



December 4, 2011  



On December 2 the environmental blog of the famous British newspaper [The Guardian](#) published an article by [Alison Benjamin](#), about the opening session of the Indian public trial against chemical multinationals.



This year is the 27th anniversary of the Bhopal disaster that killed 20,000 people in India. It will be commemorated by World [No Pesticides Use Day](#).

This year will also start the "public process for pesticides companies", sponsored by the [Permanent People's Tribunal \(PPT\)](#), an international opinion tribunal that has raised awareness of cases from Eritrea to Guatemala.

**The PPT will be held in Bangalore, India, with evidence against the six major pesticides companies (Monsanto, Dow, BASF, Bayer, Syngenta and DuPont) which control 74% of global pesticides. They will be invited to defend allegations of violating human rights.**



**The World Bank estimates that more than 350,000 people die each year of unintentional pesticide poisoning. This means almost 1,000 people die every day. The international [Pesticide Action Network \(PAN\)](#), which is spearheading the PPT, says that up to 41 million people are suffering from adverse effects of pesticide exposure.**

**But not only people are killed or maimed by toxic chemical substances.**

Since two decades ago when a **new class of systemic pesticides called neonicotinoids** appeared on the market,

**there has been a clear connection with the global decline in bees**

. Neonicotinoids deposit for a long time in plants and flowers, and can affect the [insects'](#) nervous systems.



In Germany, Italy, France, and Slovenia, a Bayer-manufactured neonicotinoid, [Imidacloprid, has been suspended](#)

for the treatment of maize seed. According to research

**showing it may contaminate the pollen that bees collect**

. Under laboratory conditions it has been shown to impair ipair honeybees' communication, memory and learning abilities. Beekeepers in Italy and France also blame another neonicotinoid, Thiamethoxam, which is produced by Syngenta, for killing their bees. Studies have shown how bees' flight could be adversely affected by the absorption of very low doses of this product.

In the U.S., where one third of the bees have disappeared since 2008, scientists have found [Imidacloprid at levels never reported before.](#)



[with Clothianidin used for maize seed treatment, which has been linked to the decline of](#)



[The Guardian: Industrial Harms and Health Risks of a Link between these Toxins](#)