



Endosulfan in Kerala

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The representatives of the victims of endosulfan poisoning in **Kasaragod district of Kerala** called off sit-in in front of the state Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram.

What is EndoSulfan?

Endosulfan is an **organochlorine insecticide** which was first introduced in the 1950s and is commonly known by its **trade name Thiodan**.

Use of Endosulfan

Sprayed on crops like **cotton, cashew, fruits, tea, paddy, tobacco etc.** for control of pests such as whiteflies, aphids, beetles, worms etc.

Impact of Endosulfan

- Environment
 - Endosulfan in the environment **gets accumulated in food chains** leading to higher doses causing problems.
 - If Endosulfan is **released to water**, it is expected to absorb to the sediment and may **bioconcentrate in aquatic organisms**.
- Humans And Animals

The endosulfan ingestion results in **diseases ranging from physical deformities, cancer, birth disorders** and **damage to the brain and nervous system**.

Ban on Endosulfan

- The **Supreme Court in India has banned the manufacture, sale, use, and export of endosulfan throughout the country**, citing its harmful health effects in **2015**.
- Endosulfan is listed under both **Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent** and the **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**.

Rotterdam convention 1998

- The convention aims to **promote cooperation and responsibility** sharing measures amongst different countries dealing with trade in hazardous chemicals and pesticides.
- PIC, Prior Informed Consent is the main feature of the convention and is **legally binding on the party members**.
- PIC facilitates information exchange about nature and trade-related information amongst the party members.
- The Convention creates obligations for the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.

Stockholm convention 2001

- The convention aims to reduce the concentration of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) which are chemical substances that not only remain in the atmosphere for longer periods but also possess the ability to bio-accumulate.
- The convention listed 12 POPs as **'dirty dozen'**.