Pesticides has been one of the main tools used for pest management worldwide. However, suicide with pesticides is a public health problem in many regions of the world. It is estimated that 20 percent of suicides globally are attributed to pesticides, in particular, to highly hazardous pesticides. Current estimates suggest approximately 165,000 pesticides suicides occur per year. It is a particular concern in rural farming communities in Low- and Middle- Income Countries (LMICs) where pesticide management capacity is often weak.

Preventing pesticide suicide has been a priority of FAO and WHO pesticide management program for years. A technical document, ‘Preventing suicide: a resource for pesticide registrars and regulators’ was published in 2019 and the ‘Guidance on use of pesticide regulation to prevent suicide’ was recently developed and published by FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM). This document provides guidance, particularly for LMICs, on best practices in using regulation to prevent suicides with agricultural pesticides.

This webinar will discuss the global impact of pesticides on human health, status and concerns of pesticide suicide, and provide options of preventing suicides by introducing the Guidance on pesticide suicide prevention. Successful story of preventing suicide with pesticides through regulatory action in Sri Lanka will be shared. The webinar will also discuss future steps and give recommendations for future action.

The event will be conducted in English.