

A struggle that still continues

The Affected by Nemagon Asotraexdan Movement, is born from the lawsuit against the company Dole Food Company Inc. in 1994, lawsuit that evidence the irreversible human damage that this company hurted its workers by applying the Nemagon Fumazo pesticide in banana plantations located in the department of Chinandega, in western Nicaragua.

With the birth of this movement, it begins to organize all the people who were affected by this pesticide and in the year 1998 introduced a lawsuit in the courts of Chinandega and Managua, claiming the company compensation for people who suffered these affectations, pesticide product; to have a better quality of life and access to health care to treat their illnesses.

At the moment, people affected by the NEMAGON Fumazone ASOTRAEXDAN are 3031, which not only sue the Dole Food Company Inc. but the SHELL CHEMICAL INC., Dow Chemical CHIQUITA OCCIDENTAL among others, that during the seventies eighties and nineties applied the pesticide in the banana plantations of Chinandega. This was done with the permission and consent of the state and the Government of the Republic, resulting as consequences irreversible health damage of their workers.

Despite the great effort to claim compensation of those other companies, it failed to enter the lawsuits in the courts in Chinandega. There is currently only the lawsuit against Dole Food Company Inc. One reason is because the lawyers of the other groups harmed by these companies, resigned to the demands and the law 364, (SPECIAL LAW TO FILING LAWSUITS PROMOTED BY PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE USE OF PESTICIDES MADE OF DBCP. Adopted on October 5th, 2000, published in the Gaceta Diario Oficial No. 12 of January 17, 2001) thereby affecting the other applicants.

However despite all these situations, one of the greatest achievements of this movement is to stay organized in what constituted as ASOTRAEXDAN. That has allowed them to have a space from which are linked to different organizations, networks, social movements, both at national and international level; by taking part in these spaces nourishes the struggle and allows to count for the solidarity, essential elements in struggle as hard as they are facing.

This lawsuit also extends to the government of Nicaragua by the failure to provide the necessary protection to those affected.

Nowadays those affected and the company Dole Food Company Inc have managed to maintain communication and receive some answers in the talks that have been developed via electronic mail. That aims to reach a possible agreement between the parties.

Receive humanitarian support of all people and organizations who, in different ways, have made feel solidarity: support with medicines, food and especially the spiritual message

when extend their struggle to mass expressions such as marches, sit-ins, assemblies to demand that their claims be heard.

Among the objectives this movement remains to advance firmly in control are:

- Keep the struggle for the benefit of all the people who worked on banana plantations in western Nicaragua, define and achieve the transnational companies stop distributing, marketing and applying chemicals including, firstly, what it calls DBCP dibromo1-2 chloropropane known in Nicaragua as Nemagon Fumazone .
- Keep the complaints both national and internationally, with the aim that the state and the government of Nicaragua assume their responsibility for all damages against those affected and their relatives, for having been the promoter to permit introduction of this product into the country.
- Report and disseminate through radio, television, written and video mass media to all the national and international public opinion, for the damage caused to the health of all affected people .
- With the support of all organizations in Mesoamerica, to make know the damages which have been subjected by the multinational banana producers, until is achieved a fair compensation for all.

This is a struggle that has gone through different stages, and in each of them the courage and need to fight for a fair compensation to victims has been the driving force for progress and the need to preserve the vital space that constitutes the environment and all its components.

However ASOTRAEXDAN are clear that this struggle is not over yet, there is still a long road until these firms, especially Dole Food Company Inc., recognizes that they are responsible for the contamination acts of the entire western area of the country, for the death of thousands of its workers, their families, for future generations, for the harmful and permanent effects in human, animal and plant life, as well as the aquifers and land space.

Secretaryship

Jubileo Sur/Américas