

Pesticides and dangerous side-effects of Green Revolution!

The "Green Revolution" started in 1950's spread all over the world, and hunger of the rapidly increasing world population was alleviated by increased food production. This revolution was driven by improved scientific knowledge and technological contribution. Scientists developed high yielding genetically improved crop varieties, and the most widely used major weapons in the green revolution were artificially synthesized chemical fertilizers and synthetic-pesticides.

With the use of these chemicals weapons, crop yield was increased 2-3 times, while forest-lands coming under plow got reduced. Several millions of lives, especially in developing countries were saved, and living conditions of many communities were improved. In addition, multinational agrochemical and fertilizer companies made huge profits. At the same time, governments and scientists were satisfied about their great success in achieving the supply of food for rapidly increasing world population.

But, no one noticed the disasters which were following after these remarkable achievements. Highly diversified plant kingdom in tropical countries like Sri Lanka was affected and some plant types disappeared since modern agricultural practices with above chemicals crept in to traditional nature based farming culture. Poisonous pesticides and concentrated synthetic fertilizers killed colorful small fish and some indigenous small animals moving freely in small clean-water streams flowing through natural landscapes where people grow food crops. Chemical based revolutionized agriculture poisoned the nature and natural-balance was seriously disturbed. In addition, the poisons chemical pesticides were easily used by some weak-minded individuals those who were not able to face the challenging situations in their life to terminate their own existence in the world.

Those who were responsible for introducing the green revolution with poisonous chemicals never expected such disastrous side-effects and after-effects. Especially, misuse of pesticides has produced dangerous results to the man as the nature maintains its balanced status. But, our question is, can the ever-increasing world population be fed without food produced through chemical based modern agrotechnologies. What are the available alternatives? Can 100% organic agriculture feed the world? How to use poisonous pesticide-chemicals safely, and minimum amounts only if unavoidable? What can we do about this chemical pollution and poisoning? Read the theme article and join to take correct action!