

Endosulfan

March 29, 2020

Why in news?

- The representatives of the victims of endosulfan poisoning in Kasaragod district of Kerala called off sit-in in front of the state Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram.

What is endosulfan?

- Endosulfan is an **organochlorine insecticide and acaricide** used to control a broad range of insect and arthropod pests on a wide variety of crops in many agrosystems.
- Its **trade name is Thiodan**.
- Used for control of pests in crops like cotton, cashew, fruits, tea, paddy, tobacco etc.
- The **Supreme Court in India banned the manufacture, sale, use, and export of endosulfan throughout the country in 2015**.
- Endosulfan is listed under both **Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (PoPs)**.
- **Its effects:**
 - Endosulfan is readily absorbed by humans via the stomach, lungs and through the skin.
 - It can cause acute and chronic toxicity.
 - There is **more susceptibility of females** than males to the lethal effects of endosulfan.
 - **Central nervous system is the main target** in endosulfan toxicity.
 - Endosulfan is a neurotoxin, haematoxin, genotoxin and nephrotoxin.
 - It has potential carcinogenic effects.
 - It has been linked to congenital physical disorders,

mental disabilities and deaths in farm workers and communities across the globe.