

# The Haunting Scourge of Green Revolution

**Our** rulers have been incessantly harping about 'Green revolution' that it had brought about development in the Indian agricultural sector.

When we critically examine about it, this green revolution was nothing but an economic programme prompted and promoted by American imperialism and implemented in India in the name of American aid for the development agriculture in India. This 'American aid' was delivered through world-bank. The design for the development was finalised by the world-bank.

Though the so-called development brought about by this 'green revolution' in India is not clear and visible, it became a certainty, that it had developed 'a profitable demand' by the Indian agricultural sector for obtaining additional agriculture goods from industrialised countries, particularly from America. It had created an immense market for their industrial goods the most important them are pesticides and herbicides. At the same time Indian agricultural sector is driven in to severe crises.

But again our rulers are their supportive 'experts' prescribe launching of another 'green revolution' as a panacea for the severe crises in to which it was pushed.

In fact with the implementation of the imperialist globalisation policies in India the crises of agriculture sector is far more worsened. Especially the peasantry have been in a forced distress and perpetual misery, due to the policies implemented in our country at the behest of World Bank and other imperialist monetary organisations that hand in glove with foreign capital including foreign private capital, in promoting its vested interests.

Agricultural production is made non-profitable and non viable due to the cause of abnormally enhanced cost of agricultural input goods such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and herbicides all of which are under the control and management of market forces dominated by foreign private capital. This led to bankruptcy of middle, small and petty farmers and their inevitable suicides unable to meet their financial requirements and demands.

While the enforced suicides of farmers has been one of the evil consequences of Green revolution in India, yet another far-more cruel consequence of green revolution has come in to light. It is the pesticide poisoning deaths of farmers and agricultural labours throughout our country. Even with the available statistics of the pesticide/herbicide deaths that occurred within the month of October, the imposed evil is menacing. Pesticide exposure deaths in considerable number are being reported in the media after the media exposure of pesticides related deaths at Yavatmal district in Maharashtra.

Even prior to the reportage of those deaths in Maharashtra, for the past 40 years such deaths have been occurring in all parts our country. But they were not reported or the administration and media are insensitive to such pesticide killings. They are simply over looked by the administration and governments as matter of no importance. This disregard from the governments and administration was neither due to ignorance, innocence or lack of understanding. On the contrary it is due to the nefarious nexus between the administration and the pesticides/herbicides business community - a result of the unpatriotic and anti-national subservience of our rulers and ruling-classes with the imperialist foreign-capital and its big-business.

It a shocking fact that 35% of the input cost borne by the peasants of our country is for purchase of pesticides/herbicides alone. This fact shows how the 'green revolution' has developed a profitable demand and market to the foreign (imperialist) pesticide/herbicide business in India at the cost of agricultural sector in India and the lives of its petty and poor farmers and agricultural labourers.

It is apparent that in reality the pesticides/herbicides business has bloomed and thriving for the foreign capital, making it a business of killer-merchants.

The Bt. cotton seed which is touted be tolerant to the pests/weeds and sold on grand scale by the American Giant seed company Monsanto and its subsidiaries and Indian collaborators proved to be false and deceptive. For almost 2 years the Bt.cotton seeds are being infested with pests and weeds forcing the farmers to use pesticides against this peril. This led to not only the sales of pesticides and herbicides with banned chemical by the avaricious pesticide/herbicide selling companies. Added to this, a situation also was created to sell spurious pesticides in the markets to the innocent and ignorant farmers who were forced to borne their brunt.

While farmers and agricultural labourers Yavatmal districts were killed due to exposure to pesticides in Bt. cotton fields, nine farmers have committed suicide just in a week in Odisha due to the crop damage in pest attack during 2<sup>nd</sup>

week of November, and according to the apprehension of experts associated with agriculture economy, the number of such suicides may rise alarmingly in future. This situation is the result of spurious pesticides supplied by the government (state) agencies and “inaction” on the part of agriculture officials to provide timely technological support and advice to farmers and not controlling and regulating the pesticides/herbicide business in accordance with the law.

It is disheartening to learn that in Maharashtra alone 48 people were killed and 1800 people became sick due to exposure to pesticides within.

Recently in came to light that in Andhra Pradesh many people in Guntur, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Prakasam, Kurnool and Tirupati regions are becoming sick due to a new disease-Aplastic Anaemia- a result of consuming pesticide residue in vegetables and foods. That around from 3,000-4,000 such cases of sickness are being registered every year and that there is considerable number of deaths due to this disease.

It also came to light in A.P., into come to light that many cases of pesticides exposure of agricultural labourers have increased during July-December, many of whom who sprayed Forate-10g granules in rice fields. Deaths of these labourers too are reported in many numbers.

But the government’s state and authorities are showing a blind eye to the pesticide related deaths.

Recently on December 3, 2017, four cases of pesticide exposure sickness were reported from Kella village of Gurla mandal of Vizianagaram district of A.P. Four agricultural labourers who carried rice crop for thrashing out as grain were attacked with sickness of vomiting and dysentery. When they were joined at a private hospital two of them died while two of them remained in a critical condition. The rice crop carried by them was previously sprayed with pesticides. The doctors who treated these labourers are of the opinion that the sickness and deaths are related to pesticide exposure.

This incident alone exposes the magnify of the evil imposed on Indian agricultural sector through ‘green revolution’ by the foreign capital in its avarice of inhuman profit pursuance.

As usual the governments and administration started the drama of ‘enquiries’ at the same time making every effort to blame the victim farmers and agricultural labour for not following the safety warnings of the pesticide companies in using abnormal quantities of toxic pesticides besides the advised precautions while spraying the pesticides. Thus every effort is being made to absolve the avaricious and inhuman pesticide business community-foreign as well their Indian calendars. They are blaming the farmers for having used banned pesticides or concoction of permissible ones which might have turned hazardous “and” not adhering to certain do’s and don’ts while spraying pesticides in the farms”. Thus they are skilfully covering up their intentional failure of not banning many pesticides being used in India despite their ban in many countries for their toxic effects.

Now they are stating that they are going to ban 18 pesticides in a ‘phased manner’. That they will ban “manufacturing import and use of 12 pesticides from January 1, 2018, and 6 other pesticides from December 31, 2020. Most of these pesticides are highly toxic to honey bees and birds and they also contaminate water bodies and underground water.

On the other hand the pesticides industry body crop care federation (CCFI) refutes the allegation of pesticide exposure deaths and sickness ‘that while it shares public concern over the loss of lives of farmers that “it does not warrant a prior assumption that exposure to pesticide sprays caused the death and there are strong scientific reasons against such a prior assumption”’.

In this din of public resentment against pesticide exposure deaths and the drama of CBI probe in to the deaths, the Genetically Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) sub-committee, in its haste to facilitate accord of governmental approval to commercial release of GM mustard on July 29, made certain recommendations, one of which is more worthy that proposes for legal action on farmers using the glufosinate-based herbicide (basta) on the crops. Gufosinate-based herbicides act as a neurotoxin and the adverse impacts on humans according to the US national institute of health. This recommendation is nothing but a move to onus on the farmers, absolving the pesticide industry and rigorously implementing the ban on that herbicide.

Even at this juncture of the worst state of affairs, the administration and the rulers are choosing to protect the interests of foreign capital driven pesticide industry, but not the farmers the back-bone of Indian economy, who produce food for the nation.

Thus apart from economic impacts this pesticide menace is proved to be a haunting scourge of ‘green revolution’, which shall not be allowed to continue, but to be fought out relentlessly.

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