Hazard Risk & Pesticides

Millions of farmers’ livelihoods depend on their ability to grow healthy crops. Without access to pesticides their job of producing is much more difficult.

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

Benefits of Eating Produce Far Outweigh Any Risks

Pesticide residues are not a primary barrier to produce consumption, nor should be, but misunderstanding of them is widespread.

The health benefits of eating produce far outweigh any perceived risks or barriers.

In fact, eating 4-5 servings of fruits and vegetables daily is linked to lower mortality from cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, digestive diseases, cancer and stroke.

Increased intake of fruit alone could lower the number of annual deaths worldwide by 2 million.

Yet, 78 countries reported that only about half of adults consume the recommended intake. And only 18% in 28 low- and middle-income countries do.

Why? Taste, time constraints, cost and appeal of fast foods.