

BACKGROUND

Plant Protection measures are essential to save the crops from ravages of pests and diseases. The Central Directorate on Plant Protection is implementing various programmes to promote latest concepts of plant protection technology.

Central efforts on plant protection are being targeted to popularise environment friendly Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. Greater relevance is given to bio-control of pests under the IPM and human resources development.

To save the Indian agriculture from exotic pests and diseases, legislative measures on Plant Quarantine are being enforced through 26 Plant Quarantine Stations located at International Airports, Seaports, Land Frontiers. These Stations also discharge the responsibility of phytosanitary certification to help export of agricultural commodities.

To ensure availability of effective pesticides, a comprehensive Central Legislation – Insecticides Act, 1968 - is being implemented. Central Insecticides Laboratory, Registration Committee, Central Insecticides Board and Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories are the principal wings for implementation of the Act at the Central level.

Locust control in scheduled desert areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat is the Central responsibility. As such, a Locust Warning Organisation with 5 Circles and 23 Outposts with Headquarters at Jodhpur is maintaining constant vigil over an area of 2 lakh sq. km. against any possible incursion from across the borders.

Human resource development in plant protection and various disciplines of pesticides is being achieved by organising regular and short term training programmes at National Plant Protection Training Institute, Hyderabad.