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Pesticide Risk Assessment, Emerging and Re-Emerging Problems

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Message from the Guest Editors

Rural populations all over the world face several hazards in their daily lives and working activities. Among them, particular attention must be addressed at pesticides: these compounds must necessarily be toxic because they are used for controlling undesired living species, and, differing from other chemicals, must be spread in the environment in order to reach their targets. Since their toxicity is not specific for the target organisms, their use can endanger different living species, including humans. In this light, risk assessment of pesticide use is fundamental, but new challenges are appearing in this field: the pesticide market is quickly changing and new compounds are being introduced into the market, so a sound risk assessment for these compounds must be organized. Developed and industrialized countries have very structured systems for pesticide authorization, but similar systems are not affordable for developing and in-transition countries, which must rely on their own capacities or assessments performed out of their borders. Moreover, due to economic problems, obsolete pesticides are still marketed in these countries, bringing about specific risks.



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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