

# PESTICIDES IN MY FOOD? NO, THANK YOU!

An apple a day keeps good health away. Yes, you read right! The government's own reports suggest that **banned pesticides like Chlordane, Heptachlor and DDT, are present in our food.** Chlordane, for instance, is associated with severe damage to the central nervous system and is known to

adversely affect liver, lungs, kidney and the eyes! Further, **pesticides not meant for use on particular crops are repeatedly showing up as residues in those very foods.**

**As per law**, monocrotophos, known for its 'acute' (immediate) as well as 'chronic' (long term) adverse health effects, and one of the most-used pesticides in India, is not allowed to be used on vegetables. However, monocrotophos has been repeatedly found in vegetables tested for toxic residues by different agencies in India. **Even the pesticides/toxins allowed in agriculture do end up as residues in our food, and well above the legal permissible limits.** These are just a few examples of how our food, water and soils in India are getting contaminated by chemical pesticides.

Just think of all the effort you put in to ensure that you pick fresh fruits and vegetables from the supermarket shelves or from your local vendor, and diligently wash it, cut it, cook it and feed your loved ones and yourself... only to let the toxic trail of chemicals trickle into your system. Fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry and milk are all laced with high levels of pesticide residue — numerous times, above the maximum residue limits (MRL) set by Indian law. Not just this, our drinking water is also contaminated! Worse, even mother's milk is laden with poison!!



Issued by Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA),  
in public interest,  
for  
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**And no one  
is monitoring or taking any  
deterrent action  
to stop this  
poisoning of the nation!**

## THE GOVERNMENT'S NOT WATCHING

It is evident that the origin of the problem is in our farms. Here, the Indian Government continues to support the use of these deadly chemicals, despite being cognizant of these problems and despite having alternatives to chemical pesticides. This in turn keeps the pesticide industry prosperous and helps them flourish at the cost of the citizens' health. To add insult to injury now the government has begun promoting Genetic Modification of crops (food) as a solution, which is hazardous and worse, irreversible. Instead the government should be providing preferential support to the safer alternatives whereas there is not even a level playing field being created for them at this point of time and our anna dataas, the farmers, are left with no choices. Meanwhile they are themselves reeling under a severe crisis due to rising costs of cultivation, indebtedness, health problems due to exposure to pesticides and other related issues.

## YET, THERE IS SOME GOOD NEWS!

The good news is that world-over, there is growing research and experiential evidence about the viability and benefits of safer alternatives for farming. For instance, in Andhra Pradesh, millions of farmers have shifted to farming without the use of chemical pesticides, a practice they called Non-Pesticidal Management (NPM). Reports demonstrate that farmers find this farming more profitable! If there are no pesticides used in food production, there would be no pesticide residues in our food!

Since the Indian Government shows little inclination to wean off the nasties, and prefers to be supportive of the pesticides industry, **we, the consumers have to come together and demand safe food. As citizens, we have a right to safe food.**

## ALL OF US CAN BECOME AGENTS OF CHANGE TO IMPROVE THIS SITUATION!

As citizens who are being subjected to such poisoning, we can demand that the Government put the safety of its people and the environment ahead of the profits of companies producing such dangerous chemicals and that the Government take responsibility and provide us access to safe food.

**We can demand that the Government:**

- **Promote and encourage organic/ecological/natural farming, without pesticides and Genetically Modified Organisms.**
- **Ensure access to organic food (also specifically for pregnant/lactating mothers & children).**
- **Ban pesticides, which have been banned in other countries.**

**LOG ON TO**

**[www.indiaforsafefood.in](http://www.indiaforsafefood.in) and sign the petition.**

**We'll take it to the Agriculture Minister for you.**

**The website also has information on what else you can do to get involved and make change happen.**

**Or just GIVE A MISSED CALL on**

**022 3301 0031**

**and we'll convey your message**

**SAY NO TO TOXIC FOOD!**

**SAFE FOOD – YOUR RIGHT! NO CHEMICALS, NO GM!**