



EFFECT OF PESTICIDES ON THE AGRO ECOSYSTEM IN SOMALIA

Pesticides are used massively for many decades due to enhancing the productivity of crops for human and livestock survival. Although pesticides have immediate effect on insect pests but it also reduces environmental biodiversity for causing acute decline of bee colonies, natural enemies, pollinators , soil micro organisms , aquatic animals, birds, and wild animals. An average of about 200,000 people dies from the toxic exposure of pesticides per year across the world, the United Nations report.

In Somali since the central government has collapsed in 1990 up to now, the projects of extension has disappeared specially plant protection department. This situation led lack of awareness of the proper use of pesticide, lack of plant quarantine and pesticide regulations and this encouraged import of international banned synthetic chemicals to Somalia, for example DDT, Aldrin, Aldicarb, Dieldrine, Pentachloro Nitrobenzene, Ethyl Mercury Chloride, Calcium Cyanide, and Nicotine sulphate which have high risk of poisoning. Besides their primary action as pesticides, organophosphorus, carbamates, and organochlorines can act as endocrine disruptors and affect the function of hormones by blocking, mimicking, displacing, or acting to subvert their natural roles in living species.

We have observed during our survey that the majority of farm workers apply pesticides without protective gear, use empty containers of pesticides as utensils, agro-dealers sell pesticide products together with food items in same places, also ignore of considering the right dose, time and direction of the wind, . If this

situation continues for some decades it may cause chronic diseases to human, animals and agro-ecosystem areas degradation at large.



Farmers spraying tomato crop without wearing protective cloth. (Source: radio Ergo)

Recommendations:

- The ministry of agriculture, universities and research centres have to contact all small farmers, by delivering an important information related to pesticides and its' application methods through informal education, etc .
- Federal Government of Somalia must enact pesticide regulations for generating safe condition.
- Using alternative methods of pest control such as Integrated Pest Management IPM.
- There is urgent need of training on safe use of pesticides so it is recommended to be intervened by any parties concerned this issue.

Reference:

Hilal Elver and Baskut Tuncak. (2017). New global treaty to regulate and phase out the use of dangerous pesticides in farming, and move towards sustainable agricultural practices.<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21306>