

**10.6 million tons of food production loss expected in the current year due to spurious/counterfeit pesticides - FICCI Study**

***Counterfeit pesticides will reach level of 40% by value by 2019 if steps not taken urgently***

**Fake pesticides use may jeopardize India's status as leading food grains, fruits & vegetable exporter**

**NEW DELHI, 23 September 2015.** A FICCI 'Study on Sub-standard, Spurious/Counterfeit Pesticides in India' was released here today by Dr. J S Sandhu, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and Agriculture Commissioner to Government of India, at a discussion organised by FICCI in association with Tata Strategic Management Group (TSMG) Delhi on the theme 'Menace of Spurious/Counterfeit Pesticides in India'.

With 1.2 billion plus population, India requires a robust, modernized agriculture sector to ensure the food security for its population. The scope for further increasing cultivable land is limited. In order to meet the food grain requirements of the nation, the agricultural productivity and its growth needs to be sustained and further improved. This indicates the important role of the pesticides/agrochemicals industry in facilitating pre and post-harvest management.

India has fairly well developed agro- chemicals industry, with a size of about Rs. 25000 crores, which not only caters to the domestic demand, but also undertakes substantial exports. Judicious usage of pesticides/agrochemicals, is very important for the sustained growth of Indian agriculture and economy.

India faces a challenge of non-genuine pesticides in the market, which can be counterfeit, spurious, adulterated or sub-standard. It is estimated that they constitute about 30% of the total market and incidence is increasing at a dangerous pace. Apart from crop loss and damage to soil fertility, use of non-genuine products leads to loss of revenue to farmers, genuine industry and the government.

The study assesses the extent of the problem and suggests ways to counter the menace. It indicates that:

- ❖ Incidence of spurious/counterfeit pesticides sector is to the extent of 25% by value and 30% by volume in the country
- ❖ The problem is growing @ 20% per year and if not addressed will reach level of 40% by value by 2019
- ❖ It also reveals that UP, MP, AP, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Haryana, Maharashtra, Karnataka are some of the worst effected states.

It was also explained that the impact of non-genuine/illegal pesticides can be as follows:

- ❖ Overall yield for farmers across the country in case of 25% non-genuine / illegal products prevailing can reduce by 4%. This implies 10.6 million tons of food production loss in the current year.
- ❖ Irreversible damage to environment by use of unmonitored toxic ingredients in non-genuine / illegal products due to degradation of soil through unknown illegal chemicals, thereby rendering it useless for cultivation of succeeding crops; ground and surface water contamination caused by unknown toxic chemicals and heavy metals and imbalance of natural flora and fauna and negative health impacts on humans and animals
- ❖ India's position as one of the leading food grain exporter in the world is fully at stake as the possibility of rumors or sabotage by other countries or rejection of Indian exports food items from developed importing countries would increase. In such a scenario, export of 29 million tons of food grains worth INR 1, 578 Billion8 (USD 26 Billion) is at stake
- ❖ Apart from Food grains, export of ~ 3 million tons of fruits and vegetables worth INR 88 Billion (USD 1.43 Billion) is also at stake due to non-genuine / illegal pesticides.

**Link: <http://ficci.com/spdocument/20641/Pesticides-Report.pdf>**

**FICCI MEDIA DIVISION**