Hazard, Risk & Pesticides

The difference between a hazard (something with intrinsic properties to cause harm) and a risk (the actual chance of harm occurring) is important when talking about pesticides.



Just like bleach and hot coffee, pesticides are hazards...

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Many chemicals have the potential to cause harm, including water and oxygen. ...But their risks can be managed so they do not threaten our safety or health.



We can manage our exposure to them to ensure there is no unacceptable risk and to realize their benefits.

Farmers manage the risk of pesticides to give them the benefit of a healthy crop.

Unnecessarily restricting or banning the use of pesticides based on hazard alone is a risk to global food security.

