

Pesticides, Their Impacts on Human Health and Environment

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Pesticides are chemical or biological agents that are used to control and/or destroy insects, rodents, weeds, fungi or other pests. The use of pesticides dates back to the ancient period, for example, the Ancient Romans burned sulfur to destroy insects and in the modern world they also play an important role in agriculture. They help farmers to increase food production and protect the crop from pests. Despite their benefits in crop production and disease management, the misuse of pesticides poses a significant threat to the environment and human health. Excessive use leads to the destruction of biodiversity. Many birds, living organisms in the water and animals are under the negative influence of pesticides. Their use has increased significantly in recent decades, therefore, the possibilities of their impact are increasing. Pesticides can enter into the human body by several ways, such as: by breathing, dermally, orally, but in the most cases it occurs by consuming food contaminated with pesticides. Once they get into the body, these substances undergo metabolism, and some of their metabolites may pose greater risk. Only implementing of appropriate regulations, education and research can play an important role in reduction of the negative effects of pesticides and establishing safer, more sustainable agricultural practices.

References

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