



Guidance document for users of neem-based products

In the fight against malaria, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), are working with India to develop and promote non-persistent organic pollutants (POPs) alternatives to dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT). These include Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) based pesticides, highly potent, with their derived products showing diverse insecticidal properties against a wide range of vector-borne diseases, including malaria. Neem-based products are safe, environmentally friendly and act as sustainable alternatives to DDT for malaria control.

In India, neem-based products are only accessible in retail markets.

At present, the **neem-based products containing Azadirachtin** are approved as household insecticides by Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee (CIB&RC) under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India. **Any formulation containing any part(s) of the neem plant as a wholesome ingredient** is registered as **Ayurvedic medicine**.

All users of neem-based products for vector control should consider the following:

- ✓ 'Instruction for use', 'precautions to be taken while using', and the 'suitability of the product' on the label should be read thoroughly before use.
- ✓ Use the product only for its intended purposes. For example, mosquito-repellent creams are not intended to diagnose, prevent, cure, or treat any ailment or disease.
- ✓ If the product is for external use, such as room spray, it should not be applied to the body.
- ✓ Neem-based products should be stored under conditions specified on the label.
- ✓ Only the products approved by regulatory authorities and safe to use should be used.
- ✓ Expiry date should be checked. The product should not be used beyond its expiry date.
- ✓ Neem-based household insecticide should not be overused or used beyond its recommended dose.
- ✓ The used containers and unused or expired neem-based insecticides are classified as hazardous waste and should be discarded per the instructions on the label.
- ✓ The used containers and unused or expired neem-based Ayurvedic drugs should be disposed according to the **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016**.