The Use of INCHEM: Experience in Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka is a beautiful tropical island in the Indian Ocean with a land area of 62,700 square kilometers. It has a population of 19.5 million, of which 72.2% live in rural areas, 21.5% in urban areas and 6.3% in estate areas.
The land use of 4 major crops in 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Hectares</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>779 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconut</td>
<td>400 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>180 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber</td>
<td>114 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### DEATHS FROM SUICIDAL POISONING 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corrosives</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pesticides</td>
<td>2586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural poisons</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2995</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NATIONAL POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE

GENERAL HOSPITAL COLOMBO

For information on poisoning please phone
96143
OR
91111 – Ext 306
National Poisons Information Centre, the first in South-East Asia, was established in 1988 to provide tailor-made, accurate information without delay to medical professionals and general public on all aspects of poisoning.
The major problem was to find relevant information to prepare a database to be used in the poisons centre.
Several books and journals had to be read to obtain relevant information.
IPCS INCHEM is a means of rapid access to internationally peer reviewed information on chemicals commonly used throughout the world, which may also occur as contaminants in the environment and food. It consolidates information from a number of intergovernmental organizations whose goal it is to assist in the sound management of chemicals.
Poison Information Monographs

- Poison Centres
- Clinicians
- Industry
- Environmentalists
- Researchers
- Administrators
- Occupational physicians
The value of the CD-ROM for Poison Centres in Developing Countries

• No resources to purchase necessary books, databases and journals

• No internet facilities when required

• No specialist advice available
Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs)

Data not available in books or journals:

- Human exposure (Occupational)
- Human exposure (Environmental)
IPCS/CEC Evaluation of Antidotes Series
ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE POISONING
CANCER IS THE SEVENTH LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN SRI LANKA
Useful to provide advice to:

General public
Media
Government
MANAGEMENT OF POISONING

RAVINDRA FERNANDO

NATIONAL POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE
NATIONAL HOSPITAL OF SRI LANKA, COLOMBO
This is a database of poison information and management of poisoning compiled under the guidance of National Poisons Information Centre, National Hospital of Sri Lanka.

Features:
* User friendly
* Integrated search capability
* Exact spellings not needed to search
* Image gallery
* Quick access to the information needed
* Optimized menu system for easy use

Requirements:
* Windows 98,2000, NT or XP
* Internet explorer 4.0 or above
* Hard disk space of 50 MB (if installing)
* CD drive
* Windows compatible mouse & keyboard

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THANK YOU