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### Impact of crop residue burning practices on air quality, related health issues and best alternatives

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Large quantities of crop residues are left in the agricultural fields globally after harvesting of different crops. The proper disposal of crop residues before the next crop takes time and requires huge manpower as well as investment. Burning of crop residue in open fields has been banned in many countries but still, farmers use to burn the crop residue in open field and find it a rapid, effortless and cost-effective method to clear their fields for next crop. But these practices increase the concentration of air pollutants (like  $PM_{10}$ ,  $PM_{2.5}$ ,  $SO_2$ ,  $NO_2$ ,

PAHs) and create serious health issues. Various studies have reported increased levels of fine particles and toxic gases in atmosphere during crop residue burning episodes. Many studies have revealed that children and elderly people are more prone. This discussion covers the emissions of toxic pollutants during crop residue burning, related health issues and possible alternatives to crop residue burning practices.

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