHI (*Public Health Inspectors)* officers to burn all the junk as they

cause spreading of Dengue" said a house wife. Answering "yes, but polythene can be buried rather than burnt" said Mr. Pathragoda. Some advices provided to these villagers by different officers were indeed contradictory.

Miss. Chathupama Vandabona, Environmental Officer of CEJ spoke on chemicals in the kitchen. Housewives were keen to know the alternatives to survive from ants!

Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe, Environmental officer of CEJ, made the program, a stage for discussion by distributing the survey form on household chemical management, among the participants. The each factor in the form was filled by discussing. Regarding the habit of smoking "miss ask him to stop smoking then" said a housewife pointing her husband. For the issue on recycling, they found to be unaware of the recyclers of CFL bulbs. Regarding the pesticides usage, "we don't use pesticides in home gardens, if we observe a worm, we would just add soap water, chemicals are only used in paddy lands" said a house wife.

May thanks be to some reason they are now afraid of pesticides. It will now be just an opening to wide availability of harmless pest controls in preventing the farmers from using toxic chemicals.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, house wives, CBO's and NGO's- Mylankulama, Padaviya on 22nd August 2012.

The thirteenth program was held at Mylankulama with thirty two (32) participants. An introduction to the program was given by Mr. Gamini Piyarathne, the program coordinator of CEJ. Mr. Dilena Pathragoda, Director-Projects of CEJ, commenced his speech with the knowledge he gathered on CKDue (Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown etiology) patients. He further explained the relationship of chemicals and the wrong practices in handling them result these kinds of diseases. Usage of pesticides, wrong methods of disposing chemical containers, improper storage of chemicals were found to be practices among these people.

Miss. Chathupama Vandabona, Environmental officer of CEJ, initiated her session by distributing the survey form on household chemical management, among the participants. Factors were discussed with the house wives. On various chemicals used for house hold pest control they have come up with interesting alternatives such as using turmeric to avoid ants and burning a coconut shell or dried Neem leaves for mosquitoes. Hearing about the emission of hazardous chemicals in burning polythene, they agreed not to have that in practice anymore and to aware other villagers on this too.

Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe, Environmental officer of CEJ, discussed on the usage of agrochemicals using the survey form with the farmers attended the program.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, house wives, CBO's and NGO's - Ruwanpura, Dehiattakanndiya on 23rd August 2012.

The fourteenth meeting was held at Ruwanpura, Dehiattakanndiya with fifty eight (58) participants. The pre-evaluation form was given to the participants. An introduction was given by Mr. Gamini Piyarathne the program coordinator of CEJ. Miss Chathupama Vandabona, Environmental Officer of CEJ spoke on the household chemical contamination. She was able to reveal that they applyed battery powder along with cow dung on stage of the hearth! Understanding their practical problems, she spoke on preventing chemical contamination due to bad practices exist among them.

Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe, Environmental Officer of CEJ, spoke on the agrochemicals, contamination, prohibited pesticides and their safe handling. Although they were aware on

the contamination methods they have never used any personal protector. The elderly farmers shared traditional methods of pest control.

Mr. Dilena Pathragoda, Director-Projects, spoke on the usage of polythene by house wives. They all agreed that it would give a strange odour in burning. Summarizing the lectures he added on food additives used various "junk" food given by parents just to please their kids!

The head priest of the temple was with us throughout the program. He praised the things we shared and also added bad cooking practices prevailing among house wives such as adding tomatoes to dry fish curry which cause ingestion of Calcium oxalate (CaC_2O_4) which can later become kidney stones.

At the end they were given the post evaluation form. The meeting adjourned with the thanking speech for the new things they learnt.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, house wives, CBO's and NGO's - Wijayapura, Dehiattakanndiya on 19th September 2012.

Fifteenth was held at Wijayapura, Dehiaththakanndiya with about 36 participants. The attendants were given the pre-evaluation form. The meeting commenced with the introduction given by Mr. Gamini Piyarathna on CEJ and its work. As the most recent and common issue with those people was the Chronic Kidney Disease due to unknown etiology (CKDue), they were keen to hear about that. Mr. Dilena Pathragoda, Director-Projects commenced his speech explaining on that. How chemicals cause the various diseases, symptoms we observed thatday. They all agreed with people with short life time and high occurrence of people with blood pressure. When he spoke of burning polythene at home, as

in many meetings, house wives agreed of this habit and said that they would not continue. He also explained on other sources of household chemical contamination, their impact and especially on E-numbers of which they were totally unaware.

Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe spoke on the agrochemicals, contamination, prohibited pesticides and their safe handling. The farmers attended were well aware of these issues yet seemed not to be careful. They have never worn any personal protector during the application of agro chemicals to the field. They were keen to know what the prohibited pesticides were. “But, who could maintain a paddy farm of several acres without pesticides? At least we need to apply a weedicide” said a farmer. Miss Chathupama Vandabona explained on asbestos and their health effects and Leaded paints. When asked of how lead in paint could cause body contamination, a farmer keenly replied “through the air, we might inhale them”. Without a doubt the village people were intelligent enough to understand whatever we explained, the only source they have not been gained was that awareness on health effects of chemical contamination for them to practically apply the protecting mechanisms they already aware of.

At the end they were given the post evaluation form. The meeting adjourned with the thanking speech for the new things they learnt.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, house wives, CBO’s and NGO’s - Samanalathanna, Dehiattakanndiya on 20th September 2012.

Sixteenth program was held at Samanalathanna with about 36 participants. The pre-evaluation form was given to the participants. An introduction was given by Mr. Gamini Piyarathne the program coordinator of CEJ. The first lecture was given by Mr. Dilena Pathragoda. He explained on what are the chemicals and by what means they could be harmful to people. As usual many housewives were found to have burn polythene at home as a practice of lighting the hearth. He also explained on reduction of life span in population, increase of diabetic, high blood pressure and low blood pressure among people and their relationship with chemical contamination by means of artificial food,

agrochemicals used and other sources. Also he spoke on asbestos, leaded paints and their health effects.

Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe, Environmental Officer of CEJ, spoke on the agrochemicals, contamination, prohibited pesticides and their safe handling. The farmers were keen to know on the prohibited pesticides, but they were not agreed with getting rid of pesticides. "my paddy cultivation was situated in the middle of several other farmers in acres with paddy cultivated land, even if I would stop using pesticide, the water flow would bring pesticide to my paddy fields, or it would cause all the pests ending in may plot, so what was the use?" said a farmer. This was a problem indeed with many farmers met. It seemed that the most important thing to address is the availability of safe pesticides and the training for proper application of pesticides.

Miss Chathupama Vandabona, Environmental Officer of CEJ discussed on the household chemicals. Housewives shared all the tips they use in preventing mosquitoes, ants and even rats.

At the end they were given the post evaluation form. The meeting adjourned with the thanking speech for the new things they learnt.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, house wives, CBO's and NGO's - Nikawathalanda, Dehiattakanndiya on 20th September 2012.

The seventeenth meeting was held at Nikawathalanda with thirty five (35) participants. The pre-evaluation form was given to the participants. An introduction was given by Mr. Gamini Piyarathne the program coordinator of CEJ. Mr. Dilena Pathragoda introducing household chemicals, explained on the household chemical contamination due to careless handling and un-necessary use of chemicals. As usual many housewives agreed on burning polythene at lighting the hearth. He added on chemical contamination by means of artificial food, agrochemicals used and other sources such as asbestos and leaded paints.

Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe, Environmental Officer of CEJ, spoke on the agrochemicals, contamination, prohibited pesticides and their safe handling. The farmers agreed with the fact that pesticides are harmful. Still they were opposed to change the practices they have been using all these years. They agreed on the miss practices they have on using pesticides. It was the hope of CEJ that after listening to the threat they create for them and their families, they will do their best in preventing this careless chemical contamination.

Miss Chathupama Vandabona, Environmental Officer of CEJ discussed on the chemicals used in the kitchen. She shared stories of chemical contamination in which they showed a great attention. Specially how cockroach killer chemical can end up on the plate they eat!

At the end they were given the post evaluation form. The meeting adjourned with the thanking speech for the new things they learnt.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, house wives, CBO's and NGO's - Hungamalagama, Dehiattakanndiya on 21st September 2012.

Eighteenth was held at Hungamalagama with 45 participants. The program commenced with the discussing and filling of the pre-evaluation form. Since most of them had problems with writing, CEJ staff helped them with filling the forms. An introduction was given by Mr. Gamini Piyarathne the program coordinator of CEJ.

The awareness program began with the lecture given by Mr. Dilena Pathragoda. He explained on how chemicals could be harmful to people and what simple practices cause chemical contamination. As usual when he asked to raise the hands of those who burn polythene at home, few house wives did that with shyness in their faces. When the question time was opened, ''if polythene should not be burned what we can do with them?'' asked a house wife. ''This is the problem and which is why you should reduce the amount of polythene brought home but of course you can also submit your polythene to regional polythene collector function under the Central Environmental Authority'' said Mr. Pathragoda. He also explained on asbestos, Leaded paints and their health effects.

Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe, Environmental Officer of CEJ spoke on the agrochemicals, home gardens and on other household chemicals. Miss Chathupama Vandabona, Environmental Officer of CEJ spoke on preventing the contamination in each of the issues explained by Mr. Pathragoda.

This village was found to be once recognized as the well maintained village of Mahaweli “C” region. Thereby we gave them the challenge to become the village with least polythene usage in the next visit of CEJ!

At the end they were given the post evaluation form. The meeting adjourned with the thanking speech for the new things they learnt. “I came here to ask this sister to keep my child to take the other to the tuition, but by staying here, me and my child both learnt things never could learn from a tuition” said a house wife.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, house wives, CBO’s and NGO’s - Bihirisorowwa, Dehiattakanndiya on 21st September 2012.

Nineteenth was held at Bihirisorowwa, Dehiaththakanndiya with 48 participants. The attendants were given the pre-evaluation form the meeting commenced with the introduction given by Mr. Gamini Piyarathna on CEJ and its work. Mr. Dilena Pathragoda,

Director-Projects commenced his speech explaining on the Chronic Kidney Disease due to unknown etiology (CKDue). When he spoke of burning polythene at home, as in many meetings, house wives agreed that they do it as it is easy to light the hearth with polythene in the morning. They agreed that this will not happen in the future with what they learnt from the lecture. He also emphasized on various other methods that can cause household chemical contamination, their impact and especially on E-numbers of which they were totally unaware.

Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe, Environmental officer of CEJ, spoke on the agrochemicals, contamination, prohibited pesticides and their safe handling. The farmers attended agreed that they were not aware on the prohibited pesticides and everybody were keen to have the list of gazette notification read and check whether their pesticide is listed under prohibited. It could be noticed that with all the rumors going on the pesticides they are now afraid on them, yet it was not up to that level of preventing the use of pesticides. They would still give hundreds of excuses for using a synthetic chemical than a pest control made of natural ingredients.

Miss Chathupama Vandabona, Environmental Officer of CEJ spoke on chemical contamination that could occur from Roof sheeting, lead in paints, various preservatives and other household chemicals they often use.

At the end they were given the post evaluation form. The meeting adjourned with the thanking speech for the new things they learnt.

Awareness Programme for Media

The workshop for media on "Reporting chemical related issues in Sri Lanka" held on 25th September 2012 from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm at Colombo City Hotel, Colombo 01. (Completed during phase 2, Report was enclosed with phase 2 progress report.)

Awareness Program for School Children – St. Mathiew's College, Dematagoda – on 31st October 2012

The twentieth awareness programme was done for school children in order to provide the knowledge about Chemical Management in school laboratory as well as in their houses with the participation of fifty one students and four teachers.

First the leaflets that had been prepared were distributed. Then Mr. Dilena Pathragoda, Director- Projects of Centre for Environmental Justice briefly described about Centre for Environmental Justice and about the project. He explained the importance of careful handling chemicals not only for the schools but also in houses because most of the kids who face the chemical accidents. He forced participants to reduce the usage of polythene and encouraged using more green products explaining the harmful effect of polythene on environment and health. Also he said about the lead in paint case and CKDue problem in Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa districts. Then he invited Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe to address the meeting. She explained on handling chemicals in school laboratory, such as proper handling of chemical bottles, signs/symbols of hazardous chemicals, proper lab practices, Do's and Don'ts in a laboratory environment , etc. Miss. Ruwini Jayawardhana, advised them on CFL bulbs, E waste management and lead level in paints.

Students and teachers were thankful for conducting a valuable lecture at their school.

Awareness Progaramme for School Children – St. Jhone's College, Dematagoda – 06th November 2012

Twenty first, program was conducted for school children. There were 123 students participated. We did this in order to provide information about chemical management in

school laboratory and in home. In the first session, Mr. Gamini Piyarathne welcomed the participants and explained our objectives about the meeting. Also he told them about CKDue issue in Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa districts. Then he invited Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe Environmental officer of Centre for Environmental Justice to address the participants. She explained on handling chemicals safely at the school laboratory, such as how to store chemical bottles, emergency actions when they face accident in laboratory, how to read chemical label and what are the signs/symbols of hazardous chemicals and what are the meaning of them. She also explained about mercury, because of most students play with mercury and also she spoke about CFL bulbs. She explained about recycling.

Miss. Ruwini Jayawardhana, spoke on house hold chemicals they should be aware of. With a special request made by their teacher, she also spoke on tip-ex which they used to play rather than erasing!

Mr. Dilena Pathragoda, Director-Projects of Centre for Environmental Justice summarizing the things said, briefed the projects carried out by Centre for Environmental Justice.

After the sessions, students had lot of questions. They asked about CFL bulbs and to whom that they need to be given for recycling. “when they use tear gas in Maligawatta area, we still feel the smell and irritancies, why is that” a set of students asked. As we finished the program students and teachers were thankful for us to giving such an opportunity by having conducted this lecture at their school.

Awareness Program for School Children – Nalanda Balika Vidyalaya, Minuwangoda – 09th November 2012

Twenty second awareness program was also conducted for school children,

regarding the chemical management in school laboratory as well as their homes. Having welcomed the CEJ participants, the Principal of Nalanda Balika Vidyalaya, she briefly described about centre for environmental Justice.

Mr. Gamini Introduced the program. Mr. Dilena Pathragoda, Director- Projects of Centre for Environmental Justice described about activities carried out by CEJ so far emphasizing on CKDue issue and medical clinics conducted for CKDue patients and Lead in paint issue. Then he thanked the Principal and other teachers for giving the opportunity to conduct this program. Then he invited Ms. Chalani Rubesinghe Environmental officer of Environmental justice to explain about chemical management in school laboratory. Within this discussion, we distribute leaflets and asked them to read them and she started her session. In this session she explained on using chemicals in the school laboratory safely, such as how to handle chemical bottles, what are the signs/symbols, how to read label in the chemical bottles, emergency actions when they face accident in laboratory …etc. She explained them about the danger of accidently poisoning which can be happen. Also she explained about safety wears that student can wear. Students didn't have any questions.

Miss. Ruwini Jayawardhana, advised them on household waste management including CFL bulbs, E waste, roof sheets and other degradable wastes.

They were thankful for conducting this program at their school. There were 183 students and five (5) teachers participated in the program.

Awareness Programme for Farmers, wives, CBO's and NGO's – at house Rajanganaya 0n 12th November 2012

The twenty third awareness program on safety chemical management was held in Rajanganaya village situated in Anuradhapura district on 11th November 2012 with the participation of thirty (30) villagers. The villagers were famous for their organic farming. Director – Project of Centre for Environmental Justice Mr. Dilena Pathragoda briefly explained the problems regarding the chemical management in Sri Lanka and why we needed this kind of project in Sri Lanka. In the speech he discussed about the issue of polythene and most of them did use polythene to lit fire. Then he explained harmful effect of burning polythene for the environmental and for their health. He described on the importance in read the label in buying any product from the market, and also explained about the health effects of leaded paint.

In the discussion Ms. Chalani Rubesinghe Environmental officer of Environmental justice described the danger of improper dispose of CFL bulbs and we told them, the proper way of disposing bulbs. Some of them already practice to burry everything such as CFL bulbs, electronic equipment, bottles, glasses…etc. Also some houses had a special bin to store all the pesticides, both empty and new pesticides bottles. While the discussion was going on they filled survey forms.

Awareness Programme for Farmers, house wives, CBO's and NGO's – Kalundagama on 12th November 2012

The twenty fourth awareness program on safety chemical management was held in Kalundagama village situated in Anuradhapura district on 12th November 2012. MOH Officer of Rajanganaya hospital Dr. Nalinda Deshapriya welcomed the participants and presented our objectives about the meeting.

Then Mr. Dilena Pathragoda – Director Project of Centre for Environmental Justice was invited to briefly describe about the project. He introduced CEJ and its past works such as Lead in paint case. He explained the importance of careful handling chemicals not only for the farmers but also for the housewives. The he invited Ms. Chalani Rubesinghe Environmental Officer to address the meeting.

In this session we gave them questionnaires to fill and also Ms. Chalani Rubesinghe explained how to fill it. They told us their husbands don't use safe equipment such as masks, gallowses…..etc. In the discussion we identified common mistakes they do in their homes in managing chemicals. "My husband uses the compressor pump for painting and he spay on me and my child with that for fun. Is this not bad?", asked a pregnant lady. We explained on all the bad effects of such an action. It is sad that they get their self-exposed to chemicals just in vain! All of them buried dead CFL bulbs but also dead batteries. There were 25 participants in the program.

Awareness Programme for Pesticides user Farmers, house wives, CBO's and NGO's- held at Negombo on 05th February 2013.

Twenty fifth workshop was held with about 18 Participants. The discussion was made based on the household chemical contamination survey form. Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe and Miss. Ruwini Jayawardana, environmental officers of CEJ, carried the discussion. The participants involved in the discussion giving practical difficulties in ideas given by CEJ members. For example;

- They complained that there was no proper waste management in their area. Even though they segregated the waste, the municipal council truck, put them all together. Also that they don't have enough space to keep the E-waste until someone comes to collect, thus they give them all to the municipal waste collectors. They had very little to do with agrochemicals as they least deal with any.

- They were very curious about what happened when they burn their garbage, Plastics and polythene.

Summarizing, Mr. Dilena Pathragoda mentioned on the ill effects of burning polythene. As usual many people used to burn polythene to get rid of garbage! They asked on re-using plastic bottles, hazardous chemicals in textiles and instant noodles.

However they thanked the members of CEJ for providing them with valuable information such as Asbestos issue.

Awareness program for school children - St. Joseph College, Negombo on 05th February 2013.

Twenty sixth awareness program was conducted for school children of St. Joseph College to raise awareness on chemicals with the participation of 195 students.

The Rev. Father, Principle warmly welcomed CEJ for having been there to conduct the program free of charge for the sake of children. Mr. Dilena Pathragoda introduced the work done by CEJ and on help they could get from CEJ in future.

Based on the previous experience on drawing attention of children on to the subject, Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe, Environmental officer of CEJ spoke to them on Biodiversity and threats on them through chemicals and their contamination. They were more enthusiastic to see the diversity of among living beings.

Miss. Ruwini Jayawardana then spoke on the chemicals around them and their effects taking examples from the class room such as tip-ex (correction fluid).

Awareness program for Farmers, house wives, CBOs and NGO's – Pahalakaragahamuna, Kadawatha on 10th February 2013.

Twenty seventh meeting on this regard was held at pahalakaragahamuna, kadawatha with thirty four participants. The meeting was commenced with the filling pre-evaluation form.

Mr. Dilena Pathragoda, Director projects introduced CEJ and the project. In his speech he explained on the chemicals and wrong habits that cause chemical contamination. House wives took a special interest in his explanation on artificial foods. He also explained how chemicals cause the various diseases, symptoms we observe today. They all agreed on people with short life time and high occurrence of people with blood pressure. When he spoke of burning polythene at home as in many meetings house wives agreed of this habit and said that they will not continue.

Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe spoke on the agrochemicals, household chemicals, contamination and chemical management. She highlighted on preventing the contamination in each of the issue explained by Mr. Pathragoda and also she explained how lead and mercury cause the ill effects in human body.

At the end they were given the post evaluation form. Miss Ruwini Jayawardhana discussed with them on the examples of miss-handling chemicals as many were curious on it. The meeting adjourned with the thanking speech given by a society member. An elderly person shared his honest experiences on using agrochemicals and thanked the members of CEJ for making them aware on unnecessary chemical usage!

Awareness program for Farmers, house wives, CBOs and NGO's – Weliveriya, Gampaha on 10th February 2013.

The twenty eighth meeting was held at Weliveriya, Gampaha with 60 participants. The meeting was commenced with the filling pre-evaluation form.

Mr. Dilena Pathragoda, director projects commenced his speech with explanation on the relationship of chemicals and contamination due to wrong practices. He also explained on reduction of lifetime in population, increase of diabetic, high blood pressure and low blood pressure among people and their relationship with chemical contamination by means of artificial food, agrochemicals used and other sources.

Miss. Ruwini Jayawardana spoke on household chemicals, agrochemicals, their contamination and safe handling. She also explained on asbestos and their health effects and lead contaminated paints. In the speech she discussed about the issue of polythene and most of them did use polythene to lit fire. Then she explained harmful effect of burning polythene for the environment and for their health. She also described on importance of reading the label in buying any product from the market.

Miss. Chalani Rubesinghe described the danger of improper dispose of CFL bulbs and she told them the proper way of disposing. She explained about the waste management.

The meeting was concluded as they submitted the post evaluation form.

Activity 2: <u>Produce popular reading material- One poster on household chemicals, - One poster for boutiques, - one poster for Schools, and 3 leaflets on the above 3 sectors</u>

A set of reading materials were prepared for schools, houses and shops. This includes 2 leaflets for schools and houses, 2 posters for shops and schools and 3 sets of guidelines for shops, houses and industries with the advice of expertise. The booklets on old and new POPs and on agrochemicals are in designing process. (Completed during the phase 1. All attachments were submitted with phase 1 report.)

<u>Activity 3, 4, 5 : safe guidelines for shops, homestead and workplace</u>

Set of guidelines were prepared for House, shops and to industries. It was done by with the help of Consumer affairs authority and local PHI officers. The “Green store” evaluation is another program commenced in order to identify and recommended shops that manage chemicals in a proper way. This was designed so as to evaluate the shops with priority given to shops that pesticides are sold, initiated with a list of conditions to be maintained that include gazette notification with banned and limited pesticides. (Completed during the Phase 1. All attachments were enclosed with phase 1 progress report.)

<u>Activity 6: Produce reading material on 12 old POPs and 9 New POPs</u>

The booklet provides information on 12 old pops and new pops. It contains information on common names of each chemical as well as the scientific name, and about the products that contains each chemical and its health effects. It was done in simply methods in order to provide information o each education levels of society. (Completed during phase 2. Book was enclosed with phase 2 progress report.)

Activity 7: Publish a booklet on how Agrochemicals harm people

We have also produced a booklet on agrochemicals which a reader can gain information on both local and international pesticide, banned pesticides in Sri Lanka, component chemicals of pesticides, health effects of pesticides. (Completed during phase 2. Book was enclosed with phase 2 progress report.)

Activity 8: Identify the chemical hotspots and update existing (12) POPs hot spots within the Country.

We also took part in a project carried out by Centre for Science and Environment (CES) India on soil and water analysis in CKD and CKDue affected areas; Anuradhapura Polonnaruwa, taking Ampara as a control. The meeting with expertise who carried research work on this regard and site visits were coordinated by CEJ science section. (Completed with phase 2. Reports were enclosed with phase 2 progress report.)

Also we were engaged in identification of chemical hotspots within Colombo and Gampaha districts. This will target to investigate the contamination levels in sediments and fish in suspected areas for POPs contamination. Due to improper waste disposal sites, un-treated effluents of factories and industries such as areas are not scares!

In a literature survey CEJ discovered that whitening cream can contain hazardous levels of mercury. CEJ saw this as an arising threat as whitening cream is commonly found in almost every household due to their use despite of area of the country, age or gender. On the other hand, mercury is a well recognized toxic element. Thus CEJ decided to recover the threat of contamination by testing the levels of mercury in most popular whitening creams found in the market.

CEJ successfully completed this research recovering, 25 out of 46 samples recorded for contamination of mercury within the range of 0.06 - 30167.66 ppm. (Attachment 1.1)

CEJ made a press release to aware general public on this issue (Attachment 1.2) as expected, this came a quite interesting issue after it was published in several printed and electronic media. (Attachment 1.3) Public showed a great interest in getting to know whether their product is in the list. One company was keen to visit CEJ and know everything about the research and its every step. They requested CEJ to undertake this research once again including all the brands in the market, with their support. Rejecting the support of a single brand, CEJ is in the concern on availability of funds for such task.

CEJ sent letters to relevant authorities with the research report and a reminder on this

regard and waiting for their response in action.

Activity 9: Radio programme- Parisara Sirisara daily 5 minutes at 5.50 am at SLBC

So far we have broadcasted 87 "Parisara Sirisara" programs on SLBC (Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation.) These were meant to aware general public on various issues regarding chemicals handled in day today life. The content of the scripts were provided by us so as to convey the scientific background could understand. As well as the "Parisara Sirisara" program we produced a jingle on household chemicals which we played in awareness programs. (Completed during the phase 1.CDs with recordings was enclosed with phase 1 progress report.).

Activity 10: Produce a short video ads on chemical and telecast

A short video film was produced with English subtitles regarding the

chemical management in household. (Attachment 2.1)

The script is attached herewith. (Attachment 2.2)

Activity 11: Research on POPs importation statistics

The first set of information on importation of PCB (Polychlorinated Biphenyl's) contaminated electrical equipments gathered by CEJ was used in the request made in banning these equipments which is now developing in to gazette.

No recent information was found on importation of any other pesticide containing POPs. However the investigations will be brought forward as some stocks of Endosulfan, DDT and Lindane was found to have no data on stocks that were brought in to Sri Lanka before banning. (Attachment 3)

Activity 12: Produce a report on the breakage of Mercury appliances in the hospitals and health clinics

The initial survey was attached with phase 2 progress report.

Activity 13: Update the Pops Country Situation report produced by the CEJ in 2005

We have also produced a country situation of industrial POPs by collecting information and documents produced by the GEF-SGP beneficiaries. We already conduct a research on Industrial POPs. (Completed during the phase1, Report was enclosed with phase 1 progress report.)

Activity 14: Organize a National Symposium on SAICM

The first national symposium on "The potential health and Environmental Impacts of exposure to hazardous natural and man-made chemicals and their proper management" held on 23rd November 2012 from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm at Colombo City Hotel, Colombo 01. (Completed during the phase 2, Report was enclosed with phase 2 progress report.)

Activity 15: Initiate a round table discussion on the implementation of Hazardous waste regulations

The first round table discussion on "Implementation of hazardous waste regulations and challenges" was held on 31st July 2012 from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute with the participation of about 20 representatives from government organizations, NGOs, CBOs, laboratories and media. (Completed during phase 2, Report was enclosed with phase 2 progress report)

The second meeting regarding "Implementation of hazardous waste regulations and challenges" was held at Colombo City Hotel on 15th of January 2013 with the participation from many government organizations, Industries, individual researchers and media.

Mr. Hemantha Withanage, Executive director of Centre for Environmental Justice explained on the objectives of the meeting. Mrs. Ramanai Ellepola, Director General of Central environmental authority was the guest speaker of this event and she made her speech described "what are the issues in Sri Lanka related with hazardous waste". Mr. S.M Werahara, Assistant Director of Air resource management & International relations, Ministry of Environment and Mr. Janaka Wijesekara, Manager, Abans environmental management services, made their presentations on Hazard waste regulations and challenges during the first session. Mr. Werahara spoke on "Industrial, solid and hazardous waste management of Sri Lanka", he described hazard waste regulations, Electronic waste, mitigation steps taken for irresponsible electronic waste dumping, Green procurement, HS-CODE System, health care waste generation in Sri Lanka etc. Mr. Janaka Wijesekara and Mrs. Dharshani Lahandapura, Geocycle explained about solid waste management in Sri Lanka and its successes, failures and concerns. (Attachment 4)

Activity 16: Initiate a negotiations with the Ministry of Health on phasing out Mercury appliances from the hospitals

CEJ prepared a report on breakage of mercury appliances in hospitals and health clinics with use of a survey form. In this, CEJ found that most of the broken mercury appliances are disposed along with broken glassware!

A representative from the Ministry of Health took part in the round table discussion on "Implementing hazard waste management regulations and their challenges", explained the latest safety steps taken by some hospitals in hazard waste management including broken mercury appliances.

CEJ sent a letter to the Minister of Environment with copies to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Chairman, Central Environmental Authority on 12th June 2012 asking for attention on Intergovernmental Mercury Treaty negotiations.

In reply the Ministry of Environment, noticed that the views will be discussed in a mini workshop to be held on 22nd June 2012. CEJ member participated here provided ideas on selecting the guidelines to be adopted by Sri Lanka.

Simultaneously, CEJ took part in "Global fish and hair mercury monitoring project" funded by IPEN, and found that the people are contaminated with mercury in their hair ranging 0.78- 4.45 ppm. Identifying the threat of mercury contamination CEJ worked on raising awareness and drive people towards e-waste management.

As a step forward, CEJ wrote to Dr. P.B Jayasundara, The Treasury, Ministry of Finance and planning with carbon copies to Presidential Secretary, Secretary, Ministry of Health, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Chairman, Central Environmental Authority Requesting to make a budget allocation for non-mercury hospital appliances.

Later on, CEJ was invited to a discussion held at the Ministry of Health on phasing out Mercury appliances, with a gathering of expertise, researchers and other governmental and private organizations work on mercury.

By today, ministry of Health has informed Chief Secretaries of Provincial Councils, Provincial Secretaries of Health, Provincial Directors of Health, Regional Directors of Health, all Directors/ Medical Superintendents and all Medical Officer of Health (MOH) to;

1. Purchase non-mercury thermometers
2. Procure non mercury aneroid Sphygmomanometers
3. Store used CFL bulbs without breaking
4. Collect dental amalgam using amalgam separators for safe recycling
5. Use of T-5 CFL bulbs instead of T-8 bulbs, through an internal circular.

The ministry supports them by providing instructions, methodologies, training, technical support and advices. The media publications on this regard are attached herewith. (Attachment 5)
CEJ finds this a progressive implementation of their contribution somewhere in this decision.

Activity 17: Mobilize the CSOs support towards the Central Environmental Authority initiative on producing Asbestos Policy.

The round table discussion on "Phasing out Asbestos" was held on 3rd August 2012 from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute. (Completed during phase 1, Report was enclosed with phase 1 progress report)

The discussions were made with parties joined in the first round of asbestos meeting.

- The Ministry of Environment reported that no progressive step been taken in phasing out asbestos policy making.
- The researcher joined in the meeting reported that they are yet to study the asbestos factory related workers for asbestos contamination.
- The manufacturers argue that when the sheet thinness is higher than 6mm, the asbestos fibers do not cause any harm.

Thus, there were no progressive actions to discuss in a second round.

Activity 18: A survey research on what chemicals they use and whether they are contaminated or what awareness they have

Centre for Environmental Justice already filled 2000 survey forms within Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa districts on household chemical management and usage of agrochemicals. The report on survey of household chemical management is attached herewith. (Attachment 6)

Activity 19: Legal research on the gaps in chemical management

A legal research on the gaps in chemical management in Sri Lanka was also conducted by the legal section of CEJ. (Completed during phase 2, Report was enclosed with phase 2 progress report.)

Add pages to the www.ejustice.lk on SAICM and CSO initiatives

A Google group named "Sri Lanka Toxics with the intention of dissemination as well as obtaining information on chemical management in Sri Lanka" was established. Other than the Google group, it was able to add pages to the e-justice, CEJ web site on SAICM, POPs, PCB, Mercury, and Lead in paint. By visiting to this pages viewer can obtain novel movement in Sri Lanka as well as in the world.

List serve: srilanka-toxics-info@googlegroups.com

This was established – However there are not many responses. Therefore we used the other list serves such as the Ministry of Environment bulk communication to share our information.

Add-ons-

Establishing "Green Stores"

The majority of the people in the area of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa are farmers. Their lifestyles are based on Agriculture. In these areas, pesticide shops can be seen frequently. But in operating a pesticide shop, there are many safety measures and instructions to be followed. Unfortunately most shop owners are not aware on these instructions. On the other hand, most of the farmers depend on shop retailers in selecting the relevant pesticide to be used. With these lapses CEJ initiated a program to help the pesticide shop owners/ keepers to arrange their showrooms ECO friendly to be nominated as a "Green Store".

As the first step, pesticides shops were selected from Rajanganaya of Anuradhapura district and Dehiaththakandiya of Polonnaruwa district and "Green store" program was launched by having a mutual agreement to follow the guidelines required to be maintained by a green store.

During our second visit, we observed their preparation to be mostly compatible to our guidelines. After a year we hope to inspect them for continuity of the program and provide them with a certificate, to encourage them in retaining as a "Green Store" ECO friendly showroom.

Photographs below indicate the green stores in Dehiaththkandiya.

********** END **********