



Facts :

- Worldwide, an estimated three million cases of pesticide poisoning occur every year, resulting in an excess of 250,000 deaths.
- This mortality accounts for a substantial fraction of the almost 900,000 people worldwide who die by suicide every year.
- In attempted suicide, which is considerably more frequent than completed suicide, pesticide poisoning results in temporary or permanent disability.
- Intentional and unintentional pesticide poisoning has been acknowledged as a serious problem in many agricultural communities of low- and middle-income countries, including China, India, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam.
- Efforts to develop a systematic and sustainable approach to the prevention and management of pesticide poisoning remain inadequate.

The Impact of Pesticides on Health: Preventing Intentional and Unintentional Deaths from Pesticide Poisoning

The Objectives

- Overall, reduce morbidity and mortality related to pesticide poisoning.
- Review and recommend improved pesticide policies.
- Implement sustainable epidemiological surveillance and monitoring of pesticide poisoning in clinical settings and communities.
- Improve the medical management and mental health care of people with pesticide poisoning in health care facilities at different levels.
- Provide training at different sectors and levels.
- Develop or strengthen community programmes that minimize risks of intentional and unintentional pesticide poisoning.

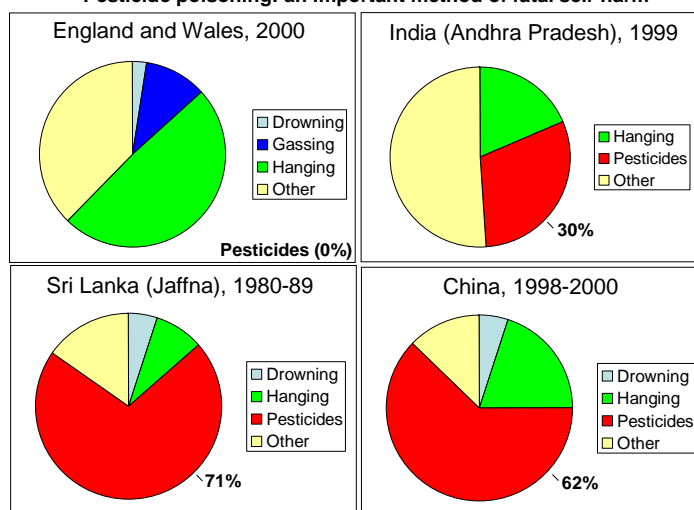
Clinical management of pesticide poisoning



The Strategy

- Establish sentinel projects in selected countries with a high burden of intentional and unintentional pesticide poisoning through collaboration with governments, relevant UN agencies, academic institutions and nongovernmental organizations.

Pesticide poisoning: an important method of fatal self-harm



- Establish regional centres, associated with the sentinel project sites, for the prevention and management of pesticide poisoning, and for enhanced surveillance, training, and community action.

- Disseminate information about insights, experience, and lessons learnt from project research and interventions, formulated as recommendations to guide global policy and local action for prevention and management of pesticide poisoning, and for suicide prevention.

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