



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Horticulture Department
Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

Subject:- Imposition of restrictions on the sale of *Ethephon* (*Ethephon 39% SL and 10% paste*) and ban its use on apple crop in the J&K State.

Government Order No:- 75 -Horti of 2017
D a t e d :- 15 -05-2017

Whereas, it has been observed that *Ethephon*, a pesticides, is widely being used as plant growth regulator and for ripening of fruits in Horticulture Sector; and

Whereas, in view of its wide range of harmful effects on fruit plants/human health, the Department requested the SKUAST-K to examine the issue and advise on its effects; and

Whereas, a detailed report received from the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir reveals that *by use of such ripening agent, the quality of the crop gets deteriorated besides, acceptability as such fruits cannot be stored for longer periods. The mostly used compound is Ethephon. Ethephon, if used continuously year after year, may render the tree unproductive and also reduce the economic life of the plant. Ethylene treated fruits consumed immediately after the application results in dehydration due to its diarrhoeal property, therefore, Ethephon treated fruits are not recommended for consumption immediately after its application;* and

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Whereas, the report of SKUAST-K clearly indicates the hazardous effects of use of *Ethylene (Ethephon)* especially on the plant health, fruit quality, shelf life and harmful effects on human health; and

Whereas, the SKUAST-K has recommended that *in view of its hazardous effects on tree physiology and human health, restriction need to be imposed on its commercial use in fruit industry, and*

Whereas, Director, Law Enforcement, Agriculture Production Department also reported that the pesticide (*Ethephon*) is used as Plant Growth Regulator and for accelerating the process of ripening in the fruits and vegetables. The pesticide is mostly being used for ripening of apple. Even it is not recommended for use on apple by Registering Authority. The said pesticide adversely affects the health of plant/quality of fruit/shelf life and also have harmful effects on the human health; and

Whereas, the Director, Law Enforcement has also recommended that the sale of the said pesticide (*Ethephon 39% SL and 10% paste*) may be restricted in apple growing areas; and

Whereas, *Ethephon* is registered as pesticide with Central Insecticides Board (CIB), GOI, and has two formulations i.e. *Ethephon 39% SL and Ethephon 10% paste*. As per the major uses of pesticides, registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968, its use has been restricted to certain fruits and is not recommend for apple; and

Whereas, keeping in view the hazardous /deleterious effects associated with the use of *Ethephon* on fruit and plant health especially on apple, besides its harmful effects on human health as reported by SHUAST-K and Director Law Enforcement and their

recommendations for its restricted use in Horticulture Sector, it has been decided to ban the use of "Ethephon" on apple and impose restrictions on the sale and use of *Ethephon (Ethephon 39% SL and 10% paste)* in the State.

Now, therefore, in view of the above, sanction is hereby accorded to the imposition of restrictions on the sale of *Ethephon 39% SL and 10% paste* and ban its use on apple crop in the J&K State.

By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-

(M.H. Malik), KAS

Secretary to the Government


Dated: 15-05-2017

No. Horti/66/2017

Copy to the:

1. Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu/Kashmir.
2. Director Horticulture, Kashmir.
3. Director Horticulture, Jammu.
4. Director Information, J&K with the request to publish the same in the leading Newspapers of the State and electronic media for its wide publicity.
5. Director Law Enforcement, Agriculture Production Department, Civil Secretariat, J&K for strict compliance.
6. Director Agriculture Department Jammu/Kashmir with the request to circulate the order among the designated pesticides Inspectors.
7. OSD with Hon'ble Minister for Horticulture.
8. All Chief Horticulture Officers. They are directed to circulate the order to the designated Pesticide Inspectors (HDOs/SMSS) of their Districts for strict enforcement and wide publicity by way of awareness meeting with the growers in various zone.
9. Additional Private Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of State for Horticulture.
10. Private Secretary to Secretary to the Government, Horticulture Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.
11. Government Order file/Stock file.


(Tahir Mustafa Malik)


Deputy Secretary to the Government