

Local Herb Can Fight Endosulfan Toxicity in Soil

“Normally the degradation of endosulfan from soil takes years. Our experiment involves applying nZVI to the root of the plant using enhanced phytoremediation technique for the removal of endosulfan. Among the different plant species selected for the

study, Chittaratha (*Alpinia calcarata*) was found to be most effective,” says Harikumar.

The plants aged 2 weeks were transplanted to pots containing soil artificially spiked with endosulfan and nZVI. “We kept monitoring the soil till the concentration of endosulfan reached below instrument detection limit,” Harikumar said.

‘Chittaratha’ is a common plant and the low-cost technique can easily be adopted in areas with endosulfan contamination. “Nano Zero Valent Iron is emerging as new option for the treatment of contaminated soil and groundwater,” he said.

M A Rahman, an environment activist, says that in Kasargod, recent studies have proved that soil is free of endosulfan. However he said that the situation at Muthalamada in Palakkad and Chakkittapara in Kozhikode is not known.

“The findings of the CWRDM should be seen a positive one. But attempts are being made not to accept the findings,” he said.

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Friday, 20 December 2013 07:13 -
