

BANNED HERE. EXPORTED THERE. DEADLY EVERYWHERE.

DANGEROUS PESTICIDES IN PALESTINE



En partenariat avec :



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SUMMARY OF BISAN'S STUDY ON BANNED PESTICIDES

Bisan Center for Research and Development is a non-governmental, nonprofit, democratic and progressive Palestinian CSO that seeks to enhance Palestinians' resilience in order to contribute in building a Palestinian civil, democratic, effective and active community. Bisan has been in a partnership with the Belgian NGO for the right to health Viva Salud since 2017. In a research conducted during the Summer of 2022, Bisan identified the illegal import and use of several pesticides that are banned by the EU and Palestine. The working conditions wherein the pesticides are applied are unhealthy as there is a lack of protective gear and sufficient information on how to use them. Several health effects have been identified after the use of these non-allowed pesticides. The following article provides a short summary of the main research results.

In the Palestinian market and according to the Palestinian ministry of Agriculture there exists no list of banned pesticides, but only a list of allowed pesticides. This list is regulated according to regulation number 9 for the year 2012 from the Council of ministers. It is prohibited to register any of the following pesticides:

1. Pesticides whose use in Palestine is prohibited.
2. Pesticides prohibited to be used in the country of origin for health or environmental reasons.
3. Pesticides classified by the World Health Organization and the US Environmental Protection Agency as containing chemicals that cause cancerous tumors, birth defects, genetic mutations, or are highly toxic to humans or animals.
4. Pesticides that cause groundwater pollution.

The existence of these pesticides has been confirmed by two sources [...] Some of the pesticide packaging are written in Hebrew, confirming that they originate from the Israel.

Through Bisan's investigation in the field, and stores that sell agricultural equipment and pesticides they found the following pesticides in the Palestinian market that are banned for use in the EU:

Trade name	Product name in Arabic	Country of Origin	Effective Material
NOMITE	تيامون	China	fenbutatine oxide 550 g/l
CYPRIN	نيريبيس	Switzerland	cypermethrin (Perthroide) 200g/l , organic hydrocarbon solvent
MENDAZIM	ميراندنيم	INDIA	carbendazim 50%
POLICE	سيليوف	Luxembourg	chlorfenapyr 240g/l
evisects	سا تكسي فيا	BELGIUM	thiocyclam hydrogen oxalate 50%
PLICTRAN	نارتكي لپ	Luxembourg	cyhexatin 600g/l
rovral	لارفور	USA	IPRODIONE

Thiocyclam is an active ingredient unauthorized for use both in Europe and Palestine. It has however been identified as exported by Belgium to the Palestinian territories under the trade name of Evisects.

THE USE OF THIOCYCLAM GOES WITH SEVERAL SEVERE HEALTH EFFECTS:

- Acute and dangerous toxicity in the case of ingestion
- Severe poisoning when contact with skin
- Highly toxic to aquatic life
- Highly toxic to aquatic life with long-term effects
- Highly toxic to liver and kidney
- Affecting both male and female reproductive systems
- Reducing reproductive capacity

In addition to the health effects, many farmers and agricultural workers are not used or committed to safety and prevention measures when using pesticides. This is due to the weakness of agricultural extension and awareness operations by the Ministry of Agriculture, in addition to the lack of training and safety equipment that the Ministry of Agriculture should provide for farmers. There are no inspectors from the Ministry of Agriculture to monitor the residues in the fruit of crops, to inspect the varieties of pesticides present in the markets and to ensure that farmers adhere to the safety period. There are also violations by the Israeli occupation in terms of not enforcing strict regulations on the transfer of pesticides from the Israeli market to the Palestinian market.



The Israeli occupation allows the use of more types of pesticides than are permitted by the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, which leads to the leakage of some of these pesticides to Palestinian markets through Israeli agricultural settlements in the West Bank. Israel as an occupying power does not exercise any control over the smuggling and sale of pesticides from Israeli settlements to the Palestinian market. The existence of these pesticides has been confirmed by two sources. First, some of the banned pesticides by the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and are not imported directly by the State of Palestine. Second, some of the pesticide packaging are written in Hebrew, confirming that they originate from the Israel.



PLICTRRAN pesticide with Hebrew Markings, found in an Agricultural Shop in OPT

“I got allergy and shortness of breath after using pesticides, so I started to use later on some protective equipment.”

In several interviews taken during the research, participants told about the lack of safety measures applied when using pesticides. Agricultural engineer Hadeel Zahran states that she started using protective equipment on her own initiative after experiencing several health effects.

Other participants state they don't only use gloves when using pesticides or even not any kind of protective measures. In addition, workers in the settlements smuggle pesticides and sell them to Palestinian farmers, who use them unchecked and indiscriminately as farmers do not know the quantities to be used, the exact times of spraying, or even the safety period for these pesticides. Therefore, banned pesticides have become available to farmers and are easily accessible due to the lack of monitoring and inspection of these pesticides.



Hadeel Zahran,
Agricultural engineer

BISAN FORMULATES THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS IN THEIR RESEARCH:

- States do not meet double standards for the production, use and export of chemical pesticides by adopting a single standard for the production, use and export of pesticides in the industrialized countries
- Make amendments to the lists of allowed pesticides and create lists of banned substances and dangerous substances that can't be used in pesticides
- Strict application of laws on the handling and use of pesticides
- Set up special laboratories to inspect the residues in agricultural crops before they are allowed to circulate in the markets. These laboratories should be distributed in a suitable manner in all provinces.
- Training of farmers in non-invasive control methods
- Activate the work of inspectors by the Ministry of Agriculture, and have continuous evaluation and follow-up with the imposition of penalties on those
- who violate the pesticide use and trade regulations or do not implement them as required
- Stop the use of dangerous pesticides by the Israeli occupation on the border areas and not allow the smuggling of pesticides from Israeli market
- Support farmers with safety materials for pesticide use

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