



Endosulfan

Why in News?

The Supreme Court has slammed the Kerala government for doing “virtually nothing” for Endosulfan pesticide exposure victims.

- The court said the **State’s inaction was “appalling” and amounted to a breach of the apex court’s 2017 judgment**, which had ordered the State to pay Rs 5 lakh each to the victims in three months.
- Five years since the judgment, the court has realised that **only eight out of 3,704 victims have been paid compensation.**
- The SC has banned the **manufacture, sale, use, and export of endosulfan throughout the country**, citing its harmful health effects in 2015.

What is Endosulfan?

- Endosulfan is an **organochlorine insecticide** which was first introduced in the 1950s and is commonly known by its trade name **Thiodan.**
- It is linked to **a slew of grave medical conditions, such as neurotoxicity, physical deformities, poisoning and more.**
- It is sprayed on crops like **cotton, cashew, fruits, tea, paddy, tobacco etc. for control of pests** such as whiteflies, aphids, beetles, worms etc.
- Endosulfan is listed under both the [Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent](#) and the [Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.](#)

What are the Impacts 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.

//

▶ APRIL 29, 2011

- ☠ Global consensus reached on adding endosulfan to list of banned substances and phasing it out as an agrichemical
- ☠ Use of endosulfan banned by Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- ☠ Under pressure from pesticide firms, India sought remission on the ban for 10 years

POISON

WHAT IS ENDOSULFAN ?

It is a widely-banned pesticide with hazardous effects on human genetic and endocrine systems.

▶ MAY 13, 2011

Supreme Court of India issues temporary ban on production, storage and sale of endosulfan

NEUROTOXIC

"Endosulfan blocks the inhibitory receptors of the CNS, disrupts the ionic channels and destroys the integrity of the nerve cells. – report of fact-finding mission"

KASARGOD DISASTER

From the mid-70s, Kerala villages used aerial spraying of endosulfan on 4,600-ha. cashew nut plantation. Locals reportedly experienced illnesses, palsies and deformities

USES

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

What is the 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.

What is 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'.

[Source: TH](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/endosulfan-2>

