

Methyl Parathion

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

The Chemical Review Committee (CRC) under the Rotterdam Convention adopted a Decision Guidance Document (DGD) concerning methyl parathion.

Malathion

A widely used organophosphorus insecticide



	Type	Insecticide
	Chemical group	Organophosphorus pesticide
	Uses	Control of chewing & sucking insects
	Crops	Cereals, fruits, citrus, vines, vegetables, cotton, ornamentals & field crops
	Major concerns	Human toxicity + environmental toxicity
	Affected organisms	Farm workers, birds, honeybees, aquatic organisms

Crops


Cereals


Fruits


Citrus


Vines


Vegetables


Cotton


Ornamentals


Field crops

Affected Organisms


Farm workers


Birds


Honeybees


Aquatic organisms

- **Decision taken at** - 22nd meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC-22).
- **Venue** - Rome, Italy
- The DGD has been forwarded to the **Conference of the Parties (COP)** for final consideration.
- If approved, methyl parathion will become formally subject to the **Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure**.
- **Health concerns** - According to the decision document, exposure to methyl parathion may result in the following adverse health effects:
 - Behavioural changes
 - Respiratory depression
 - Respiratory paralysis
 - Coma

- Death
- Intermediate syndrome
- Delayed polyneuropathy
- Reproductive-system damage
- Mutagenic effects
- **Actions by Brazil & European Union**
 - **Brazil** - Complete ban on production, use, sale, import & export of products containing methyl parathion
 - **EU** - Sale/use of plant protection products containing methyl parathion not permitted

Rotterdam Convention

• **Rotterdam Convention on - *Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.***

• **Adopted on** - 10 September 1998; entered into force on 24 February 2004.

• **Objective** - To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides.

• **Legally Binding** - The PIC Procedure is a legally binding obligation for member nations.

• It aims to:

- Facilitate information exchange
- Promote information sharing about hazardous chemicals
- Enable countries to make informed decisions about imports
- Communicate those decisions to exporting Parties
- Contribute to environmentally sound use of chemicals

Rotterdam Convention vs Global Chemical Regulation

• The Rotterdam Convention **does not mandate a universal ban** on every listed chemical.

• Instead, the Convention establishes a mechanism to facilitate the following:

- Information exchange,
- Notification procedures,
- Informed decision-making, and
- International cooperation.

Reference

[Down to Earth | Methyl Parathion](#)