



Grassroots Science at PAN

Environmental monitoring in service of policy change goals

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and

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PAN's GRS: Vision & Goals

- “Democratized Science” - **Engages community** members in agenda-setting, defining questions, conducting research, applying results to push for policy change
- **Builds power & public authority**
- **Attracts media attention**
- **Policymakers respond**

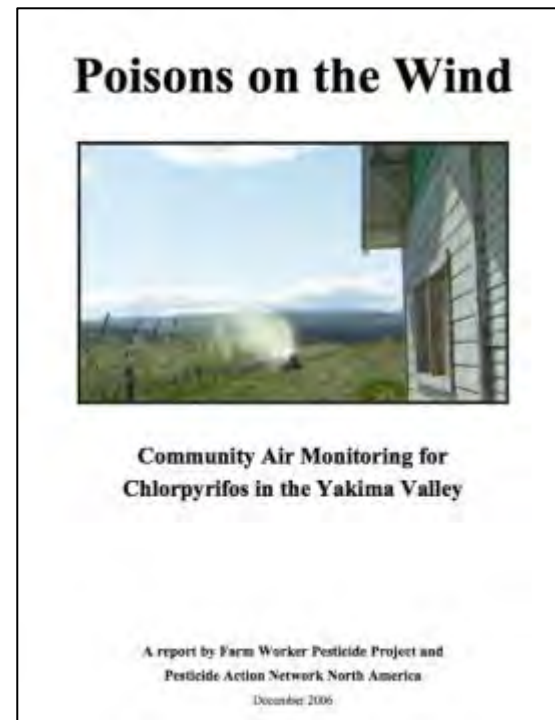
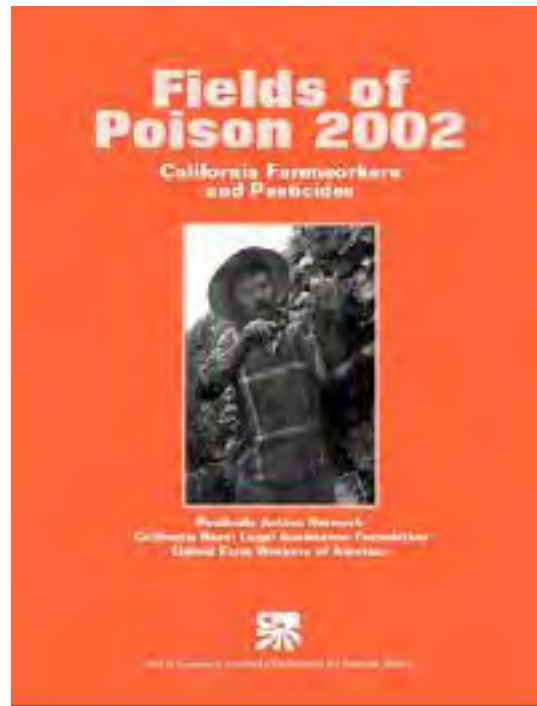
Principal Areas of Work

- Document potential harm



Principal Areas of Work

- Translating science in support of advocacy campaigns



Principal Areas of Work

- Demonstrate *benefit* and viability of safer solutions





PAN's GRS work

- Impacts of PAN's GRS work
- Lessons learned/What works



PAN
Pesticide Action Network International

Key changes (air monitoring)

- Buffer zones in Tulare County, CA
- EPA recognizes volatilization drift; enacts drift mitigation measures
- WA: state monitoring of pesticides
- Improved Worker Protection Standard
- Endosulfan use phased out
- “Got issue solidly on the map”: MN, FL
- MN Dept. Ag. proposed best management practices for chlorothalonil

What works - Technology

- Science/technology comparable to regulatory agencies' protocols
- Engages individuals on health impacts
- Identification of the research question and project design is a shared endeavor
- Easy to implement
- Relatively inexpensive

What works – Part of a larger campaign of local organizations

- Integration into a multi-pronged strategy within a broad, well-organized coalition
- Clear county, state, national policies e.g. buffer zones
- Data collection/reporting involves people in the campaigns, builds experience and leadership

What works – Support/Guidance

- Winnable goals
- Strong organizing, media and communications to complement the science



What works – Surprises

Threatening to Drift Catch can be enough to create change!

What hinders success?

- Industry lobbying — local, state, federal
- Unfriendly conventional media — editorial boards
- Limited NGO funding for long-term projects
- Burn-out — legislative/regulatory change takes a LONG time, often with very small bits of progress

Key Capacities in GRS Projects

- **Scientists:** technical details of project design, training on equipment & sampling, data analysis & interpretation, joint presentation.
- **Organizers:** choosing partners, building relationships, trainings and other events, media work, identifying policy options.
- **Communications:** media relations and strategies, drafting releases & organize press events, develop materials for public, policy-makers, social & conventional media outlets

Take Home Message

- **Community-based science** in tandem with organizing and communications can win policy change
- A project with politically controversial data, requires **long-term commitment**
- Social justice movement to **challenge corporate power** is critical