



Crop Care Federation of India

Facts about Cancer



Misinformation about cancer is pervasive on the internet and social media. Fear mongering about cancer is a big business to many. The reason is simple. Fear and outrage grab attention faster than hard scientific facts.

Cancer fear mongering is a profitable online tactic used by influencers and activists. Scary claims about agriculture and food bring high web traffic and money.

Authentic facts about cancer are far different from what the general public is often told by activists, social media posts, films and news reports.

Below given are few authentic facts about cancer, sourced from credible international and national organizations.

1. Age-Standardized Cancer Rate in the world and India's rank (2024)

Rank	Country	Cancer Rate (per 1,00,000 population)
1	Australia	461
2	USA	358
3	Denmark	345
4	Canada	344
5	Norway	335
6	Hungary	333
7	Netherland	321
8	Ireland	317
9	Belgium	314
10	Croatia	312
172	India	104
World Average		197

Among the top ten cancer inflicted countries, as many as **seven countries are in Europe.**

Europe is the cancer capital of the world. **Not India.**

India ranks **172nd** globally. **Cancer rate in India is nearly half of world average.**

Source: International Agency for Research on Cancer, GLOBOCAN 2024 of the WHO (Accessed on 28th July 2026)

2. Age-Standardized Cancer Rate in India (2016)

Rank	State	Cancer Rate (per 1,00,000 population)
1	Mizoram	186.5
2	Meghalaya	153.3
3	Delhi	148.6
4	Arunachal Pradesh	145.9
5	Haryana	139.1
6	Assam	134.4
7	Nagaland	127.1
8	Kerala	125.4
9	Karnataka	123.5
10	Sikkim	123.1
11	Uttar Pradesh	118.6
12	Uttarakhand	117.5
13	Madhya Pradesh	117.2
14	Union territories other than Delhi	115.1
15	Jammu & Kashmir	113.9
16	Chhattisgarh	112.0
17	Rajasthan	106.8
18	West Bengal	105.6
19	Odisha	103.4
20	Himachal Pradesh	103.3
21	Goa	103.1
22	Punjab	97.5
23	Jharkhand	97.3
24	Gujarat	97.1
25	Tripura	94.1

Source:
The burden of cancers and their variations across the states of India: The Global Burden of Disease Study 1990-2016 (fig 1, appendix pg 30), published in 2018 by ICMR.

Punjab ranks **22nd**, which is far below than those of Mizoram, Meghalaya and Sikkim that follow organic agriculture.

Linking use of chemical inputs in agriculture to cancer is utterly malicious.

Singapore has no agricultural land.
Yet it has higher cancer incidence rate than India.

3. Pesticides and Food Safety

After assessing the level of risk, the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) establishes limits for safe intake to ensure that the amount of pesticide residue to which people are exposed through eating food over their lifetime will not result in adverse health effects.

These acceptable daily intakes (ADIs) are used by governments and international risk managers, such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission, to establish maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides in food. Codex standards are the reference for international trade in food, meaning that consumers everywhere can be confident that the food they buy meets the agreed standards for safety and quality, no matter where it has been produced.

Pesticides in the India are assessed for safety before they are approved for use.

Do pesticide residues cause cancer?

“ Leftover pesticides on food does not cause cancer.

Small amounts of pesticides can remain on the surface of food, like fruits and vegetables. But this is at low levels that are not harmful to people.

You don't need to worry about pesticides on your food There is no strong evidence that being exposed to pesticides at low levels causes cancer.”

Source : Cancer Research UK

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/causes-of-cancer/cancer-myths-questions/do-pesticides-cause-cancer>

4. Certain common substances/occupations identified as cancer causing to humans (Group 1) by International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization (WHO).



The above list is not exhaustive, only a sample.

This should be a big surprise to many people who have been conditioned to think only chemicals as cancer causing agents.

According to experts, the factors behind cancer may be genetics, lifestyle, environment or constitutional characteristics of the individual. There is no single cause for cancer. It is the interaction of many factors together that produces cancer. Managing and mitigating the causes of cancer can shift in wrong direction when public and policy makers focus too narrowly on chemicals.

Issued for public awareness by Crop Care Federation of India (CCFI). This is for information purpose only.
Not a medical advice.

CCFI is an apex trade body for Indian agrochemicals industry with 50 companies as members. Our members account for over 70% of agrochemical export from India.

Website: www.cropcarefed.in Email: admin@cropcarefed.in

Date : 28th July 2026