

Chapter 2

Worldwide Pesticide Use

The worldwide consumption of pesticides is about two million tonnes per year: Out of which 45 % is used by Europe alone, 25 % is consumed in the USA, and 25 % in the rest of the world. India's share is just 3.75 %. The usage of pesticides in Korea and Japan is 6.6 and 12.0 kg/ha, respectively, whereas in India, it is only 0.5 kg/ha. Globally, the pesticides cover only 25 % of the cultivated land area. The three most commonly used pesticides are HCH (only gamma-HCH is allowed), DDT, and malathion, and these account for about 70 % of the total pesticide consumption. Despite development of newer pesticide, these pesticides still remain the choice of small farmers because they are cost-effective, easily available, and display a wide spectrum of bioactivity. Discussing the total consumption of pesticides in India (Fig. 2.1), 80 % are in the form of insecticides, 15 % are herbicides, 2 % are fungicides, and less than 3 % are others. While comparing the

Fig. 2.1 Consumption of pesticides in the Indian scenario

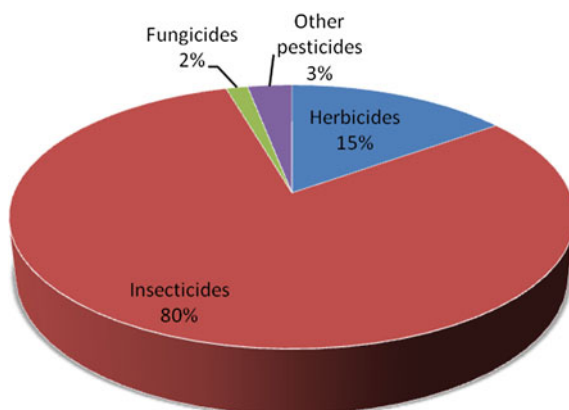
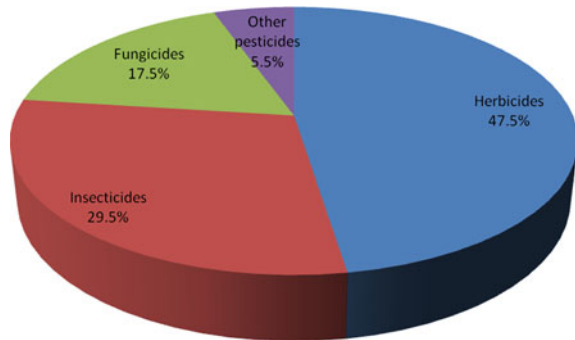


Fig. 2.2 Worldwide consumption of pesticides



worldwide consumption of pesticide, 47.5 % is the share of herbicides, 29.5 % is the share of insecticides, 17.5 % is that of fungicides, and others account for 5.5 % only (Fig. 2.2). On the contrary, the consumption of herbicides in India is probably low, because weed control is mainly done manually by hand (Figs. 2.1 and 2.2). In addition to public health and agricultural use, pesticides also find their use in other sectors too.



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