children of 5-14 years old are engaged in physical labor in different industries. Many studies have shown that considerable number of these children is exposing to Pb in hazardous environments in welding, car repair, lead melting and ship-breaking yards and all of

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It is also alarmed that children live in USA approximately 4 million houses that contain lead paint are exposed lead daily. Several studies conducted in Sri Lanka have revealed low risk conditions of Cd and Pb toxicity. But in-depth studies are required to assess all possibilities and sources of Cd and Pb pollution and the status of human exposure.

How to reduce soil contamination by Cd and Pb?

Practices such as use of poor quality chemical fertilizers, misuse of pesticides and herbicides, use of poor quality water for irrigation and application of organic fertilizers such as poultry manure, sewage sludge contaminated with Cd and Pb cause the pollution of agricultural soils. Wastewater flows released by industries are often contaminated with various metalloids). Further, improper handling and dumping urban wastes are known source of metalloids including Cd and Pb.

Therefore, strict actions should be taken to stop the use of agricultural inputs contaminated with Cd and Pb. Sri Lanka Standard Institute has prepared standards to stop inflow of low quality agricultural inputs. However, stringent quality control of agro-chemicals imported to Sri Lanka is needed to be practiced. Besides, organic fertilizers produced in Sri Lanka should also be subjected to strict quality control measures. Proper garbage disposal practices and wastewater management practices help to reduce Cd and Pb contaminants in the environment.

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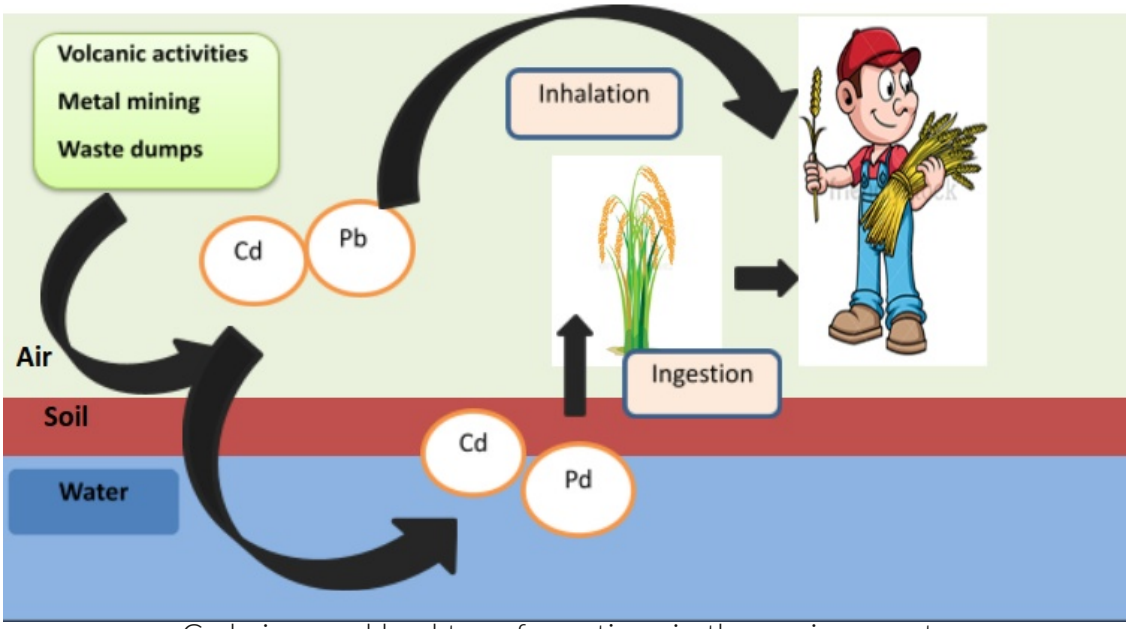

Cadmium and lead transformations in the environment