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Title: Need to produce and use chemical free organic farming.

SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA (KOPPAL): Biological control is a method of controlling pests using other living organisms. This includes insects, mites, weeds and plant diseases. The idea of using microbial pathogens of agronomic pests as a method of biological control dates back to the 19th century.

As per studies chemical insecticides are toxic and poisonous to human being, whereas, microbial bio control agents like Trichoderma, Pseudomonas etc. are non-toxic and non-poisonous. But they are identified under the group of chemical insecticides in India. This is a wrong grouping that is why it should be looked into.

I would like to point out that several Agricultural Universities, State Bio control Laboratories and ICAR Institutes have identified farmers friendly or eco-friendly microbial bio control agents from the nature such as Trichoderma barzianum and Pseudomonas fluorescents from the control of root and foliar plant diseases, Beauveria Bassiana and Metarhizium anisopliae for the biological control of crop pests like white grubs and cut worms, Bacillus thuringiensis and NPV for the control of cotton bollworms and Paecilomyces lilacinus for the control of plant parasitic nematodes.

Even though these microbial bio control agents are safe to human being and plants, in India they are wrongly grouped as chemical insecticides. It is causing a great inconvenience to people who wish to produce or manufacture. One has to submit toxicological data to get license. If these microbial bio control agents are not grouped as chemical insecticides, the unemployed rural youth can take up mass production and sell to farmers at a much cheaper cost.

I would like to urge upon the Union Government to take all possible steps to take corrective measure to make our India farmers themselves able to produce and use for organic farming free of chemicals.