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Hon'ble Minister of Environment,

Climate Change and Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu

Subject: The Dangers of Glyphosate Use in Solar Farms

Respected Sir,

Sub: Highlighting the Risks of Glyphosate Exposure in Solar Farms

I am writing to bring your attention to the environmental and health risks posed by the use of glyphosate, a widely employed herbicide, particularly in the context of solar farm operations within Tamil Nadu. Solar farms, requiring vegetation control for optimal efficiency, often resort to chemical herbicides like glyphosate. However, its application has far-reaching adverse implications that merit urgent attention and regulatory intervention.

Health Risks of Glyphosate Exposure

1. Carcinogenic Potential:

- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2A) in 2015, linking exposure to diseases such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

2. Endocrine Disruption:

- Glyphosate disrupts hormone systems, leading to reproductive and developmental issues, such as lower sperm counts and altered organ development in animals.

3. Neurological Effects:

- Evidence suggests potential links between glyphosate exposure and neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease, associated with oxidative stress and mitochondrial dysfunction.

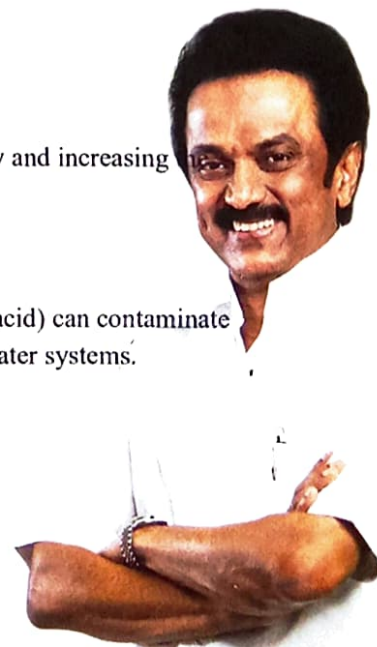
Environmental Risks in Solar Farm Context

1. Soil Health:

- Glyphosate disrupts microbial diversity in soils, reducing fertility and increasing prevalence of soil pathogens.

2. Water Contamination:

- Glyphosate and its byproduct AMPA (aminomethylphosphonic acid) can contaminate water resources, affecting aquatic life and potentially entering human drinking water systems.





3. Biodiversity Loss:

- The indiscriminate killing of plants leads to habitat loss for wildlife, disrupting ecological balance in regions surrounding solar farms.

Implications for Solar Farm Operations in Tamil Nadu

1. Occupational Hazards:

- Workers face significant exposure risks during glyphosate application, necessitating stringent safety protocols.

2. Regulatory Compliance:

- As awareness grows, several regions have implemented bans or restrictions on glyphosate. Tamil Nadu must stay ahead by promoting safer practices.

3. Alternatives to Glyphosate:

- Promising options such as mechanical weed control, cover cropping, mulching, and integrated livestock grazing should be encouraged.

Conclusion

Considering the above risks, I urge the Tamil Nadu Government to prioritize addressing this issue by:

- Prohibiting or restricting the use of glyphosate in solar farms.
- Promoting alternative, sustainable vegetation management practices.
- Issuing guidelines to protect workers and mitigate environmental impacts.

Enclosed is a detailed note with references for your review. I trust your leadership will safeguard the health of our people and the environment while fostering sustainable development in Tamil Nadu.

Warm regards,

Karthikeya Sivasenapathy

Secretary, Environment Wing

Dravida Munnetra Kazagam (DMK)

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