

IV International Media Forum On the Protection of Nature

"Protection of Nature, Protection of Health"

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Abstract

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On the Cusp of an Organic Revolution:

In 1962, Rachel Carson awakened the Western world to the dangers of chemical use in agriculture with her landmark book, *Silent Spring*.

However, she was not the first (or the last) to question the intensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides heralded by the Green Revolution.

While these technologies brought about massive increases in food production and have been credited with saving billions of people from starvation, they have also been blamed for a variety of ecological, social, and public health problems.

This presentation traces the history of chemical use in agriculture, reports on the current state of agrichemical use, and reflects on several policy initiatives aimed at controlling chemicals in our environment.

Organic agriculture is described as a viable alternative for farmers worldwide.

Organic agriculture utilizes biological, cultural and physical methods to control pests and improve soil quality. The potential of organic agriculture will be explored in terms of its ability to feed growing populations while protecting human health, the environment, and rural livelihoods.