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DISASTROUS EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES

Asif Iqbal[1], Muhammad Talha Bajwa[1]*, Waleed Zulnorain[1], Abdullah Jan[1]

1. Riphah International University, Lahore, Pakistan.

*Corresponding author: **mtalhag603@gmail.com**

ABSTRACT

The utilization of pesticides has led to devastating outcomes for both the environment and human well-being. This article delves into the diverse adverse effects of pesticides, underscoring their indiscriminate characteristics that negatively affect not only pests but also beneficial organisms. The disruption of the ecological balance is evident in the diminishing populations of vital pollinators like bees and the pollution of water sources and soil. Moreover, the imminent health hazards for humans arising from food residues and exposure underscore the pressing necessity for the adoption of sustainable and conscientious agricultural practices.

Introduction:

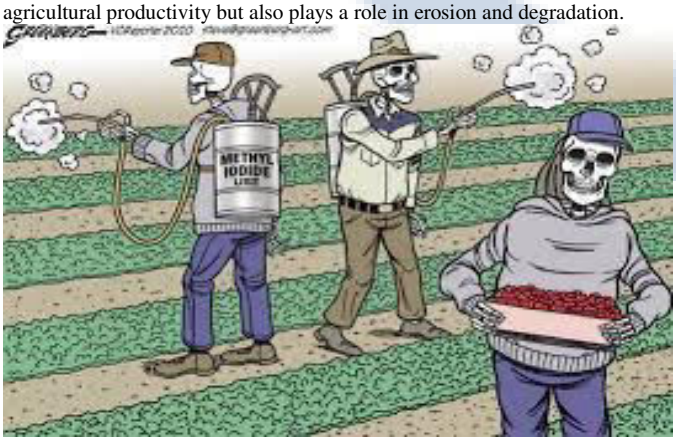
This introduction aims to shed light on the darker side of pesticide usage, exploring the collateral damage to the environment and its inhabitants. The widespread application of pesticides in agriculture, aimed at safeguarding crops from pests, has created a paradoxical situation. (1)The advantages they bring are frequently counterbalanced by harmful effects on the environment and human health. While these chemicals have certainly played a role in boosting agricultural productivity, the unrestrained utilization raises substantial concerns regarding the lasting impact on ecosystems and the welfare of both wildlife and humans.

Pesticides and humans

Pesticides mainly have chronic effects on humans. Slow and continuous exposure to pesticides can cause neurological defects, and toxic effects on the immune system, which lead to compromised immunity, it can also lead to cancer and it also disturb the endocrine system. The presence of pesticide residues in food poses a significant threat to human health. Consumers unknowingly ingest these chemicals when consuming conventionally grown produce (2). Certain pesticides can interfere with the endocrine system, possibly resulting in developmental and reproductive complications. Pregnant women and young children are especially susceptible, and exposure to specific pesticides during crucial developmental phases might result in enduring consequences.

Pesticides and ecosystem

Pesticides that are used to kill pest have more negative effects on our ecosystem as compared to the desired response. Components of ecosystem are vastly effected by pesticides. Pesticides are polluting every source of water. Pesticides have the potential to seep into the soil and enter water bodies, leading to the contamination of water supplies. This contamination poses significant consequences for aquatic ecosystems, impacting fish and other aquatic organisms. The run off from agricultural fields transports pesticides into rivers and lakes, disturbing the fragile equilibrium of aquatic ecosystems. Many pesticides contaminates the soil and have effects for decades. Extended use of pesticides adversely impacts the health of the soil. These substances have the potential to eliminate crucial soil microorganisms, resulting in a decline in soil fertility. The reduction in soil fertility not only hampers agricultural productivity but also plays a role in erosion and degradation.



Loss of biodiversity

Pesticides, celebrated as the protectors of modern agriculture, have unquestionably played a crucial role in shielding crops from destructive pests. Nevertheless, their widespread application has not been without substantial repercussions. The unintended and calamitous effects of pesticides have echoed through ecosystems, posing threats to biodiversity, human health, and the overall sustainability of agricultural practices. This introduction aims to illuminate the adverse aspects of pesticide use, examining the collateral damage inflicted on the environment and its inhabitants. From the decline of essential pollinators to the contamination of vital resources, the consequences of extensive pesticide application prompt critical questions about the enduring impact of our reliance on these chemical solutions. As we navigate the intricate network of detrimental outcomes, it becomes imperative to reevaluate our approach to pest control and foster a more balanced and sustainable coexistence with nature.

Pesticides and plants

While pesticides are designed to protect plants from pests and diseases, they can have several harmful effects on plants. As pesticides have harmful effects on soil, indirectly have adverse effects on plants also. Pesticides can kill bees and are strongly implicated in pollinator decline. 80 percent of flowering plants are pollinated by bees (3).

Threatening reports on hazardous effects of pesticides

Endosulfan (it is a chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticide of cyclodine subgroup which acts as a contact poison) is a hazardous insecticide. In the Indian state of Kerala, it has been used for above 20 years on cashew plantations, especially in the northern parts of Kerala. The land was unsuitable for aerial spraying because of relatively high rainfall and its geological structure. This caused diseases and eventually death of many people living in that region. In areas where aerial spraying was done lot of children who were exposed were living martyrs (4).

Effects aquatic life

A major impact has been the widespread mortality of fish and marine invertebrates due to the contamination of aquatic systems by pesticides (5). High concentrations of pesticides in soils and factory deposits in water bodies cause harmful effects on aquatic life.

Conclusion

The extensive application of pesticides, although addressing immediate agricultural issues, imposes a substantial toll on the environment and human well-being. Immediate measures are crucial to rectify regulatory shortcomings, endorse sustainable agricultural methods, and advance research and development for alternative pest management strategies. As consumers, endorsing organic farming and championing prudent pesticide usage can play a role in fostering a healthier and more sustainable future for both ecosystems and humanity.

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