

PESTICIDE USE AND ITS EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN NEPAL

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Pesticides in Nepal are generally applied to control or kill well-targeted harmful living organisms, such as insects, organisms causing diseases, weeds on agricultural crops, ectoparasites of livestock, and insect vectors of human diseases, but they are more or less poisonous and hazardous to fresh water, groundwater, lakes, and ponds, threatening human health, and terrestrial as well as aquatic life. Pesticides have also been causing environmental degradation and poverty.

The sale of pesticides in the country through the Agricultural Input Corporation from 1994 to 1995 was about 781MT WP dust and 1,37,314 litres of liquid. Consumption of chemical pesticides in agriculture is increasing, and amounted to 54.3gm/ha in 1989. The import of agriculture-related pesticides in 1989 was worth Rs 42.394 million. In 1994, the estimated amount of DDT and Malathion used by the Ministry of Health was about 100MT and 270MT respectively.

Farmers in Nepal have also started using indigenous plant pesticides for the control of stored grain pests such as *Dampate* (*Thalictrum foliolosum* DC.), *Titepati* (*Artemisa vulgaris* L.), *Asuro* (*Adhatoda vasica* Nees), *Pire* (*Polygonum hydropiper* (L.) Spach), *Bakaino* (*Melia azedarach* L.), *Shimali* (*Vitex negundo* L.) *Neem* (*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss).

His Majesty's Government of Nepal has recently passed the Pesticides Act-2048 B.S. (1991) and Pesticide Regulation - 2050 B.S. (1993). The regulation has been made effective since July 16, 1994.

