

**GLOBALLY EMPOWERING  
WOMEN: THE IMPACT OF  
CHEMICALS, TOXICITY, AND  
THEIR HEALTH IN  
AGRIBUSINESS**

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# WHAT IS AGRIBUSINESS?

- **A business that earns most or all of its revenues from agriculture. An agribusiness tends to be a large-scale business operation and may dabble in farming, processing and manufacturing and/or the packaging and distribution of products.**

Read more: <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/agribusiness.html>

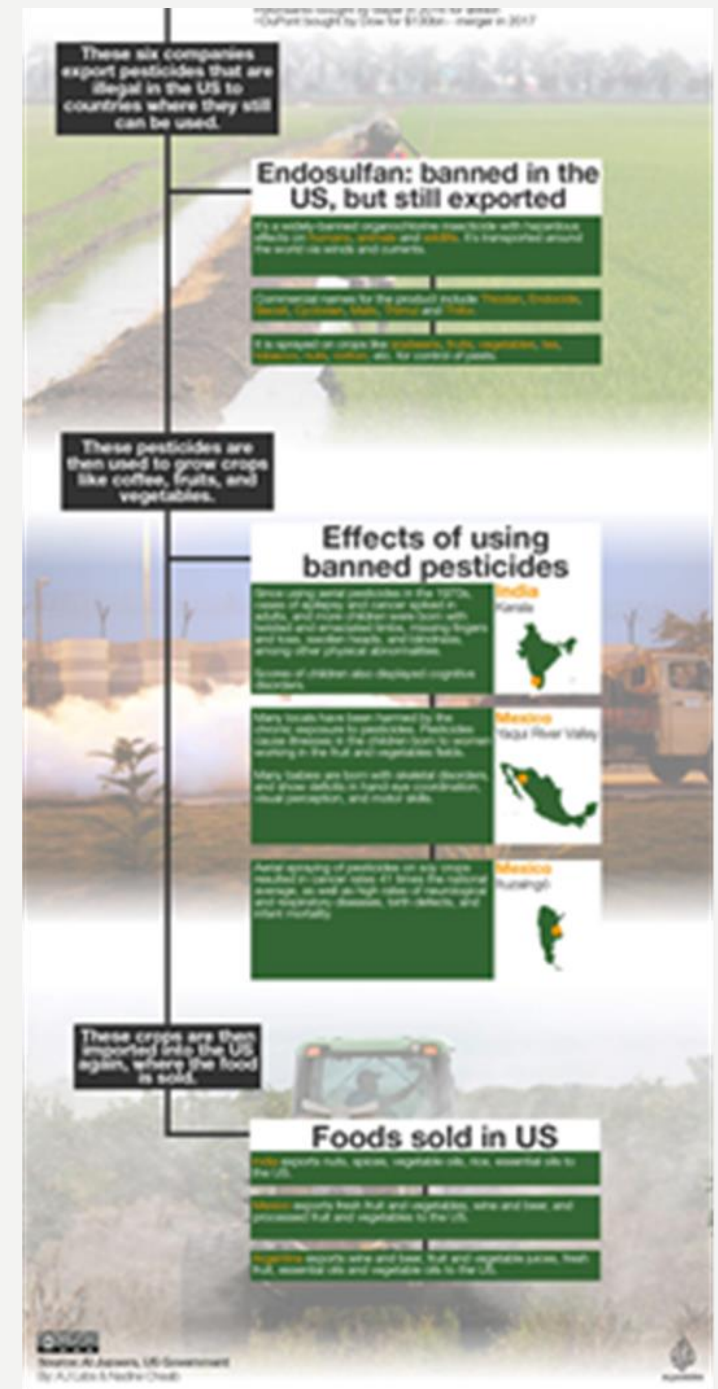
# MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY

THIS IS A CHEMICALLY SENSITIVE HOUSEHOLD. PLEASE DO NOT ENTER IF YOU ARE WEARING ANY SCENTED PRODUCTS: PERFUME, AFTERSHAVE, COLOGNE, FABRIC SOFTENER, OR CIGARETTE SMOKE IN YOUR CLOTHING. TO DO SO WILL CAUSE EXTREME HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR A MEMBER OF THIS FAMILY. THANK YOU!!



# THE CIRCLE OF POISONS

- Once a pesticide is banned in the United States for environmental issues, companies are still permitted to manufacture these products, but only for export.
- These pesticides circle the globe and come back into the United States on food products that we import.
- Workers in both the U.S. and abroad suffer from these dangerous chemicals.



# CLASSES OF PESTICIDES

- **Pesticides can be grouped according to the types of pests which they kill:**
- Insecticides - insects.
- Herbicides - plants.
- Rodenticides - rodents (rats and mice).
- Bactericides - bacteria.
- Fungicides - fungi.

# THE BIG 6

## The **BIG 6** and the **circle of poison**

Six companies control about 70% of total pesticide production.

### Pesticide production global market share



\*Syngenta bought by ChemChina for \$43bn - merger in 2017  
\*Monsanto bought by Bayer in 2016 for \$60bn  
†DuPont bought by Dow for \$130bn - merger in 2017

- Syngenta – 18%
- Bayer – 17%
- Monsanto – 10%
- BASF – 9%
- Dow – 9%
- DuPont – 9%
- Other – 35%

# HOW WE BECOME POISONED

- Eat or ingest
- Inhale
- Put it on our skin
- Sometimes, this is even passed on through the womb



# PERSONAL CHEMICAL EXPOSURE FROM A MICRO PERSPECTIVE

- India
  - Decades of spraying the pesticide endosulfan in the town of Kasaragod, India, have resulted in the deformities of hundreds of children.
- Mexico
  - Second-generation Yaqui Pueblo women are unable to breastfeed their children due to chemical exposure experienced in the 1950's.
- Argentina
  - Sofia Gatica raised awareness and crusaded to stop pesticide spraying in her town after chemicals resulted in the death of her infant child.
- US
  - A predominantly Black area of Louisiana that suffers from abnormally high rates of cancer known as Cancer Alley, due to exposure to a multitude of chemicals.



# CHEMICALS IN OUR DAILY LIVES

- Cigarette smoke
- Perfumes
- Fabric softeners
- Candles
- Cleaning solvents
- Dish detergent
- Bleach
- Ammonia
- Anti-bacterial soap
- Air-fresheners
- Dry-cleaned clothes
- Women's Hygiene Products

# ANTI-BACTERIALS AND HAND SANITIZERS



- Non-alcohol based hand sanitizers contain an anti-biotic compound called TRICLOSAN or TRICLOCARBAN. These occur in soaps or even toothpastes. They can be listed as anti-bacterial, anti-microbial and anti-septic soaps

# THE DANGER OF AIR FRESHENERS

## Harmful Effects Of Air Fresheners

**Methoxychlor** - Pesticide that accumulates in fat cells

**Paradichlorobenzene** - Shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals

**Phenol (carbolic acid)** - Flammable, corrosive and very toxic

**Formaldehyde** - Admitted by the EPA to be a cause of cancer

**Benzene** - Carcinogen recommended by the WHO to have ZERO EXPOSURE



**Phthalates** - Hormone-disrupting chemicals, can cause birth defects or reproductive harm

**1,4 - DCB** - Harmful to the lungs (reduces pulmonary function), being a serious hazard to those with asthma or

**VOCs (volatile organic compounds)** - known allergen

**Xylene** - Linked to nausea and sick building syndrome, as well as liver and kidney damage

**Naphthalene** - Suspected carcinogen, linked to blood, kidney & liver problems

# CIGARETTES



- Acetone – Found in nail polish remover
- Benzene – Found in rubber cement and gasoline
- Carbon Monoxide – Released in car exhaust fumes
- Lead – Used in batteries
- Naphthalene – An ingredient in mothballs
- Nicotine – Used as an insecticide
- Toulene – Used to manufacture paint

# WHAT WE KNOW CHEMICALS CAN DO

Studies by the World Health Organization cite herbicides as being “Probably carcinogenic to humans”. Evidence has emerged that the main ingredient in Round Up, glyphosate, can be linked to an increase in a number of diseases.

- Brain cancer
- Breast cancer
- Chronic and acute Kidney Disease
- General Cell Toxicity
- Damage to embryonic, placental and umbilical cells
- Proliferation of plant and animal pathogens

# HOW IT CAN GET BETTER

- Bhutan
  - Striving to be the first wholly organic nation. They have agreed to work towards an agricultural system void of pesticides with practical solutions to the issues of pest and disease.
- Canada
  - Addressing the issues of pesticides in health head-on, Canada now requires all pesticides to be registered before they can be produced, imported, sold, or used. Strict rules concerning pesticides will lower risk of improper use.

# CONCLUSION

- This basic overview is designed to help empower you to make choices about the use of chemicals in your day to day life. Hopefully you have learned that you as individuals have the option and opportunity to change laws and policies for the betterment of society.

# CALL TO ACTION

1. Be more proactive about not using chemicals.
2. Be the individual that changes environmental inequities.
3. Advocate for a clean environment to change and implement policy and develop strategies for a sustainable plan to eliminate chemicals.