



Crop Care Federation of India

Beware of Foreign-Funded Environmental NGOs.

They are paid to malign Indian agriculture



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Like Indian culture, agriculture in India is highly diverse. India's ecological diversity, crop diversity and diet diversity are interconnected with each other and together, highly sustainable. India is a multiproduct agricultural powerhouse. No other country grows and utilises as many food and non-food crops as India.

Contrary to the public perception, it is in the agricultural sector, India holds a high global rank. India ranks 2nd in agricultural production with \$ 459 bn. India's agricultural production is now far above that of the EU \$ 253 bn and the USA's \$ 179 bn, which once supported us with food grain supplies to tide over huge shortage in 1960s.

India ranks first in milk production, second in production of fruits and vegetables, third in fish and egg production. India also is the worlds largest producer of cotton, spices and second largest in rice and wheat production.

The foreign funded activist environmental NGOs would not talk about the sunny side of Indian agriculture. Over the years, they have so aggressively articulated scary stories and negative narratives about Indian agriculture in the public domain that it has got fixed firmly in the minds of the people.

"Indian farmers use excessive agrochemicals" is one such disinformation campaign by these NGOs. Their agenda is to adversely affect the export competitiveness of Indian agricultural commodities by scare mongering.

The truth is just the opposite.

India ranks 2nd in the world in agricultural production but ranks 13th in pesticides consumption (52,750 tonnes). The European Union, for example, uses (3,62,421 tonnes) seven times more pesticides than India.

The EU has a lion share of over 50% in global pesticides exports. Therefore, they pump massive foreign funds into India's environmental NGOs to influence our national policies in the field of agriculture, chemicals, etc., by producing and publishing cooked up reports. **This is of great concern as such scare mongering would lead to economic loss to Indian farmers and exporters.**

Publication of false and fabricated studies in foreign and Indian journals about high pesticide residues in our agricultural commodities by Indian scientists from our universities and institutions, is on the increase lately.

A few examples are here:

1. It has recently come to our knowledge that Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) gave Rs. 10.6 crores to India's Public Health Foundation (PHF) to do a "policy relevant research" about risks from India's milk consumption. Remember, **India is the world's largest milk producer with 188 million tonnes.** Hence, this attempt to malign India's milk sector.

One Dr. Manish Kakkar of PHF shared the bounty with Dr. J P S Gill and others at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana, Punjab. This scientist, a veterinary doctor and his colleagues obliged the foreign donor (Canada's IDRC) with a totally fabricated pesticide analysis report alleging that consumption of Indian milk can cause cancer on account of presence of pesticide residues.

Why should a medical doctor (Dr. Manish Kakkar) in India act as the conduit for getting foreign funds from IDRC, Canada? We are seeking an investigation by Government of India.



Indian farmer know how to look after their cows.

Recently, India's Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare analysed 453 milk samples for pesticide residues through Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level and none of the samples were detected above the Maximum Residue Limits (MRL).

These scientists are using the foreign funds just to tarnish the Indian dairy sector.

2. In the year 2016, a team of reporters by the Amsterdam-based media house, M/s Butch & Sundance visited India surreptitiously and shot a documentary film in Punjab. It's titled, **"The Price of**

Basmati" released for worldwide view claiming that "Punjab farmers use lots of pesticides for cultivating Basmati Rice and therefore Punjab has more people suffering from cancer than any other region in India".

We found that the Indian Embassy at the Hague had granted permission to film documentary titled, **"Queen of Rice"**, but the final title was different. Mr. Umendra Dutt of Kheti Virasat Mission and Dr. Gurpreet Singh, Vice Chancellor of the Adesh University took part in the film.

An important reminder is that India is the world leader in Basmati rice production and its exports. No punitive action has yet been initiated by the Indian authorities against those who illegally produced this documentary film with covert and overt involvements of local activist NGOs and an academician.

In Nov 2015, the Indonesian Government had arrested and jailed two British journalists for making a documentary film without appropriate visa and film shooting permits. We strongly feel that the Indian authorities should take stringent punitive action against erring foreign journalists.

3. The Delhi-based activist Ms Sunita Narain, of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) received Rs 265 crore foreign funds over the last five years keeps saying that cancer incidences remain high in Punjab on account of intensive agriculture and use of pesticides. This is utterly baseless and totally false.

India ranks 175th in the world in Cancer incidence as per the latest data released in September 2018 by the WHO. Among the top 10 countries with highest incidence of cancers in the world, six countries are in Europe.

In India, Punjab is among the lowest in cancer incidence rates (97.7 per 1 lakh population) according to Dr. Rajesh Dixit of Tata Memorial Hospital and highest is in North Eastern state Mizoram with (186.5 per 1 lakh population) where there is negligible use of pesticide.

The countries that lead in cancer incidence rate in the world are; Australia (468 per 1 lakh population), Denmark (340 per 1 lakh population), Netherland (334 per 1 lakh population), etc.

4. In the year 2003, Dr. (Mrs.) Rashmi Sanghi, while working at IIT Kanpur published a research paper titled **"Organochlorine and Organophosphorous (OP) Pesticides residues in breast milk from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India"**. She conducted this study using the foreign funds provided by **the Hivos Foundation, Netherlands.**



Dr. Rashmi Sanghi
IIT Kanpur, Clinic and Study

Surprisingly, this scientist who received foreign funds and deceitfully used the name of IIT, Kanpur.

5. We reproduce below yet another fraudulent publication in the field of pesticide analysis from the scientists of IIT- Kanpur. It shows identical data in two different published study. **"Monitoring of pesticide residues in summer fruits and vegetables from Kanpur, India"** published in "Bulletin of environmental contamination and toxicology" by Dr. (Mrs.) Rashmi Sanghi and V. Tewari of IIT-K. And another by Dr. Padma Vankar, also from IIT-K titled **"Analysis of pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables from different 'mandis' of Delhi"** published in journal of analyticalscience.com. The authorities of IIT-K woke up to this scandal only after we had complained. Of course, both the studies were fraudulent.

6. On 21st Feb 2001, Dr. Padma Vankar and Ms Sunita Narain of CSE organised a press meeting in Delhi and made a startling revelation that they found "alarming high levels" of Endosulfan pesticide in all samples of water collected from Padre village in Kasaragod district of Kerala.

This report was full of falsified and fabricated data. For example, Dr. Padma Vankar and her sponsor Ms Sunita Narain claimed to have found as much as 9.19 ppm (parts per million) of Endosulfan residues in filtered water samples as against its water solubility of 0.32 ppm. This is scientifically impossible as it exceeds the water solubility of Endosulfan.

7. The un-restricted access and ease with which India's foreign-funded activists gain confidential documents from the government departments is of paramount concern. Here is a recent example. **The Pesticide Management Bill 2020 was introduced in the Upper House of Indian Parliament (the Rajya Sabha) on March 23rd, 2020 and published in the Gazette on 24th, March. But, Ms. Kavitha Kuruganti, ex Greenpeace activist uploaded a 100% authentic copy of the Bill in her website on 20th, March 2020 itself.**



Kavitha Kuruganti
Ex Greenpeace Activist

the authentic copy of the Bill even before it was tabled in the parliament?

This is probably the tip of the proverbial iceberg. But it shows the reach of the foreign funded environmental NGOs, whose only objective is to influence our policies to suit the interests of their donors abroad.

8. In the year 2014, a researcher named Mrs. Sapna Chourasiya of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi, under the guidance of Prof. P. S. Khillare, published a study claiming that fruits and vegetables grown in India were heavily contaminated with different pesticides that had been banned in India 30 years ago.

The impugned study was carried out utilizing the funds provided by the UGC and the data got generated at the laboratory of the JNU. The JNU subsequently awarded her PhD for this impugned study. Mysteriously, her thesis (funded by the tax payer's money through UGC) remains inaccessible even from the Shodhganga, PhD thesis repository. **The JNU has not yet mailed her thesis to Shodhganga. Reason? To keep the scientific fraud under the carpet!**

9. In the year 2012, Dr. Sukesh Narayan Sinha, Scientist E, with the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad, Telangana published a study titled **"Distribution of pesticides in different commonly used vegetables from Hyderabad, India"**. The study was aimed at the quantitative estimation of the concentration of different OP pesticides.

Surprisingly, however, the study included several non-OP Pesticides such as Aldicarb, Alachlor, Atrazine, Imidachloprid, Metribuzin, Propanil and Simazine.

We found out that the authors have fabricated the laboratory data. ICMR failed to take action against this scientist in spite of our repeated complaints. Currently the matter is before the Delhi High Court.

10. The Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa, Haryana is a government-funded university recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). In the year 2012, the university awarded a PhD degree to one Ms. Rinky for her thesis titled **"Environmental Impact of Assessment of Pesticides in Diet of Infants and Children"**. Dr. Rani Devi, Asst Prof. of Department of Energy and Environmental Sciences, at the University was the supervisor for this PhD thesis.

Both Ms. Rinky (researcher) and Dr. Rani Devi (supervisor) had given extensive interviews to media claiming that their study found huge contamination of pesticides in mothers milk given to infants and children in the district of Sirsa, Haryana.

A detailed scrutiny of the thesis showed that it had serious flaws, omissions, contradictions and false statements concerning residue analysis. In spite of repeated complaints (on affidavit) to the university authorities, there is no action on our complaint till date.

11. In the year 2017, four scientists of Department of Entomology with Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad published two research papers titled **"Evaluation of curry leaf farm gate samples for pesticide residues"** and **"Determination of Pesticide Residues in curry leaf in different market of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana"**.

They stated that they found 100% contamination of curry leaf samples with over 20 different pesticides. This news was published by several newspapers which led to severe restrictions on curry leaf exports from India.

The authors of research papers then gave a written undertaking stating that the findings given in the above research papers were not supported by the laboratory research data.

The reality about pesticide residues in India.

"Monitoring data on pesticide residues at National Level" conducted by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare show that 98% of our food commodities do not carry pesticide residues beyond the Maximum Residue Level (MRL), **making India's food among the least contaminated in the world.**

Interestingly, the official data shows that nearly 60% of organic labelled fruits and vegetables in India carry pesticide residues.

Foreign funded environmental activist NGOs and how do they propagate half-truths!

The truth about pesticides ban inIndonesia.

Ex-Greenpeace activist Ms. Kavita Kuruganti made a statement recently about the ban imposed by President Suharto in Indonesia way back in 1985. This is half-truth.

The Government of Indonesia under the leadership of President Suharto greatly encouraged the use of pesticides by offering subsidies up to 85%. Indonesia became self-sufficient in rice production in the year 1984. Thereafter, he withdrew the subsidy and also banned 57 of 63 pesticides used in the country at that time. Soon after, however, fresh registrations were granted for a variety of pesticides.

Today, Indonesia uses pesticides more intensely than India. In other words, the pesticides spend in Indonesia is **approximately \$35 per ha** as against India's \$4 per ha.

Environmental activist NGOs are experts in peddling half-truths and the half-truths are more dangerous than falsehood.

Finally, a word of caution about organic agriculture.

Organic farming is not new. Until about 60 years ago the world – India included was practicing organic agriculture. Short supplies of foods and starvation deaths were very common in that era. The Irish Potato Famine and The Great Chinese Famine were caused due to crop pest/disease outbreak and lack of agri inputs mainly pesticides.

In 1959, China did attempt to introduce countrywide organic farming, it was a disaster and therefore short lived. Today, China accounts for nearly 30% of world's agricultural production. China is also the largest consumer of pesticides and fertilizers. Organic farming can at best be a small and niche market segment.



Chinese farmer in draught

The claim of the foreign funded environmental activist NGOs that our soil, environment and water has become degraded, polluted and unproductive due to excessive use of chemical inputs are all wrong.

Fish species and honey bees are highly sensitive to water quality and environmental pollutants. India is the second largest fish producer in the world 13.42 mn tons (as per 2018-19 data), where 2/3rd of India's fish production comes from inland water sources. Similarly, India's honey production has significantly increased from 76,000 tons in 2013-14 to 120,000 tons (2018-19) in the last 6 years. This shows that our environment is not toxic as alleged by the activists.

What travels faster than light? Fake news from these foreign funded environmental activist NGOs...!

In view of the above data and information we request our policy makers to immediately take strong action to ensure that foreign funded environmental activist NGOs are kept away from playing any role - overtly or covertly - in moulding our environmental/ economic /agricultural policies.

These environmental activist NGOs must be disqualified from receiving foreign funds by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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