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Plea to ban endosulfan

Staff Reporter

A delegation meets Agriculture Minister Damadora Rout and Health Minister Prasanna Acharya

BHUBANESWAR: Farmers practising organic farming and representatives of non-government organisations on Wednesday urged the government to ban use of endosulfan, an insecticide, in the State.

A delegation met State Agriculture Minister Damadora Rout and Health and Family Welfare Minister Prasanna Acharya to apprise them of the hazardous impact of endosulfan on food system.

They requested the ministers to put forward the demand of ban of pesticide their before Union Environment and Forest Minister Jairam Ramesh during his forth-coming visit to the State.

“Endosulfan has already been banned in 80 countries including USA. Indian States

like Kerala and Karnataka have already prohibited the pesticide. It is widely recognized that endosulfan is one of the dangerous insecticides belonging to the class of compounds called organo-chlorines,” said Prasant Mohanty, President of NIRMAN, a state level NGO.

Mr. Mohanty said, “in Orissa, endosulfan is being used in different names. We have provided proofs to ministers during our meeting.”

This was the first time in the State when a group of farmers and civil society members raised the issue of toxicity in connection with use of endosulfan.

Simanchal Nahak of Rushikulya Rayat Mahasabha, a farmers' federation in Ganjam district, claimed that use of hazardous pesticide increased by over 60 per cent. Further, the exposure to this chemical posed great risk of contamination, Mr. Nahak warned.

Natabara Sarangi, a leading organic farmer, expressed concerns over increased use of endosulfan in agriculture fields of the State and demanded there should not be further delay in banning the hazardous pesticide.