

MOST IMMEDIATE

अपर सचिव

भारत सरकार

कृषि मंत्रालय

(कृषि एवं सहकारिता विभाग)

कर्म भवन, नई दिल्ली-110114



सत्यमेव जयते

Anup Kumar Thakur
Additional Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
(Department of Agriculture
& Cooperation)
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

Tel: 2338383

Dated 27th April, 2011

Dear

As you may be aware, use of the pesticide 'Endosulfan' has been in public debate recent years in the context of reported health problems in Kasargod district in Kerala, where aerial spraying of Endosulfan on cashew plantations was undertaken.

2. Endosulfan is a broad spectrum insecticide and controls many important chewing and sucking pests in various crops. Three formulations of Endosulfan are registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968. Endosulfan is one of the largest used insecticides in India with a consumption of 3,333 MT reported during 2009-10.

3. Use of Endosulfan has been reviewed by several committees in the past including an Expert Group constituted in 2003 chaired by Dr. O.P. Dubey, Assistant Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The Expert Group collected views on use of Endosulfan and associated health problems from the State Agricultural Universities (State-wise position annexed). The Central Government later constituted another committee in 2004 under the chairmanship of Dr. C.D. Mayee, the then Agriculture Commissioner, to examine previous reports and to make recommendations regarding future use of Endosulfan. The Committee concluded that use of Endosulfan is not clearly linked to the alleged health problems in Kasargod district of Kerala. However, it recommended that its use may be kept on hold in Kerala considering the apprehensions in the minds of the public in Kerala. Accordingly, its use has been kept on hold in Kerala since 2006.

4. Recently, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of the Director General, ICMR to examine the issue. Even so, several representations demanding both country-wide as well as supporting its continued use are being received.

5. It is in this background that we seek the considered view of the State Government on Endosulfan based on the State's experience with its use.

6. It is requested that views of the State Government on the matter may be made available at the earliest.

Yours sincerely

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(Anup Kumar Thakur)

Secretary (Agriculture)

(All States/UTs except Karnataka and Kerala) & (9/4/11)