

Ole Emmik Sørensen

Sendt: 2. november 2010 10:56
Til: Davis, Mark (AGPM)
Cc: 'sorska@um.dk'; Pandey, Shivaji (AGPM); Kenmore, Peter (AGPM); AG-Registry; Ole Emmik Sørensen; Anette Norling; Ture Falbe-Hansen
Emne: SV: Danish newspaper Politiken and United Plantations

Dear Mr. Davis,

Thank you for this clarification. We will provide you with the translation of the DEA site visit report as soon as it has been finalised and will of course be happy to a further dialogue within the framework that DEA is not the competent, Danish authority regarding use of pesticides and that the DEA CDM-project with United Plantations does not include the management of the plantations. Therefore, the special site visit included as mentioned the independent RSPO controller as well as an expert from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency that for this specific mission had been made available for DEA.

Best regards

Anton Beck
Director, Danish Energy Agency

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-----Oprindelig meddelelse-----

Fra: Davis, Mark (AGPM) [mailto:Mark.Davis@fao.org]
Sendt: 2. november 2010 09:55
Til: Anton Beck
Cc: 'sorska@um.dk'; Pandey, Shivaji (AGPM); Kenmore, Peter (AGPM); AG-Registry
Emne: RE: Danish newspaper Politiken and United Plantations

Dear Mr Beck,

Yesterday was a national holiday in Italy and therefore our offices were not open.

Thank you for your detailed message of 29 October.

I wish to clarify that I have not read the article published in the Danish press in which I was quoted. The information given to the journalist concerned simply stated that in accordance with the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, FAO does not support the use of highly hazardous pesticides such as WHO Class I hazard rated products in developing country situations where the users of those pesticides cannot protect themselves adequately. No specific reference was made to any plantation owners, and while the journalist referred to the Danish Energy Agency report, FAO made no comment about it since we have not received or read it. I understand that this report is being translated to English, and I would be pleased to receive a copy when it is available.

I would be pleased to discuss how United Plantations is reducing risks from pesticides in its operations, and whether and how further risk reduction efforts might be implemented.

Kind regards

Mark Davis

Senior Officer - Pesticides Management
Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) Viale Delle Terme di Caracalla
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Tel: +39 06 5705 5192
<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/pesticides>

Sustainable Intensification - Ecosystem Approach to Enhance Crop Production

-----Original Message-----

From: Anton Beck [mailto:anb@ENS.DK]
Sent: 01 November 2010 11:29
To: Davis, Mark (AGPM)
Cc: 'sorska@um.dk'
Subject: SV: Danish newspaper Politiken and United Plantations

Dear Mr. Davis,
I have tried to reach you by phone this morning regarding the information I have forwarded to you; please call me at 0045 2962 3996.

Yours sincerely

Anton Beck
Director, Danish Energy Agency

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-----Oprindelig meddelelse-----

Fra: Anton Beck
Sendt: 29. oktober 2010 14:37
Til: Mark.Davis@fao.org
Cc: sorska@um.dk
Emne: Danish newspaper Politiken and United Plantations

To
Senior Officer Mark Lawrence Davis
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department Plant Production and Protection Division
(AGPM) FAO

Dear Mr. Davis,

Referring to an article today in the Danish newspaper Politiken I would like to take the opportunity to clarify some of the issues that has been raised in relation to use of pesticides at the United Plantations in Malaysia.

1. The Danish Energy Agency is engaged in 4 CDM-projects at United Plantations which utilize methane gas for green electricity production. DEA is not engaged in activities of the palm oil plantations.

2. United Plantations was the first plantation worldwide that in 2008 was certified by the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). The RSPO aims at setting standards for sustainability and corporate responsibility throughout the entire palm oil lifecycle. RSPO is an international non-profit organisation supported by NGOs, palm oil producers and banks. RSPO has set up best practice guidelines for producing palm oil based on 8 main criteria and 125 environmental indicators. Also stakeholder and employee consultations are a part of RSPO certification. Please find more information on www.rspo.org. I enclose the Certificate as of August 2008 for United Plantations. http://www.ens.dk/da-DK/Info/Nyheder/Nyhedsarkiv/2010/Documents/Bilag4_RSPO_Assessment_Report_United_Plantations_30May_2008.pdf

3. As a part of RSPO certification, a thorough and independent RSPO audit by a third party certified controller company is being carried through every year in order to ensure that the management systems comply with the principles and criteria and to ensure that those management systems are properly implemented. I enclose Annual Surveillance Assessment Report for United Plantation, December 2009. http://www.ens.dk/da-DK/Info/Nyheder/Nyhedsarkiv/2010/Documents/Bilag5_RSPO_Annual_Surveillance_Assessment_Report_United_Plantations_11March_2010.pdf

4. In September 2010, a number of articles in the Danish newspaper Politiken criticized the use of pesticides at United Plantations. As a follow, the DEA made a special site visit inspection on September 28-29 at United Plantations which included an independent RSPO controller and a representative from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. The inspection also included stakeholder consultations with field workers, workers union representatives, etc. I enclose a copy of the RSPO audit report. http://www.ens.dk/da-DK/Info/Nyheder/Nyhedsarkiv/2010/Documents/Bilag7_RSPO_Gap_Analysis_Report.pdf

5. The full DEA inspection report as of October 25, 2010 is only available in Danish. However, some of the main conclusions showed that United Plantations have now totally phased out the use of paraquat and that the company expect to phase out monocrotophos by the end of march 2011. The independent RSPO certifier and the expert from the Danish Ministry of Environment at the sitevisit went through all documentation regarding use and handling of pesticides - ie demonstration on how the spraying and handling of monocrotophos is done and the RSPO certifier interviewed the workers randomly at the plantation. In the plantation, it was demonstrated how the IPM where UP since 2005 have planted 110.000 plants to attract natural predators to fight bagworms and nettle caterpillars. Based on 1) the conclusion from the third party experts 2) the fact that paraquat already is phased out 3) the current focus on healthcheck and safetygear and 4) a comprehensive plan to phase out monocrotophos in the near future, the sustainability, included the use of monocrotophos, was found satisfactory and ambitious.

6. PriceWaterhouseCoopers made a similar independent site inspection on September 15-17, 2010, at United Plantations. They concluded that "No evidence of proof has been found confirming the allegations of poisoning of workers". I enclose a copy of the summary. http://www.aak.com/Global/csr/UP_Audit_Report_Summary_September_2010_PriceWaterHouse.pdf

7. DEA is of course fully aware of the FAO guidelines/Code of conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. However, as paraquat already has been totally phased out at United Plantations there has been no reference hereto. As regards monocrotophos, it can only be used for trunk injection in Malaysia; please see note from Danish Energy management: http://www.ens.dk/da-DK/Info/Nyheder/Nyhedsarkiv/2010/Documents/Bilag6_Pesticide_Regulations_and_Controls_in_Malaysia_DanishEnergyManagement_7October_2010.pdf . The use of monocrotophos at United

Plantations has been significantly reduced as a part of the RSPO certification and the United Plantations' Integrated Pesticide Management which also are in line with FAO guidelines/Code of Conduct; as said, the aim is to phase out monocrotophos as of March 31, 2011.

8. Thus, DEA has explicitly referred to the FAO Code of Conduct as a part of our comments to Politiken before the article today.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions etc.

Yours sincerely

Anton Beck
Director, Danish Energy Agency

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