In the past, there have been several reported instances of interdictions of higher than permissible levels of pesticide residues in green chillies consignments in Saudi Arabia. APEDA had issued several Advisories to the exporters advising to get the green chillies consignments tested from APEDA approved laboratories and export only the compliant material. The exporters have not been taking serious cognizance of these Advisories. As a result, effective 30th May 2014 Saudi Arabia has banned import of green chillies from India.

In this regard, vide letter No. 18-5/2013-PPII(PT) dated 21st May 2014 issued from Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, it has been directed that the grant of phyto sanitary certificate for chillies to Middle East will be issued only on production of certificate from a laboratory approved by APEDA.

In accordance with the above directives, exporters are advised not to make any shipment of green chillies to Middle East without violating above condition. The list of APEDA recognized laboratories is available at the following link on our website:

www.apeda.gov.in
It is therefore, notified through this advisory that any deviation from the procedure stipulated under this advisory would be viewed seriously and the onus of consequences will solely be on the defaulting exporters.

(Santosh Sarangi)