



**Center for International Environmental Law and Pesticide Action Network**  
**Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food**  
**Human Rights Council, 49<sup>th</sup> Session**  
**March 2022**

The Center for International Environmental Law and Pesticide Action Network thank the Special Rapporteur on the right to food for his report. We welcome the concern that FAO's agreement with CropLife International, the global association of the largest agrochemical and seed companies, *"may raise questions of conflict of interest and result in undue corporate influence over international policymaking."*<sup>1</sup>

When 44% of the global population working on farms is poisoned by pesticides, when their rights (to health, to life, to adequate housing etc..) are being negatively impacted and the world is experiencing catastrophic loss of biodiversity, it is inappropriate for FAO to partner with companies who make over one-third of their sales from Highly Hazardous Pesticides.

*Nearly 200,000 people, and more than 350 civil society and Indigenous Peoples' organizations, have asked the FAO to end what we call its #ToxicAlliance with CropLife.*

We support the Special Rapporteur's recommendation for the FAO Council to consider directing the Director General to rescind this partnership. It is incompatible with the UN's mandate to fulfill human rights to health, adequate food, clean water and environment, and safe working conditions.

In their report presented to the Council at this session, the Special Rapporteurs on human rights and the environment and on toxics and human rights stressed that industrial agriculture is a key source of pollution and undermines a wide range of human rights. We need the FAO to support the transition away from dependence on toxics, and promote people-led agroecology.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Seeds, right to life and farmers' rights, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Michael Fakhri", UN Doc A/HRC/49/43. See para 92: "Considering all this, the Special Rapporteur is alarmed by the recent strategic partnership agreement signed between CropLife International and FAO. CropLife International is an international trade association of agrochemical companies that includes the world's largest agricultural biotechnology and agricultural pesticide businesses. The agreement, signed in October 2020, is professedly aimed at strengthening the relations between organizations to build sustainable food systems and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. While it is important for governments, international organizations, farmers, businesses enterprises and civil society organizations to cooperate and consult in order to find solutions to the challenges posed by highly hazardous pesticides, the Special Rapporteur is concerned that institutionalized agreements between organizations, such as CropLife International, representing and lobbying for the pesticide producers, and United Nations agencies may raise questions of conflict of interest and result in undue corporate influence over international policymaking. The Special Rapporteur expects to engage further on this matter."

See also para 101: "The FAO Council is strongly encouraged to review the agreement with CropLife International with an eye to human rights concerns and to consider directing the Director-General of FAO to rescind the agreement."