Commitment to banning the ingredients from all three international conventions

The undersigned members of the ISEAL Alliance have been working together to decrease the use of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs). A first step is to ensure that producers certified by ISEAL members are not using the worst of these HHPs included in the Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention and Montréal Protocol.

Why is this important to ISEAL members?

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants Annex A – Elimination¹:

166 countries of around the world have ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) aiming at protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. POPs are organic compounds that to a varying degree, resist degradation and therefore they accumulate along the food chain. These chemicals can move long distances in the atmosphere before disposition occurs causing huge environmental pollution. DDT is one of the POPs, but there are more of these pesticides that are still being used. The key elements of the Convention include the requirement that developed countries provide new and additional financial resources and measures to eliminate production and use of intentionally produced POPs, eliminate unintentionally produced POPs where feasible, and manage and dispose of POPs wastes in an environmentally sound manner.

Rotterdam Convention (formally the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade)²:

The convention aims to promote shared responsibility between exporting and importing countries in protecting human health and the environment from the harmful effects of certain dangerous chemicals. Some of these pesticides are still widely used in agriculture and therefore important to be addressed. The convention also promotes open exchange of information and calls on exporters of hazardous chemicals to use proper labelling, include directions on safe handling, and inform purchasers of any known restrictions or bans.

Montréal Protocol (The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (a protocol to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer)):

The Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances is a global treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that heavily contribute to ozone depletion. The only pesticide in the Protocol is the fumigant methyl bromide, which is mainly used for soil disinfection in some countries.

¹ Annex A. http://chm.pops.int/Portals/0/Repository/convention_text/UNEP-POPS-COP-CONVTEXT-FULL.English.PDF

We, the undersigned standard setters and members of the ISEAL Alliance, are committed to the reduction of the use of highly hazardous pesticides. We agree to include the active ingredients found in the three international conventions noted above to our lists of banned pesticides in the next and subsequent versions of our standards. We intend that this collective approach will support broader efforts to remove these pesticides from circulation.

Each member will establish its own approach to excluding these pesticide active ingredients from the certified/verified operations in our programmes, and to implement the respective changes in its systems, in line with the objectives of the standard and agreed by our multi-stakeholder advisory/decision bodies.

If the international convention lists are updated, each of us will also update our banned lists accordingly as soon as possible.