

Information on pesticides in the Republic of Moldova

Stefan Stasiev

General Division for Pollution Prevention and Improvement of Environment
Ministry of Environment and Territorial Development
9, Cosmonautilor St., Chisinau, MD-2005, Republic of Moldova
Phone: +373 2 22 68 50, Fax: +373 2 22 07 48, Email: relint@moldova.md

Republic of Moldova became an independent state on the 27 August 1991. The surface area of the country is 33,800 km²; with a population constitutes 4.32 million citizens. The capital of the republic is Chisinau and the population is approximately 700,000 citizens. The Republic of Moldova is an agricultural state with agricultural areas occupying 76% of the total surface (2,555.5 thousand ha), and arable areas -1,809.9 thousand ha (53.5%), multi-annual plantations - 370.7 thousand ha (10.9%). The forests occupy 9.6% from the total surface of the country.

Table 1. The amounts of utilised pesticides in the protection of plant crops in the Republic of Moldova during the period 1996-1998

Year	Physic weight, tons	Active substance, tonnes
1996	4,495. 88	3,168.7
1997	41,850.02	3,014.0
1998	4,426. 4	3,456.0

During the last ten years, pesticides utilisation /hectare of agricultural area has been reduced from 5.6 kg of active substance / ha in 1991, to 4.6 in 1992, 3.0 in 1993, 2.1 in 1994, 2.0 in 1995, 1.69 in 1996, 2.03 in 1997 and reached 1.3 in 1998.

The main problem in the agricultural farms is the existence of non-utilisable and banned pesticides and the amount is circa 2,600 tonnes. The problem becomes worse and worse because the majority of storages where these pesticides are kept are built without the appropriate conditions; a big part of them is partially destructed and present an essential threat for the environment.

During the 80's, about 4,000 tonnes of banned and unutilised pesticides have been buried at the Vulcanesti landfill in the South of the republic, and they represent a threat to the environment. The problem should be resolved as soon as possible and is considered to be a priority. The problems connected to utilisation of pesticides and their solution, as well as experience of other states in this field, presents a great interest for the Republic of Moldova.