



# Soy Production in Brazil and Child Cancer Deaths

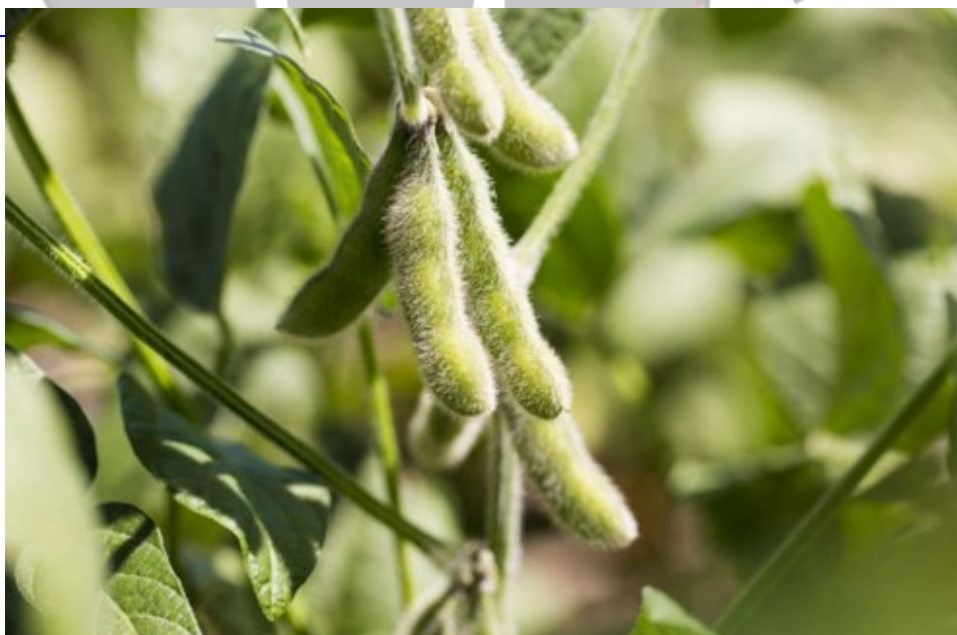
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## Why in News?

A recent study has identified a connection between the significant increase in soy/soyabean production in **Brazil's Amazon and Cerrado regions** over the past two decades and a rise in pediatric cancer-related deaths. The expansion of soy farming in these areas has been accompanied by a substantial increase in pesticide usage.

## What are the Key Highlights of the Study?

- **Correlation Between Soy Production and Pediatric Cancer Deaths:**
  - The study conducted revealed a statistically significant correlation between the increase in soy production and deaths from **Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) in children** from 2008 to 2019.
- **Pesticide Exposure through Water Supply:**
  - The study suggested that pesticide exposure likely occurred through water supply penetration. In essence, a 10% increase in the municipal area dedicated to soy farming raised the likelihood of a child under five dying from ALL by 1.3% and by 1.6% for children under ten.
- **Policy Recommendations:**
  - The research highlighted a strong and persistent relationship between the expansion of **high-intensity agriculture in the region and adverse human health outcomes.**
    - However, access to high-quality healthcare systems could mitigate these links, especially for treatable conditions like ALL.



## What is ALL?

- ALL, also known as **acute lymphocytic leukemia**, is a type of cancer that affects the blood and bone marrow. It is characterized by the rapid and uncontrolled growth of immature white blood cells called **lymphoblasts**. These **abnormal cells crowd out normal white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets, leading to various health problems.**
- This type of leukemia is most commonly diagnosed in children, but it can affect adults as well.
- ALL is a highly treatable cancer conditional on timely and high-quality care.

## Soyabean Crop

- Soyabean is a Kharif crop in India.
- Soybean (Glycine max) is the world's most important seed legumes which contributes **25% to the global edible oil**, about two third of the world protein concentrate for livestock feeding and is a **valuable ingredient in formulated feeds for poultry and fish.**
- It is predominantly grown as rainfed crop in Vertisols and associated soils with an average crop season rainfall of 900 mm.
- **Major Producing States in India:** Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

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