

A review: risk assessment of pesticides on honey bee and pollination of agriculture crops in Pakistan

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Abstract

This paper reviews the importance of honey bee as pollinator of agriculture crops, fruit, vegetables, seeds etc. and losses in agriculture, honey bee and honey production due to use of chemical pesticides. Honey bee (Hymenoptera: Apidae) is economically important insect. Honeybees are existing all around world excluding extreme Polar Regions. Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) add approximately US \$200 billion to the global economy every year, mainly through crop pollination. Productivity worth of pollination dependent crops equal to US\$ 1590 million in Pakistan where 61 main pollinate crops are considered as foodstuff (26 fruits, 19 vegetable, 7 oilseeds, 4 grain legumes, 2 flavoring crops and 3 nut shrubs) depend on honey bee pollination. Honey bee population is declining with alarming speed all around the world and it is endangering global food security because one third of agriculture production depend upon on pollination particularly by honey bee. Current reduction in honey bee population for agriculture pollination is threatening to nuts, fruit, vegetable and seed production in Pakistan. Several factors responsible for decline of honey bee colonies including climate change, predation by other insects, air pollution, ecosemiotic collapse, the alteration of the bee microbiome, electromagnetic radiation from the sun, expose to initial life stress, nano materials, and biochemical pesticides, diseases, parasites surroundings of honey bees. The toxic chemicals are transported in hive through the pollen and nectar which may destroy the entire honey bee colony. Pesticides pattern applied in agriculture have been changed in last decade. This review research indicates how pesticide is used in agricultural crops for control of pests affecting on honey bee health and decline of bee populations. Then concludes with intensive studies on current management protocols would support in procedure formulation and resolution making polices regarding to shelter honey bees and management of pollination for agriculture purpose, which is lacking.

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Introduction

The domesticated honey bee (Hymenoptera: Apidae) is economically important insect (Michener, 1969). Honey bees are present all around world excluding extreme Polar Regions. In Pakistan, four species of honeybee are present among them three bee species

(*Apis dorsata*, *Apis florea*, *Apis cerana*) are indigenous while *Apis mellifera* is exotic imported from Russia and Australia during 1979 (Jadran, 2011; Hikmat et al, 2016). Honey bee producing different products including honey, royal jelly, bee venom, pollen, bee wax and propolis that are used in food commodities, medicinal drugs and further marketable products (Wakhal et al., 1999). In Pakistan 400,000



honey bee colonies making 10,000 MT honey annually, almost more than 4000 beekeepers were involved in raising of *Apis mellifera* and 27000 household were getting income from beekeeping industry (PARC, 2010).

Beekeeping remains significant for agricultural and environmental activity. Beekeeping plays a parallel role in cross-pollination of economical farming crops and medicinal plants with the manufacturing of honey. Honey bees increase the production of different fruit crops up to 30-40 % (Jadran, 2011). Pesticides requirement increase over last decade in most developing countries and increased in Pakistan during 1990 (Osteen and Fernandez, 2013; Khan et al., 2002). De A et al. (2014) demonstrated the percentage of pesticides being used 45 % in Europe and 25 % in USA, 4 percent in India and in other parts of world 26%. This value of consumption of pesticide is almost € 36 billion annually (Popp et al., 2013; De A et al., 2014). Pakistan is second largest purchasers of chemical substances in South Asia, 27% pesticides used within fruits, vegetables crops and annually application of pesticides is increasing up to 25 % (Hussain et al., 2004). Honey bees and beekeepers are suffering from the excessive usage of pesticides every year in agriculture sector due to beginning of agriculture modernization (Maini et al., 2010). Honey bee life depends upon flowering plants. Honey bees foragers collect nectar from nectariferous plants, collect pollen only from polliferous plant and some bee foragers collect nectar and pollen on the same plant (Pătruică, 2006). Pollination is an essential process for production of fruit plants, variety of flowering plants and deals fundamental ecosystems facilities to human welfare (Kevan, 1999; Klein et al., 2007). It is confirmed that most of flowering plants are pollinated by insects, animals; including 70 % reproduction occurring in world's flowering plants is due to pollination (Ollerton et al., 2011). Among the pollinators, *Apis mellifera* has been playing crucial role for improving the agricultural crops production throughout the world (Allen-Wardell et al., 1998). Extensive use of pesticides leads to loss of honey bee population and also decrease in pollination process (Chauzat et al., 2006).

Influence of pesticides on honey bee and honey production

The bee population is reducing all around world since 2006. Average death rate of honey bee colonies are 30 % in USA and some beekeeper claimed even greater

injuries (Ellis et al., 2010; Lee et al., 2015). About 25-30 % honey bee population decline in European countries and Canada is due to extreme use of higher concentration of pesticides (Van Engelsdorp and Meixner, 2010; Neumann and Carreck, 2010). There are several factors responsible for decline in honey bee population across the world including weather alteration (Le Conte and Navajas, 2008), air contamination (Girling et al., 2013; Mc Frederick et al., 2008), ecosemiotic collapse (Harries-Jones, 2009), adaptation of the honey bee microbiome (Mattila et al., 2012; Cox-Foster et al., 2007), electromagnetic radiation from the sun (Ferrari, 2014), honey bee colony exposure to primary life pressure (Wray et al., 2011; Clare CR et al., 2015), nano-materials (Milivojevic et al., 2015), and biochemical background of bees (Mullin et al., 2015). The population of honey bee is decreased from 1966-1979 due to excessive use of organophosphorus, organochlorine, carbamate and pyrethroid pesticides contact. The ratio of pesticides usage is comprising 74 percent insecticides, 14 percent weeds killer, 9 percent fungicides, 2 percent acaricides and 1 percent fumigants in Pakistan (Khan, 1998), in which most of pesticides used for cotton (60%), rice (7%), cereals (4%), sugarcane (2%) and rest of pesticides (27%) used for other crops (Kang, 2013). Pesticides are broadly used in Pakistan to controlling the agriculture pest, excessive use of chemical disturb the ecological system and cause pest resistance, kill ecofriendly insects (Predators, Parasitoids and Pollinators). The consumption of pesticides (Fig 1) as well as the sprayed crops area increased many folds (Fig 2).

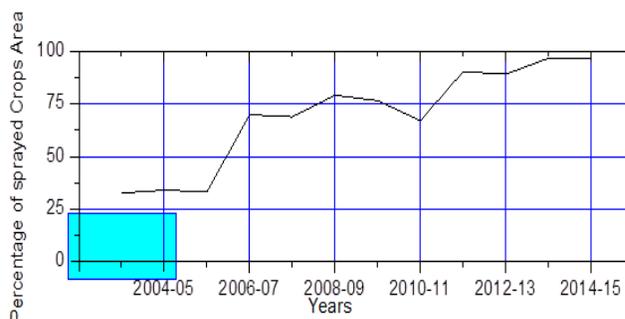


Fig 1: Consumption of pesticides in Pakistan (Agriculture statistic of Pakistan 2014-15)



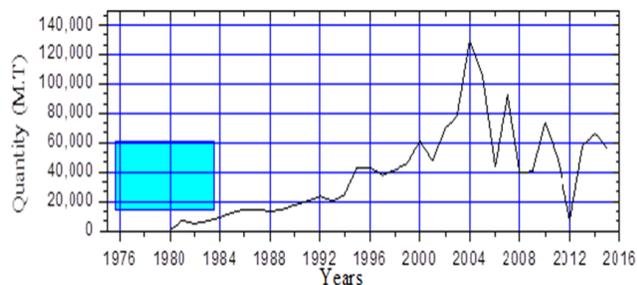


Fig 2: Percentage of Sprayed Crops Area covered by ground plant protection measures in Pakistan (Agriculture statistic of Pakistan 2014-15)

In Pakistan most of pesticides used by farmers are insecticides and fungicides. Table 1 shows grouping of pesticides, chemical group, WHO Hazard Category and their target pest. It was observed that farmer also used highly toxic insecticides containing carbofuran and moderately toxic (endosulfan) which are hazardous to human, arthropods including honey bee (Asif et al., 2014).

Table 1: Characterization of pesticides with toxicity class applied in agricultural crops and residual effect on honey bee health (Jivan and Marian, 2013; Asif et al., 2014; Douglas, 2015).

Pesticides common name	Chemicaly Group	Toxicity class	Residual activity	Usses
Imidacloprid	Nicotinoid	II	<8 hours	Sucking pests
Endosulfan	OC	II	<8 hours	Against lepidopterous larvae
Chlorpyrifos	OP	II	4-6 days	Acaricide
Diafenthuron	Urea	III	3-4 days	Sucking pests & mite
Mancozeb	Dithiocarbamate	U		Downy mildew
Profenophos	OP	II		Against lepidopterous larvae
Cypermethrin	Pyrethroid	II	3 days	Against lepidopterous larvae
Sulfur	Inorganic	III		
Thiamethoxam	Nicotinoid	III	7-14 days	Sucking pests
Lambda-Cyhalothrin	Pyrethroid	II	> 7days	Chewing & sucking pests
Dimethoate	OP	II	3 days	Sucking pests
Acetamiprid	Nicotinoid	II		Sucking pests
Permethrin	Pyrethroid	Ib	1-2 days	Acaricide
Emamectin	Avermectin	II		Lepidopterous Fruit worms
Thiophanate methyl	Benzimidazole	U		Powdery mildew
Spinosad	Bacteria	II	<2 hours	Against lepidopterous larvae, thrips
Abamectin	Avermectin	II		Against lepidopterous larvae
Metalaxyl	Anilide	II		Downy mildew, early blight of tomatoe
Bifenthrin	Pyrethroid	II		Against lepidopterous larvae
Pyridaben	Unclassified	II	<2 hours	Sucking pests
Lufenuron	Urea	II		Against lepidopterous larvae
Difenoconazole	Conazole	II		Early blight of tomato, Powdery mildew diseases
Carbofuran	Carbamate	Ib		Used for lepidopterous larvae
Acephate	OP	II	3 days	Chewing & sucking pests
Manzate	Ethylene bisdithiocarbamate	III		Black spot, flower blight, rust
Chloranthraniliprole		U		Against lepidopterous larvae
Malathion	OP	III	2-5 days	Chewing & sucking pests
Monomehyppo	Nereistoxin	NR		Against lepidopterous larvae
Deltamethrin	Pyrethroid	II	4 hours	Chewing & sucking pests
Copper Oxychloride	Inorganic	II		early blight of tomato
Azoxystrobin	Unclassified	III		Powdery mildew, downy mildew stripe rust, haustorium
Indoxacarb	Oxadiazine I	III		Sucking pests and chewing

Ib=highly toxic; II=Moderately toxic; III=Slightly toxic; U=Unlikely toxic

Toxicity of insecticides is usually determined by measuring critical contact toxicity standards LD₅₀ (It is value which cause 50 % of mortality of population when exposed to pesticides). Honey bee threshold level to toxicity is normally set at extremely lethal (acute LD₅₀ < 2 µg /honey bee); moderately lethal (acute LD₅₀ equal with 2 - 10.99 µg/honey bee); somewhat lethal (acute LD₅₀ equivalent toward 11 - 100µg/honey bee); non-lethal (acute LD₅₀ > 100µg/honey bee) to developed honey bees (Antonina and Marian, 2013). Honey bee visit in pesticides treated agriculture field and the toxic chemicals are transported in hives through the pollen and nectar, it may kill the entire honey bee colony. The polluted pollen and nectar in bee colony may be impressed due to residual poisonous result of pesticides. When the toxic honey comb introduced into new family of bee brood colony it may also be affected severely (leading to death). The toxic chemicals can entirely destruct the bee population or decrease the population within the bee colony. This weaken colony may enter the winter with short food and may cause the collapse of colony over winter season (Atkins, 1992). There are different situations through which honey bees are exposed to pesticides; exposure through contact when honey bee may be poisoned in flight during application of chemicals or contact with residue on treated plants (Bura et al., 2000); by ingestion when bees collect pesticide contaminated food and it will be used by entire colony which results into colony destruction and storage food (nectar and pollen) in which nectar can be used instantly but pollen need time for fermentation to be digestible for honey bees and it will be used during the period outside the harvest particularly in wintertime, harvested pollen in August can be used in March, April next year (Villa et al., 2000). Insecticides may cause lethal and sub lethal effect on biological system of honey bees. Insecticides with different mode of action effect on molecular level lead to initiation of noticeable and unobservable effect, damage physiological function (thermoregulation and muscle activity), behavior (foraging) and cognitive activities (Belzunces et al., 2012).

Sub-lethal effect of pesticides

Sub-lethal influence of pesticides upon honey bee health and former beneficial insect were determined in most publications. For example sub-lethal doses of pesticides (Parathion, Diazinon) disturb the movement of honey bee behavior (familiarize over short distances, familiarize over long distances), harvesting,

transport of nectar, development, fertility, fecundity, survival, feeding behavior and thermoregulation (Vandame, 1995; Desneux et al., 2007). Anjum et al. (2001) determined mortality of honey bee in treated cucumber crops with Polo (Diafenthiuron 50 EC) and Endosulfan (35 EC) after 7 days interval. Mortality percentage was 34.64 and 66.64 % respectively after 48 hours .Plant protection products also show negative effect on honey bees on lives, immune capabilities and other behaviors which are important for better development of colony like bee brood feeding, building comb, swarming, and balancing worker and drone population between comb, transferring of information with in new building of colony (Colin et al., 2004).

Dilbar et al. (2014) conducted an experiment on three honey bee species (*Apis florea*, *Apis mellifera* and *Apis dorsata*) to determine the persistence data of confined bee against expose to seven insecticides including bifenthrin, spinosad, indoxacarb, emamectin benzoate, carbosulfan, imidacloprid and chlorpyrifos with concentration (1000, 500, 250,125 and 0 ppm). Carbosulfan and imidacloprid (1000 ppm) were more toxic with LD₅₀ after exposure of 4 hrs used for *A. mellifera* while chlorpyrifos and imidacloprid having concentration (1000 ppm) extremely lethal with LT₅₀ after expose of 5 hours to *A. florea*. Chlorpyrifos having concentration (1000 ppm) was highly lethal with LT₅₀ after 5 hrs to *A. dorsata*. Therefore spinosad having concentration (125 ppm) with LT₅₀ was enhanced to 15 hours, 18 hours and 20 hours against *A. florea*, *A. mellifera* and *A. dorsata* respectively.

Ping-Li et al. (2010) examined toxicity of some pyrethroids including deltamethrin and bifenthrin which are extensively applied in agriculture crops (fruits, vegetables, forestry crops). Bifenthrin has highly toxic effect on honey bees health including weight of egg, hatching, weight of larvae, emergence rate, and capping rate in each development stage while deltamethrin influence on larval weight, capping rate, advent rate in uncapped brood stage. Spinosad has also toxic effect on honey bee and causes high mortality when exposure time is increased. Chlorpyrifos and imidacloprid were highly toxic against three species of honey bee (*A. floria*, *A. mellifera* and *A. dorsata*) which caused 100 % mortality after 6 hour exposure to these insecticides with high concentration (Johnson et al., 2010). One neonicotinoids pesticide, imidacloprid is broadly used in agricultural crops effecting on the foraging behavior of honey bee and lead to honey bee



colony collapse disorder (CCD) (Lu et al. 2014; Karahan et al. 2015). Three nonnicotinoids pesticides (clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam) should not be applied during in oilseed rape and maize during flowering season to save honey bee colonies (Cressey, 2013).

The synergistic effects

According to (Colin and Belzunces, 1992) and (Pilling and Jepson, 1993) synergistic effect of mixture of fungicides and pyrethroids applied on honey bee in control condition enhanced toxicity 10 to 100 fold. When different pesticides (pyrethroid and fungicides) applied in agriculture field mixing in the same tank, synergism in their toxicity may happen accidentally and show negative effect on insects.

Different insecticides including clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam (neonicotinoid) are highly toxic pesticides to honey bees. Krupke et al. (2012) conducted a study to determine exposure of pesticides including neonicotinoids clothianidin, thiomexotham, atrazine (herbicides) and fungicides applied in agriculture during the foraging period. He concluded that propionazole (fungicide) showed synergism with neonicotinoid and pesticide residue becomes a part of soil, plant, pollen and nectar and when bees visit these plants, mortality occur directly (nectar) and indirectly (pollen storage).

Neonicotinoids insecticides are used directly in agriculture crops and also for seed treatment. These neurotoxic chemicals are systemic and become a part of plant including pollens and have been showed negative effect on honey bee health since 1990s (Henry et al., 2012; Kessler et al., 2015). Muhammad et al. (2016) demonstrated the residual effect of neonicotinoids on honey bee in laboratory experiments. Imidacloprid highly lethal than thiamethoxam followed by acetamiprid when use by wet surface method while nitenpyram and thiacloprid least lethal after 3 and 6 hour of exposure. Imidacloprid, acetamiprid extremely toxic than thiamethoxam to worker honey bee when expose to wet surface after 24 and 48 hours. Thiamethoxam, acetamiprid and imidacloprid showed highly toxicity whereas thiacloprid and nitenpyram less toxic after 3 to 6 hours when exposure to oral application. Therefore, thiamethoxam was more lethal followed by thiacloprid, imidacloprid while acetamiprid and nitenpyram was less lethal after 24 and 48 hours through oral application. Thiacloprid and nitenpyram should be used nearby blossoming season to protect

the honey bee. France and Germany prohibited the use of neonicotinoids during 2008 due to decline of bee colonies. Pesticides which are applied in agriculture field, among them most pesticides are fat soluble and larger quantity of pesticides store in bee wax than honey. Many scientific studies showed that the pollution of bee product in that order; propolis is most polluted followed by wax, pollen and honey (Bogdanov, 2003)

In Pakistan honey bee hives produces an average of 10-15 kg honey in each season but in Australia bee hives produces 25-30 kg honey per season due to good bee breeding facilities (Izhar, 2016). There are several reasons for less production in Pakistan including climatic changes, untrained beekeeper and extensive use of pesticides has severely affected the honey bee colonies and beekeeper annual loss of 5661 MT honey which equal to loss of 9.91 million rupees. In swat valley Wild honey also reduce up to 75 percent due chemical application and now not easily accessible on the marketplace. Farmers keep honeybees with their agricultural crops but pesticides are the main obstacle in beekeeping and also expected 90 percent honey bee deaths every day by bulky application of pesticides (Mohammad et al., 2008). Honey production has declined up to 40% in Pakistan due to major changes in (habitat, biodiversity) and widely application of pesticides lead to reduce honey bees population within the Hindu Kush Himalayan region (Muhammad, 2016).

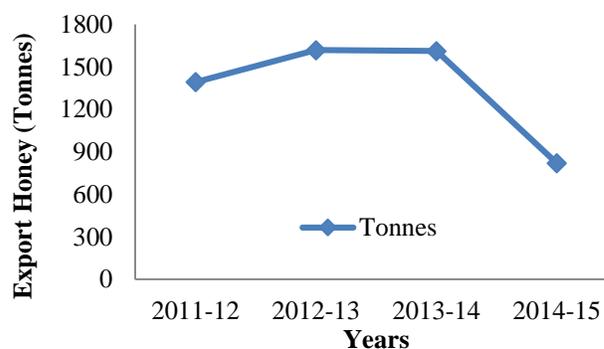


Fig 3: Export of natural honey from Pakistan (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics)

Role of pollination

Above 25,000 species of bees pollinate almost 70% of crops (87 of the 124 main crops) which are directly used for human consumption in the world. Production increase 5 to 50% in most agriculture crops as a result of pollination done by bees (Klein et al., 2007).



Almost 90 percent of all angiosperms depend on pollinators to survive. Honey bees responsible for third of pollination in agriculture sector. In Pakistan important crops including alfalfa, clover, almond, melon, soybean, sunflower, cucumber, apricot, cherry, peach, citrus, pear, persimmon, prune, apple, plum, cantaloupe, okra, rape seed carrot onion, avocado, kiwi, cranberry blueberry are mostly require honeybee pollination (Mohammad and Elizabeth, 2014).

In Agriculture worldwide profitable value of pollination service is USA\$193 billions annually. Annual economic worth of insects pollination for pulses crop is \$2.7 millions, oil seed crops \$ 233.1 millions, tree nut crops \$ 50.5 millions, for seasonings are \$ 5.5 millions and fruit and vegetables are \$ 2.3 billions and 78.5 millions respectively (Gallai et al., 2009). In Europe 84% productions of crops depend upon the insect pollinator (Williams, 1994). Production value of pollinated dependent crop was equal to 1.59 billion US\$ in Pakistan, therefore fruit crops are leading with 980 million, vegetable crops 320 million, nuts crop 150 billion, oil-rich seed crops 130 million and spices 4 million US \$ (Muhammad and Elizabeth, 2013). Now Pakistan has 61 essential pollinated crops regard as foodstuff containing 26 fruits crop, 7 oil-rich seed crops, 4 grain legumes crop, 19 vegetables crop, 2 spices and 3 nut shrubs which are depend on honey bee pollination (Mohammad and Elizabeth, 2014).

According to (Stephen and Irshad, 2012) production of mustard crops increased 30 % and production of sarsoon (*Brassica rapa trilocularis*) and toria (*Brassica napus*) increased 47 % by increasing the bee hives. The presence of honey bee pollination cucumber and cauliflower yield increased up to 28-32.5 % and 23 % respectively. Different district of Pakistan including Matli, Badin and Golarchi yield of radish, sunflower increased 18.7 and 22 % respectively and seed set of onion increased 62-93 % due to honey bee pollination. Clover yield increased 100 % due to honey bee pollination. Anjum et al. (2001) found the foraging activity of honey bee in cucumber crops. Due to honey bee pollination germination of cucumber crops increased 90.33 % and yield obtained 352.7 kg per hectare. Muhammad et al. (2009) investigated honey bee pollination efficacy in canola crops. Number of pods and number of seed per pod are 815 and 20 with presence of bee pollination while 349 and 15 without pollination, yield of canola crops and weight of seed also increased due to bee pollination. Oz et al. (2009) determined that sunflower

hybrid production enhanced seed set ratio, seed weight, number of filled seed per head and seed yield per head due to honey bee pollination.

Table 2: Economic values of honey bee pollination in different part of world (Uma and Tej, 2012; Mohammad and Elizabeth, 2014).

Country	Economic values (billion USA Dollar)	References
America	14.6	(Morse and Calderone, 2001)
Canada	1.2	(Winston and Scott, 1984)
China	0.7	(Chen, 1993)
New Zealand	2.3	(Matheson and Schrader, 1987)
European Union	3	(Williams, 1992)
United Kingdom	0.15	(Carreck and Williams, 1998),
Brazilian	8.75	(Freitas and Imperatriz-Fonesca, 2005)
East Africa	1.2	(Kasina et al., 2009)
Uganda	0.46	(Munyuli, 2011)
Netherland	1.25	(Blacquiere et al., 2010)
Himalayan region of Pakistan	0.95	(Uma et al., 2012)

Deficit of pollination

According to current population growth rate high level of farming production will be needed to support the world population. The practices which are applied to enhance the yields damaged our ecosystem depict most susceptible to pests. To improve better health, length and quality of human life, food requirement have enhanced, and demanding the efficient pest control by using different pesticides. Approximately two billion individuals involve in agricultural business that mostly used chemical control to save their field crops and farm animals. Pesticides are applied also extensively in garden, throughout home and frame work of public fitness programmed (Oerke, 2006). In USA incomes of some fruit crops, seeds and nuts crop decline more than 90 percent in absence of insect pollinators (Southwick and Southwick, 1992). In USA pesticides have been consider as major factor for losses of honey bee colonies, reduction in honey production, wax yield and pollination to cause losses about \$283 millions per year. It is estimated approximately \$210 millions losses due to declining of honey bee



pollination of crops, residue of pesticides have been found in bee wax, pollen, adult bee and bee pupae (David, 2009; Mullin, 2010). In Pakistan yield of some fruit reduced up to 33.4% due to pollination shortage (Aslam et al., 2004). According to Gallai *et al.* (2008) three main crops categories will be affected due to decline of pollination, in which mainly fruits and vegetables production reduced with losses estimated at 50 billions for each and 39 billions Euros losses by edible seed crops. In Himalayan region of Pakistan the population of pollinator decline due to farmers and institution unawareness about pollination benefits. In mountain region of Azad Kashmir of Pakistan yield of apple decrease every year due to absence of pollinators and farmers replace their apple trees to agriculture crops (Uma and Tej, 2002). Uma et al. (2012) found production of agriculture crops increasing in mountain region of Pakistan by managing the honey bee pollinators. In Peshawar production of loquat decline 64.4% due to absence of honey bee pollinator and apple production also decreases (Khan, 1986; Khan, 2004). Aslam et al. (2004) determined that inflorescence and fruit seed set was in uncaged and caged tree 42.5 and 28.3 % respectively, yield decrease 33.4 % due to decline of honey bees pollination. Zafar et al. (2016) examined the residual effect of Malathion (0.002 gm/ml) on pollinator insects including honey bee, bumble bee, syrphid fly and butterflies in *Calendula officinalis* field. After 10 days interval it was observed the forceful decrease in number of pollinator particularly honey bee due to insecticide treatment but significantly higher number of insect pollinator was detected in control field. In current scenario colonies of honey bee are declining due to excessive use of chemical pesticides resulting into declining of food production in the absence of pollinators (Chauzat et al. 2006). Therefore excessive application of pesticides not only preserved within fruits and vegetables but also pollute the water and soil then enter into food chain and also enter into human blood through this food and water, pesticides is main cause of environmental pollution, damage the biodiversity and decline of natural habitats (Cerejeira *et al.*, 2003; USAID and I-LED, 2006-2009). It is claimed by many commercial companies of insecticides and fungicides that their products are harmless or only slightly toxic to honey bees but pesticides are dangerous to bees and other pollinators when applied on flowering crops (Abramson *et al.*, 1999). Large amount of insecticides are used to control the pests also having effect on natural enemies

(Predators, Parasitoids, Parasites) of agriculture pests, sub-lethal doses of neonicotinoids have shown clearly effect on scrounging activity, natural selection, colony health and new honey bee and bumble bee queen production (Henry *et al.*, 2012; Schneider *et al.*, 2012; Whitehorn *et al.*, 2012), Herbicides effect directly and indirectly on beneficial arthropods and may indirectly decrease the fitness of pollinating insect (Egan *et al.*, 2014).

Conclusion

Honey bee is an important pollinator for agriculture crops and increasing the production of fruits, seeds and vegetables crops without any additional investment. Pollination process is helping to improve crops quality, quantity, and genetic diversity and improve over all ecosystems. 15 % of world crops are pollinated by succeeded honey bee colonies and rest of world crops are pollinated by solitary bee and other animals. In developed countries *Apis mellifera* colonies are rented by farmers for pollination in their agricultural crops. It is continuous challenge to excessive use of pesticides in agriculture crops to control the pest. Every year new pesticides are coming to market with new formula and these are hazardous to biodiversity and may cause the animal and livestock death, pesticides residue present in food and water and honey bees severely damaged when exposed to pesticides. Pesticides treatment should avoid in plantation and crops during flowering and pesticides application should ensure protection of honey bee health. If honey bee takes polluted nectar and pollen in hive it may cause mortality of honey bee foragers result in destruction of whole colony. Farmers should use ecofriendly pesticides (derived from plant extracts etc.) like nicotine, quassin, rotenone, ryan, tephrosia, pyrethrins, veratrine, and anabasine which have less toxic effect on honey bee. Farmers must apply integrated pest management practice for control of pests in their agriculture field and should not only rely on chemical control measures.

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