

3.3 Standards and Guidelines

Various standards have been issued to protect the natural resources, minimise adverse impacts on the environment, plants and animals. Standards released under the *Food Act* provides opportunities for maintaining quality for milk and milk products, fats and oil, spices and condiments, fruit and vegetable products, tea, coffee, cocoa and their products, salt, cereal, pulse and their products, mineral water, and sweetening agents. Similar standards have been released to regulate the contamination of foodstuffs by inorganic and organic matters. In order to protect foodstuffs, pesticide residual limits have also been issued (Table 3.2).

His Majesty's Government has also issued a *Chemical Fertiliser (Control) Order* in 1999 under the *Essential Commodities Control Act, 1961* with a view to regulate production, import and sale of the fertilisers. The Order provides provisions for specification of chemical fertilisers and their registration before production, quality control, packaging and labelling, and independent analysis of sampled chemical fertilisers. The Order empowers the Ministry of Agriculture to form a Chemical Fertiliser Advisory Board in order to provide advice on policy, priority, specification, quality control and statistics of chemical fertilisers.

HMG has also issued specification for seven chemical fertilisers namely Diammonium Phosphate (18-46-0), Potassium Chloride (Muriate of Potash) (0-0-60), Ammonium Sulphate (21-0-0), Urea (46-0-0), Ammonium Phosphate Sulphate (20-20-0), Ammonium Phosphate Sulphate Nitrate (20-20-0), and Nitro Phosphate (20-20-0). The specification includes requirements for physical and chemical composition. The tolerance limit in plant nutrients for various chemical fertilisers has also been issued for quality control.

Table 3.2 Maximum Residual Limits for Pesticides in Foodstuffs

SN	Pesticides	Unit	MRL or ERL
1.	Aldrin, Dieldrin	part per million	0.02 MRL
2.	Carbaryl	part per million	5.00 MRL
3.	Chlordane	part per million	0.05 ERL
4.	DDT	part per million	0.1 ERL
5.	Diazinon	part per million	0.1 MRL
6.	Fenitrothion	part per million	10.0 MRL
7.	Heptachlor	part per million	0.02 ERL
8.	Lindane	part per million	0.5 MRL
9.	Malathion	part per million	8.0 MRL
10.	Phosphamidon	part per million	0.1 MRL
11.	Alfatoxin	part per billion	30

Note: MRL = Maximum Residual Limit, and ERL = Extraneum Residual Limit

Source: Nepal Gazettee, Shrawan 3, 2045

These interventions will promote production of quality foodstuffs and minimise effects of agro-chemicals on the environment.

Environmental guidelines have also been issued to conduct environmental assessment (Initial Environmental Examination and/or Environmental Impact Assessment) study of prescribed projects. The Schedule I and II of the *Environmental Protection Rules, 1997* contains a list of proposals requiring such assessments. With a view to assisting the proponent in preparing environmental assessment reports, HMG has implemented the National Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines, 1993 and EIA guidelines for Forestry Sector, 1995. An EIA Guideline for Agricultural Sector was drafted in 1996.

However, the proposals requiring environmental assessments were later included in the *EPR, 1997*, and these procedural guidelines have been useful in guiding the preparation of the environmental assessment reports.