



---

## Mitigating Pesticide Exposure And Promoting Public Health Through Safer Food Production

---

Ishfaq Majeed Malik

Department of Environmental Science

Jammu and Kashmir, India

Corresponding Author - Dr. Ishfaq Majeed Malik

DOI - 10.5281/zenodo.10718991

---

### Abstract:

*In contrast to non-organic (conventional) agricultural systems, which for the most part rely upon pesticides for crop assurance, organic agroecosystems frequently use almost no pesticides. The overall dietary openness and hazard levels as well as the natural impacts of pesticides are altogether adjusted by the remarkable varieties in pesticide use between the two creation systems. Information on pesticide use for all harvests and a subset of cultivation crops are displayed for both organic and non-organic homesteads. There is likewise a show and examination of the general dietary dangers related with new produce versus non-organic feasts. This exploration takes a gander at the verifiable examples of pesticide use in Indian farming from 1995 to 2022 to understand shifts in pesticide types, sums, treated region, and utilization rates. Moreover, it surveys the pesticide application rehearses for Indian tomatoes in 2020, giving specific consideration to the paces of use of dynamic fixings.*

**Keywords:** *Pesticide Use, Organic Agriculture, Conventional Agriculture, Dietary Exposure, Risk Assessment*

---

### Introduction:

The majority of agricultural production sectors utilize pesticides extensively to avoid or minimize pest losses, which can enhance food quality and productivity as well as its aesthetic appeal—a factor that many customers find significant. Additionally, pesticides can sometimes increase food's safety and nutritional value. [1] Pesticides may also provide a wide range of other advantages, many of which are not well recognized by the general public. From this vantage point, pesticides can be viewed as an affordable, labor-saving, and effective tool for managing pests, and they are widely used in the majority of agricultural producing sectors.

Pesticides are broadly utilized and famous, however regardless of this, there are huge wellbeing chances related with them. [2] These dangers could emerge from working in treated fields, blending and applying pesticides, or from buildups on food and drinking water that the overall population polishes off. Various unexpected poisonings have come about because of these tasks, and, surprisingly, routine pesticide use can place ranchers' wellbeing at serious risk in the short and long haul while additionally breaking down the environment. [3] Ranchers in non-industrial countries run a critical gamble of openness from utilizing harmful chemicals that are disallowed or confined in different countries, from applying

pesticides mistakenly, from utilizing severely kept up with or totally unseemly splashing hardware, from utilizing lacking capacity methodology, and from regularly reusing old pesticide holders for putting away food and water. It's a given that pesticide openness is a consistent wellbeing risk, especially in the agricultural work environment. Since most of pesticides are made to kill specific species, they are extremely poisonous ordinarily and convey some gamble of injury. [4] In such manner, the utilization of pesticides has started grave stresses over potential outcomes on human wellbeing as well as consequences for natural life and fragile ecosystems. Uses of pesticides every now and again have the contrary impact of what is expected since they kill gainful species, like regular adversaries of vermin, and raise the chance of bug protection from pesticides creating. [5] Besides, a great deal of end clients are not very much educated on the perils regarding utilizing pesticides, including that it is so vital to apply them accurately and what wellbeing measures to take. Once in a while, even ranchers who are very much aware of the impeding results of pesticides can't integrate this information into their tasks.

#### **Literature Review:**

Carvalho, F. P. (2017) showed the defilement and effect of pesticide buildups in soils, and earthbound and oceanic ecosystems including waterfront marine systems, and their unsafe results on people and nonhuman biota. Albeit persevering organic mixtures have been eliminated and supplanted by additional biodegradable chemicals, defilement by authentic deposits contemporary buildups actually influences on the nature of human food,

water, and climate. Food creation should ascend pair with further developed food quality and a decrease in unsafe toxins, both now and later on. [6] Elective ways to deal with the serious utilization of yield security chemicals are open, like hereditarily adjusted organic entities, organic cultivating, change of dietary propensities, and improvement of food innovations. Agro enterprises need to additionally foster high level practices to safeguard general wellbeing, which requires more wary utilization of agrochemicals through earlier testing, cautious gamble evaluation, and permitting, yet additionally through schooling of ranchers and clients as a general rule, measures for better insurance of ecosystems, and great practices for reasonable improvement of horticulture, fisheries, and hydroponics. Upgraded logical exploration for new forward leaps in food creation and sanitation, as well with respect to ecological conservation, is a fundamental part of this mission. Moreover, overall settlement on fitting farming procedures, including advancement of hereditarily altered organic entities (GMOs) and their delivery for global horticulture, might be critical to guarantee the outcome of safe food creation

Möhring, (2020) name significant issues for the decrease of natural and wellbeing worries from agricultural pesticide utilization and propose a structure for reinforcing current strategy. We give proof to the need of arrangements that cover each member in the food esteem chain. By utilizing a multi-disciplinary methodology, we offer 10 significant activities to accomplish a decrease in pesticide gambles. [7] We accentuate how new innovation and administrative

structures can be embraced and lined up with all gatherings in food esteem chains. At last, we feature significant compromises and areas of pressure with other agricultural strategy objectives and deal a comprehensive system to advancing pesticide approaches

Jepson, (2020) fostered a method to pesticide risk evaluation that depends on studies of pesticide use all through West Africa. We have assembled and sent new gamble appraisal models to introduce, as far as anyone is concerned, the main complete, geologically broad, experimentally based assessment of pesticide risks for this area. Human wellbeing worries from cutaneous openness to grown-ups and youngsters are huge enough in many harvests to require extended times of as long as three weeks when section to fields ought to be restricted. [8] This is unreasonable regarding crop the board, and administrative activity is expected to eliminate these chemicals from the commercial center. Furthermore, we found that there were various risks to both earthbound and amphibian untamed life all through the area. These discoveries infer that pesticides might be a serious danger to the biodiversity of the Senegal and Niger Stream Basins assuming they were applied to all similar inundated borders. To help administrative headways as well as neighborhood risk the board and correspondence, our assessments are presented at the provincial, public, and town levels. A frail starting point for the reception of new yield advances or the maintainable strengthening of agricultural creation is given by West African horticulture without even a trace of headways in pesticide risk the executives,

which are supported by rancher training through cooperation.

Sarkar (2021) offered a thorough outline of the essential examples relating to pesticide utilization in non-industrial countries and their impacts on food security and human wellbeing. Subtleties are given with respect to the hardships in dealing with these perilous materials and how much pesticides that are prohibited in the European Association (EU) are shipped to different countries. The examination assesses the explanations behind these commodities' diligence as need might arise for more grounded guidelines. [9] As per proclamations made by the UN, proposals plan to upgrade everybody's admittance to healthy food, including people in the future. The proposals incorporate working with the Rotterdam Show to upgrade limit building programs and the utilization of the information base kept up with by the Show; elevating non-industrial nation joint effort to sustain pesticide risk guideline; examining ways of working on the straightforwardness and availability of administrative gamble information; reinforcing exploration and schooling in regards to pesticide substitutes; stopping all commodities of harvest security items disallowed in the EU; allowing the product of seriously confined pesticides just in situations where they are directed fittingly and applied accurately in the bringing in country; and supporting the reassessment of pesticide enrollments in emerging countries to follow the FAO/WHO Set of principles.

F. P. Carvalho (2006) Agrochemicals were first presented a long while back determined to increment agricultural yields and defending harvests from bugs. Since bugs have become

familiar with chemicals and have fostered a resistance to them, new and expanded portions of pesticides are utilized year to safeguard crops, which raises the cost of delivering food and makes accidental side impacts. Hereditarily altered living beings (GMOs) impervious to nuisances are one strategy that may ultimately stop the gigantic spread of agrochemicals in agricultural fields. Regardless of whether organic, sans chemical agribusiness is turning out to be increasingly famous, fulfilling the need for huge scope food production is as yet incapable. [10] Pesticides and other agrochemicals are still frequently utilized, especially in tropical and South American areas. Modest, naturally relentless chemicals like DDT, HCH, and lindane are still broadly utilized in unfortunate countries regardless of being prohibited in industrialized countries for use in horticulture. Subsequently, these chemicals' waiting buildups debase food and spread all through the biological system. Composed activities are expected to support food creation while further developing sanitation and quality and decreasing how much tenacious pesticide buildup in the climate.

### **Research Methodology:**

#### **1. Research Design:**

In order to examine historical data on pesticide usage in US agriculture from 1995 to 2022 and pesticide use on conventional tomatoes in India in 2020, the research used a retrospective observational design. [11] The design made it possible to look at patterns and trends in the application of pesticides over time and among various pesticide kinds.

#### **Data Collection:**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National

Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) provided agricultural reports and periodic pesticide use reports, which were the main sources of data for the Indian pesticide use. Additional public databases were also consulted. The hectares of cropland treated, average application rates per hectare, and the kilograms of active ingredient (AI) used for herbicides, insecticides, Bt toxins, seed treatments, fungicides, fumigants, and other pesticide kinds were all reported by these sources. [12] Data on AI utilized, hectares treated, % of planted hectares treated, and application rates for pesticide usage on traditional tomatoes in India in 2020 were gathered from agricultural papers and publications that were readily available.

#### **Ethical Consideration:**

The research collected and analyzed data in accordance with ethical standards. There were no human or animal volunteers in the study; all data came from publically accessible sources. The study's main objective was to analyze national and crop-specific aggregated pesticide use data while protecting the privacy and identity of individuals farmers or agricultural organizations.

#### **Statistical Analysis:**

To determine the total kilograms of AI used, the number of hectares treated, the percentage of planted hectares treated, and the average application rates for each pesticide type and year, the collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistical methods.

To assess the intensity of pesticide usage across various pesticide types and geographical regions, as well as to discover patterns in pesticide use over time, statistical studies were conducted. The purpose of the analysis was to provide light on the dynamics of pesticide usage in

agriculture and identify possible areas for additional study or legislative action.

### Data Analysis:

#### 1. Extent of Pesticide Application in Conventional Crop Farming:

There is not a single public source in the US that provides accurate, comprehensive, and current information on pesticide use. The USDA does not assess every crop's acreage or the usage of pesticides on all crops, only a large number of them. [13] Every few months, the EPA publishes an agrichemical use

report that includes detailed information on the overall amount of pesticides used on farms and ranches—apart from oils and sulfur. The numbers for 2022 are from the most recent EPA report.

Table 1 estimates the total amount of pesticides used in US agriculture from 1995 to 2022 based on data from the EPA and USDA. The EPA's periodic pesticide use reports provide the majority of the data for the years 1995 to 2022. Total agricultural use estimates for 2022 come from NASS reports.

**Table 1: Estimated Application of Pesticides (Million Kilograms Active Ingredient) in US Agriculture**

	1995	2004	2015	2022
Herbicides/PGR	250	200	300	300
Insecticides	44	35	16	25
Bt toxins	0	6	63	90
Seed Treatments	<1	2	1	3
Total Insecticides	45	43	80	118
Fungicides	32	18	23	21
Seed treatments	<1	<1	2	2
Total Fungicides	32	19	25	23
Fumigants	39	44	48	43
Other	2	6	8	10
Sulfur/lime, oils, kaolin clay	28	80	52	60
	472	453	618	695
Cropland Hectares (million)	128	128	128	128
Avg. Kilograms Pesticides per Hectare	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0

Table 1 lists the approximate kilos of pesticides used in US agriculture between 1995 and 2022, categorized by year and type of pesticide. According to the data, there were variations in certain pesticide categories over time, but overall pesticide application climbed from 472 million kilos in 1995 to 695 million kilograms in 2022. The largest percentage of pesticide use has always been accounted

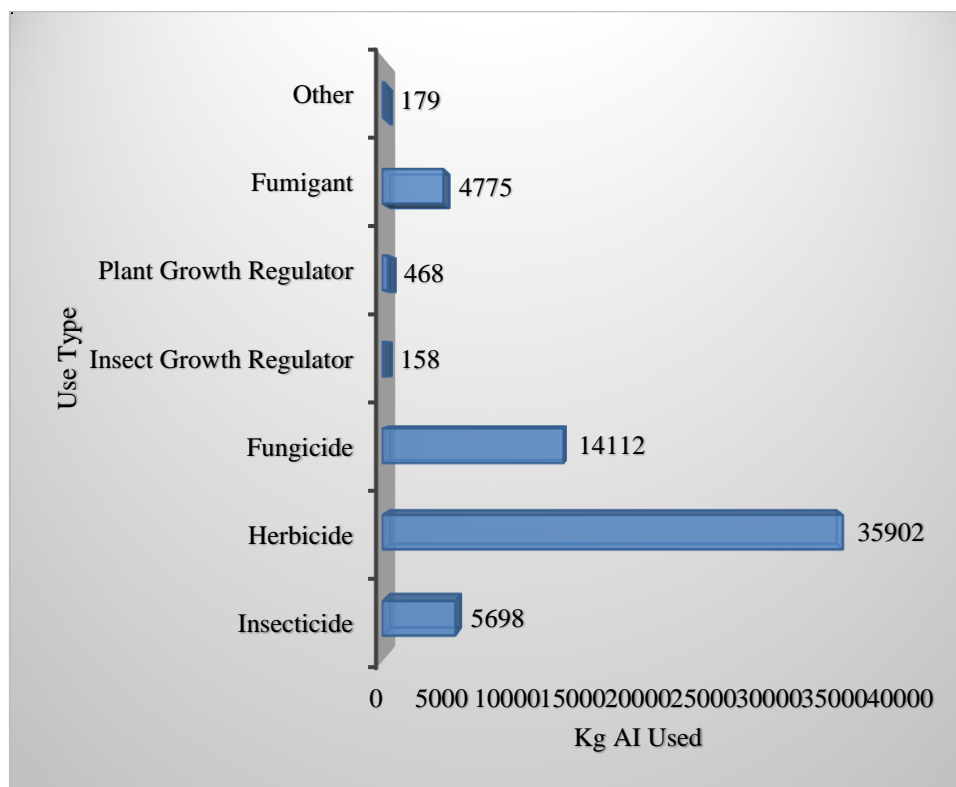
for by herbicides and plant growth regulators (PGR), with a minor increase from 250 million kilograms in 1995 to 300 million kilograms in 2015 and 2022. The amount of insecticide used fell from 45 million kg in 1995 to 25 million kg in 2022, however the amount of Bt toxins used to control insects increased significantly, from 0 million kg in 1995 to 90 million kg in 2022. Using fungicides

stayed largely constant between 1995 and 2022, with some variations. Estimates for farmland hectares are also included in the report; these have stayed consistent

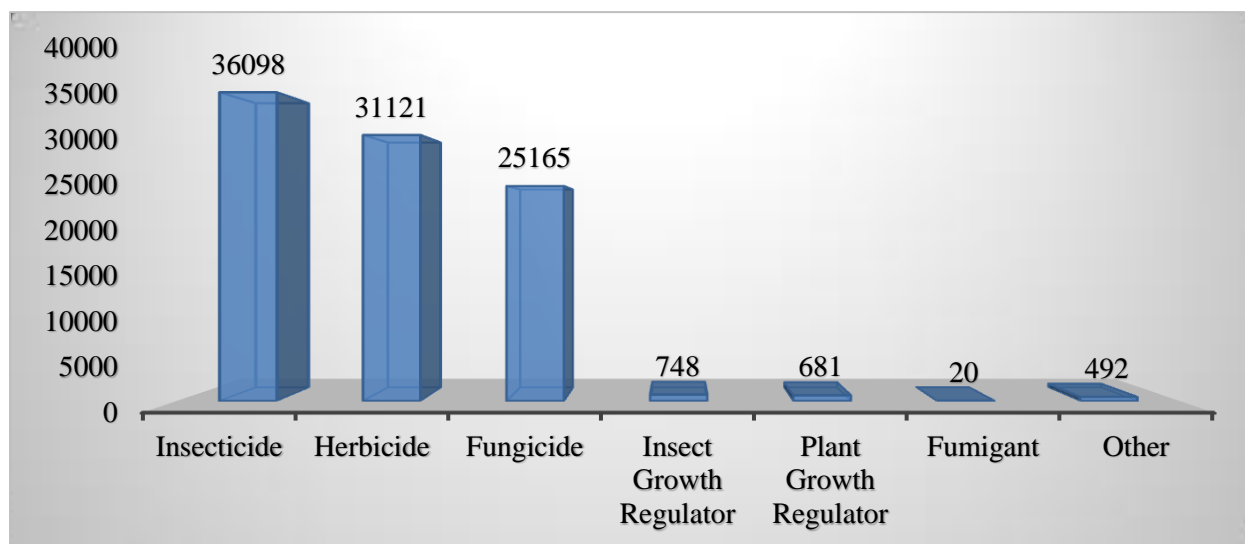
throughout time at 128 million hectares, meaning that 3.0 kilos of pesticides are applied per hectare on average each year.

**Table 2: Pesticide Use on Conventional Tomatoes in India in 2020**

Type	kg AI Used	ha Treated	Percent of Planted ha Treated	Ave Rate (kg/ha Treated)	Application Rate (kg/ha Planted)
Insecticide	5698	36098	278%	0.14	0.44
Herbicide	35902	31121	239%	1.14	2.77
Fungicide	14112	25165	201%	0.61	1.06
Insect Growth Regulator	158	748	7%	0.18	0.007
Plant Growth Regulator	468	681	6%	0.68	0.05
Fumigant	4775	20	0.20%	264.97	0.4
Other	179	492	5%	0.4	0.012
Total	61292	94325	736%	268.12	4.73



**Figure 1: Kg AI used for Different use type**



**Figure 2:** ha Treated for different use type

The use of pesticides on conventional tomatoes in India in 2020 is summarized in Table 4, which also includes information on the amount of active ingredient (AI) used in kilograms, the number of hectares treated, the percentage of planted hectares treated, the average application rates per treated hectare, and the application rates per planted hectare for various pesticide types. 94,325 hectares of conventional tomato crops were treated with 61,292 kg of AI, according to the statistics. It's interesting to note that for some categories, the percentage of planted hectares treated surpasses 100%, suggesting that some regions may have received multiple treatments. With 5,698 kg used, insecticides accounted for the largest amount of AI, closely followed by fungicides (14,112 kg) and herbicides (35,902 kg). The average treatment rates per treated hectare were 1.14 kg, 0.61 kg, and 0.14 kg for herbicides and insecticides, respectively, whereas the average application rates per planted hectare were 2.77 kg, 1.06 kg, and 0.44 kg for herbicides and insecticides.

### Conclusion:

Changes to the agricultural examination scene, monetary streams, market predominance, and political clout will presumably be similarly essentially as trying as the cutting edge dependence on pesticides. [14] Organic ranchers will continue to refine substitute strategies to further develop soil wellbeing and direct complex, naturally shifted systems in the meantime. The possibility of rancher driven changes, new speculations, administrative changes, and monetary needs might increment considering the danger presented by environmental change, as well as the developing interest in regenerative farming and horticulture's part in catching carbon in soil. To grasp varieties in pesticide types, sums, treated region, and application rates, this study sees past patterns in pesticide utilization in Indian farming. [15] Moreover, it surveys the pesticide application rehearses for Indian tomatoes in 2020, giving specific consideration to the paces of utilization of dynamic fixings.

**References:**

1. Boxall, R. A. (2001). Post-harvest losses to insects—a world overview. *International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation*, 48, 137–152.
2. Cooper, J., & Dobson, H. (2007). The benefits of pesticides to mankind and the environment. *Crop Protection*, 26, 1337–1348.
3. Damalas, C. A. (2009). Understanding benefits and risks of pesticide use. *Scientific Research and Essays*, 4, 945–949.
4. Maroni, M., Fanetti, A. C., & Metruccio, F. (2006). Risk assessment and management of occupational exposure to pesticides in agriculture. *Medicina del Lavoro*, 97, 430–437.
5. Narayanasamy, P. (2006). *Postharvest pathogens and disease management*. John Wiley & Sons.
6. Carvalho, F. P. (2006). Agriculture, pesticides, food security and food safety. *Environmental science & policy*, 9(7-8), 685-692
7. Möhring, N., Ingold, K., Kudsk, P., Martin-Laurent, F., Niggli, U., Siegrist, M., & Finger, R. (2020). Pathways for advancing pesticide policies. *Nature food*, 1(9), 535-540.
8. Jepson, P. C., Murray, K., Bach, O., Bonilla, M. A., & Neumeister, L. (2020). Selection of pesticides to reduce human and environmental health risks: a global guideline and minimum pesticides list. *The Lancet Planetary Health*, 4(2), e56-e63.
9. Sarkar, S., Gil, J. D. B., Keeley, J., & Jansen, K. (2021). The use of pesticides in developing countries and their impact on health and the right to food. *European Union*.
10. Carvalho, F. P. (2017). Pesticides, environment, and food safety. *Food and energy security*, 6(2), 48-60.
11. Oerke, E. C., & Dehne, H. W. (2004). Safeguarding production-losses in major crops and the role of crop protection. *Crop Protection*, 23, 275–285.
12. Pimentel, D. (2005). Environmental and economic costs of the application of pesticides primarily in the United States. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 7, 229–252.
13. Soares, W. L., & Porto, M. F. D. (2009). Estimating the social cost of pesticide use: An assessment from acute poisoning in Brazil. *Ecological Economics*, 68, 2721–2728.
14. Van der Werf, H. M. G. (1996). Assessing the impact of pesticides on the environment. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*, 60, 81–96.
15. Wilson, C., & Tisdell, C. (2001). Why farmers continue to use pesticides despite environmental, health and sustainability costs. *Ecological Economics*, 39, 449–462.