

**Table 1.** Heavy metals concentration (mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) in the study area along with the permissible limits set by various countries

Regions	Statistics	Pb	Cd	Cr	Zn	Ni	Cu	References
Lahore	<i>Range</i>	10.02-66.27	0.18-7.54	2.48-9.54	0.16–107.00	0.44-0.82	1.11–10.10	This study
	<i>Mean</i>	25.04±16.86	4.26±2.33	6.39±2.36	14.79±32.78	0.58±0.11	3.32±3.19	
Multan	<i>Range</i>	0.77–10.79	0.57-0.94	6.48-63.84	0.38-18.30	0.46-2.20	0.15-2.71	This study
	<i>Mean</i>	6.44±3.40	0.74±0.12	32.36±18.97	4.48±5.96	0.84±0.50	1.80±0.71	
Faisalabad	<i>Range</i>	3.47-19.26	0.13-8.75	3.21-90.56	0.22-83.60	0.46-0.76	0.97-4.27	This study
	<i>Mean</i>	8.98±6.38	4.65±2.65	21.89±25.75	20.07±30.26	0.64±0.10	1.90±0.92	
China	<i>P. limits</i>	80	0.5	200	250	50	100	SEPA (2015)
Australia	<i>P. limits</i>	300	3	50	200	60	100	EPA AUS (2016)
Bulgaria	<i>P. limits</i>	26	0.4	65	88	46	150	BSPS (2007)
Taiwan	<i>P. limits</i>	70	1	60	150	50	40	RSHP (2011)
Canada	<i>P. limits</i>	200	3	250	500	100	150	CCME (2009)
EU Guidelines	<i>P. limits</i>	300	3	150	300	75	140	ECE EU (2002)
South Africa	<i>P. limits</i>	20	75	6.5	240	91	16	DEA SA (2010)
USA	<i>P. limits</i>	200	0.48	11	1100	72	270	USEPA (2002)

\*SEPA; State environmental protection administration.\*EPA AUS; Environmental protection authority Australia.\*BSPS; Bulgarian soil pollution standards.\*RSHP; Regulatory Standards of Heavy Metal Pollutants in Soil Taiwan.\*CCME; Canadian Ministry of the Environment.\*ECE; European Commission on Environment.\*DEA SA; Department of Environmental Affairs South Africa.\*USEPA; United States Environmental Protection Agency.

**Table 2.** Pollution risk indices along with different factors in the agricultural soil of the selected regions.

	<b>Regions</b>	<b>Pb</b>	<b>Cd</b>	<b>Cr</b>	<b>Zn</b>	<b>Ni</b>	<b>Cu</b>	<b>Contamination degree</b>
Contamination factor	Lahore	0.31	8.52	0.03	0.05	0.011	0.033	<b>8.95</b>
	Multan	0.08	1.48	0.16	0.01	0.016	0.018	<b>1.75</b>
	Faisalabad	0.11	9.9	0.1	0.08	0.012	0.019	<b>10.21</b>
Enrichment factor	Lahore	1.82	50.11	0.17	0.29	0.06	0.19	
	Multan	0.47	8.7	0.94	0.05	0.09	0.1	
	Faisalabad	0.64	58.23	0.58	0.47	0.07	0.11	
$I_{geo}$ (geo accumulation index)	Lahore	0.0628	1.7098	0.0064	0.0118	0.0023	0.0066	<b>Potential ecological risk index</b>
	Multan	0.0161	0.2970	0.0324	0.0035	0.0033	0.0036	
	Faisalabad	0.0225	1.8663	0.0219	0.0161	0.0025	0.0038	
Ecological risk factor	Lahore	1.55	255.6	0.06	0.05	0.055	0.165	<b>257.48</b>
	Multan	0.4	44.4	0.32	0.01	0.08	0.09	<b>45.3</b>
	Faisalabad	0.55	297	0.2	0.08	0.06	0.095	<b>297.98</b>

**Table 3.** Average daily intake of the heavy metals via various exposure pathways (µg/kg/day).

		<b>Pb</b>		<b>Cd</b>		<b>Cr</b>		<b>Zn</b>		<b>Ni</b>		<b>Cu</b>	
<b>ADI</b>		<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b>
	Ingestion	3.41×10 <sup>-05</sup>	3.18×10 <sup>-04</sup>	5.79×10 <sup>-06</sup>	5.41×10 <sup>-05</sup>	8.69×10 <sup>-06</sup>	8.12×10 <sup>-05</sup>	2.01×10 <sup>-05</sup>	1.88×10 <sup>-04</sup>	7.89×10 <sup>-07</sup>	7.37×10 <sup>-06</sup>	4.52×10 <sup>-06</sup>	4.22×10 <sup>-05</sup>
<b>Lahore</b>	Inhalation	3.21×10 <sup>-09</sup>	8.96×10 <sup>-09</sup>	5.45×10 <sup>-10</sup>	1.53×10 <sup>-09</sup>	8.18×10 <sup>-10</sup>	2.29×10 <sup>-09</sup>	1.89×10 <sup>-09</sup>	5.29×10 <sup>-09</sup>	7.42×10 <sup>-11</sup>	2.08×10 <sup>-10</sup>	4.25×10 <sup>-10</sup>	1.19×10 <sup>-09</sup>
	Dermal	1.39×10 <sup>-06</sup>	6.61×10 <sup>-07</sup>	2.37×10 <sup>-07</sup>	1.12×10 <sup>-07</sup>	3.55×10 <sup>-07</sup>	1.69×10 <sup>-07</sup>	8.22×10 <sup>-07</sup>	3.90×10 <sup>-07</sup>	3.22×10 <sup>-08</sup>	1.53×10 <sup>-08</sup>	1.85×10 <sup>-07</sup>	8.76×10 <sup>-08</sup>
	Ingestion	8.76×10 <sup>-06</sup>	8.18×10 <sup>-05</sup>	1.01×10 <sup>-06</sup>	9.40×10 <sup>-06</sup>	4.40×10 <sup>-05</sup>	4.11×10 <sup>-04</sup>	6.09×10 <sup>-06</sup>	5.69×10 <sup>-05</sup>	1.14×10 <sup>-06</sup>	1.07×10 <sup>-05</sup>	2.45×10 <sup>-06</sup>	2.29×10 <sup>-05</sup>
<b>Multan</b>	Inhalation	8.24×10 <sup>-10</sup>	2.31×10 <sup>-09</sup>	9.47×10 <sup>-11</sup>	2.65×10 <sup>-10</sup>	4.14×10 <sup>-09</sup>	1.16×10 <sup>-08</sup>	5.73×10 <sup>-10</sup>	1.60×10 <sup>-09</sup>	1.08×10 <sup>-10</sup>	3.01×10 <sup>-10</sup>	2.30×10 <sup>-10</sup>	6.44×10 <sup>-10</sup>
	Dermal	3.58×10 <sup>-07</sup>	1.70×10 <sup>-07</sup>	4.11×10 <sup>-08</sup>	1.95×10 <sup>-08</sup>	1.80×10 <sup>-06</sup>	8.54×10 <sup>-07</sup>	2.49×10 <sup>-07</sup>	1.18×10 <sup>-07</sup>	4.67×10 <sup>-08</sup>	2.22×10 <sup>-08</sup>	1.00×10 <sup>-07</sup>	4.75×10 <sup>-08</sup>
	Ingestion	1.22×10 <sup>-05</sup>	1.14×10 <sup>-04</sup>	6.32×10 <sup>-06</sup>	5.91×10 <sup>-05</sup>	2.98×10 <sup>-05</sup>	2.78×10 <sup>-04</sup>	2.73×10 <sup>-05</sup>	2.55×10 <sup>-04</sup>	8.70×10 <sup>-07</sup>	8.13×10 <sup>-06</sup>	2.58×10 <sup>-06</sup>	2.41×10 <sup>-05</sup>
<b>Faisalabad</b>	Inhalation	1.15×10 <sup>-09</sup>	3.21×10 <sup>-09</sup>	5.95×10 <sup>-10</sup>	1.66×10 <sup>-09</sup>	2.80×10 <sup>-09</sup>	7.84×10 <sup>-09</sup>	2.57×10 <sup>-09</sup>	7.19×10 <sup>-09</sup>	8.19×10 <sup>-11</sup>	2.29×10 <sup>-10</sup>	2.43×10 <sup>-10</sup>	6.8×10 <sup>-10</sup>
	Dermal	4.99×10 <sup>-07</sup>	2.37×10 <sup>-07</sup>	2.59×10 <sup>-07</sup>	1.23×10 <sup>-07</sup>	1.22×10 <sup>-06</sup>	5.78×10 <sup>-07</sup>	1.12×10 <sup>-06</sup>	5.30×10 <sup>-07</sup>	3.56×10 <sup>-08</sup>	1.69×10 <sup>-08</sup>	1.06×10 <sup>-07</sup>	5.02×10 <sup>-08</sup>

**Table 4.** Hazard quotient (HQ) and hazard index (HI) of the selected HMs for adults.

Heavy Metals		Pb	Cd	Cr	Zn	Ni	Cu	HI (Hazard Index)
Locations		HQ (Hazard Quotient) Adults						
Lahore (HQ)	Ingestion	$9.73 \times 10^{-03}$	$5.79 \times 10^{-03}$	$2.90 \times 10^{-03}$	$6.70 \times 10^{-05}$	$3.94 \times 10^{-05}$	$1.13 \times 10^{-04}$	$1.86 \times 10^{-02}$
	Inhalation	$9.11 \times 10^{-07}$	$2.27 \times 10^{-04}$	$2.86 \times 10^{-05}$	$6.31 \times 10^{-07}$	$3.60 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.06 \times 10^{-08}$	$2.57 \times 10^{-04}$
	Dermal	$2.65 \times 10^{-03}$	$2.37 \times 10^{-02}$	$5.92 \times 10^{-03}$	$1.37 \times 10^{-05}$	$5.97 \times 10^{-06}$	$1.54 \times 10^{-05}$	$3.23 \times 10^{-02}$
HI (Hazard Index)		$1.24 \times 10^{-02}$	$2.97 \times 10^{-02}$	$8.85 \times 10^{-03}$	$8.14 \times 10^{-05}$	$4.54 \times 10^{-05}$	$1.28 \times 10^{-04}$	
Multan (HQ)	Ingestion	$2.50 \times 10^{-03}$	$1.01 \times 10^{-03}$	$1.47 \times 10^{-02}$	$3.81 \times 10^{-06}$	$5.71 \times 10^{-05}$	$6.12 \times 10^{-05}$	$1.83 \times 10^{-02}$
	Inhalation	$2.34 \times 10^{-07}$	$3.95 \times 10^{-05}$	$1.45 \times 10^{-04}$	$1.91 \times 10^{-07}$	$5.22 \times 10^{-09}$	$5.73 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.85 \times 10^{-04}$
	Dermal	$6.82 \times 10^{-04}$	$4.11 \times 10^{-03}$	$3.00 \times 10^{-02}$	$4.15 \times 10^{-06}$	$8.65 \times 10^{-06}$	$8.34 \times 10^{-06}$	$3.48 \times 10^{-02}$
HI (Hazard Index)		$3.18 \times 10^{-03}$	$5.16 \times 10^{-03}$	$4.48 \times 10^{-02}$	$8.15 \times 10^{-06}$	$6.58 \times 10^{-05}$	$6.95 \times 10^{-05}$	
Faisalabad (HQ)	Ingestion	$3.49 \times 10^{-03}$	$6.32 \times 10^{-03}$	$9.92 \times 10^{-03}$	$9.10 \times 10^{-05}$	$4.35 \times 10^{-05}$	$6.46 \times 10^{-05}$	$1.99 \times 10^{-02}$
	Inhalation	$3.27 \times 10^{-07}$	$2.48 \times 10^{-04}$	$9.80 \times 10^{-05}$	$8.56 \times 10^{-07}$	$3.98 \times 10^{-09}$	$6.05 \times 10^{-09}$	$3.47 \times 10^{-04}$
	Dermal	$9.51 \times 10^{-04}$	$2.59 \times 10^{-02}$	$2.03 \times 10^{-02}$	$1.86 \times 10^{-05}$	$6.59 \times 10^{-06}$	$8.80 \times 10^{-06}$	$4.71 \times 10^{-02}$
HI (Hazard Index)		$4.44 \times 10^{-03}$	$3.24 \times 10^{-02}$	$3.03 \times 10^{-02}$	$1.10 \times 10^{-04}$	$5.01 \times 10^{-05}$	$7.34 \times 10^{-05}$	

**Table 5.** Hazard quotient (HQ) and hazard index (HI) of the selected HMs for child.

Heavy Metals		Pb	Cd	Cr	Zn	Ni	Cu	HI (Hazard Index)
Locations		HQ (Hazard Quotient) Child						
Lahore (HQ)	Ingestion	$9.09 \times 10^{-02}$	$5.41 \times 10^{-02}$	$2.71 \times 10^{-02}$	$6.26 \times 10^{-04}$	$3.68 \times 10^{-04}$	$1.05 \times 10^{-03}$	<b><math>1.74 \times 10^{-01}</math></b>
	Inhalation	$2.55 \times 10^{-06}$	$6.35 \times 10^{-04}$	$8.00 \times 10^{-05}$	$1.76 \times 10^{-06}$	$1.01 \times 10^{-08}$	$2.96 \times 10^{-08}$	<b><math>7.20 \times 10^{-04}</math></b>
	Dermal	$1.26 \times 10^{-03}$	$1.12 \times 10^{-02}$	$2.81 \times 10^{-03}$	$6.51 \times 10^{-06}$	$2.84 \times 10^{-06}$	$7.30 \times 10^{-06}$	<b><math>1.53 \times 10^{-02}</math></b>
HI (Hazard Index)		<b><math>9.21 \times 10^{-02}</math></b>	<b><math>6.60 \times 10^{-02}</math></b>	<b><math>2.99 \times 10^{-02}</math></b>	<b><math>6.34 \times 10^{-04}</math></b>	<b><math>3.71 \times 10^{-04}</math></b>	<b><math>1.06 \times 10^{-03}</math></b>	
Multan (HQ)	Ingestion	$2.34 \times 10^{-02}$	$9.40 \times 10^{-03}$	$1.37 \times 10^{-01}$	$1.90 \times 10^{-04}$	$5.33 \times 10^{-04}$	$5.72 \times 10^{-04}$	<b><math>1.71 \times 10^{-01}</math></b>
	Inhalation	$6.55 \times 10^{-07}$	$1.10 \times 10^{-04}$	$4.05 \times 10^{-04}$	$5.35 \times 10^{-07}$	$1.46 \times 10^{-08}$	$1.60 \times 10^{-08}$	<b><math>5.17 \times 10^{-04}</math></b>
	Dermal	$3.24 \times 10^{-04}$	$1.95 \times 10^{-03}$	$1.42 \times 10^{-02}$	$1.97 \times 10^{-06}$	$4.11 \times 10^{-06}$	$3.96 \times 10^{-06}$	<b><math>1.65 \times 10^{-02}</math></b>
HI (Hazard Index)		<b><math>2.37 \times 10^{-02}</math></b>	<b><math>1.15 \times 10^{-02}</math></b>	<b><math>1.52 \times 10^{-01}</math></b>	<b><math>1.92 \times 10^{-04}</math></b>	<b><math>5.38 \times 10^{-04}</math></b>	<b><math>5.75 \times 10^{-04}</math></b>	
Faisalabad (HQ)	Ingestion	$3.26 \times 10^{-02}$	$5.91 \times 10^{-02}$	$9.27 \times 10^{-02}$	$8.50 \times 10^{-04}$	$4.06 \times 10^{-04}$	$6.03 \times 10^{-04}$	<b><math>1.86 \times 10^{-01}</math></b>
	Inhalation	$9.13 \times 10^{-07}$	$6.94 \times 10^{-04}$	$2.74 \times 10^{-04}$	$2.40 \times 10^{-06}$	$1.11 \times 10^{-08}$	$1.69 \times 10^{-08}$	<b><math>9.71 \times 10^{-04}</math></b>
	Dermal	$4.52 \times 10^{-04}$	$1.23 \times 10^{-02}$	$9.63 \times 10^{-03}$	$8.83 \times 10^{-06}$	$3.13 \times 10^{-06}$	$4.18 \times 10^{-06}$	<b><math>2.24 \times 10^{-02}</math></b>
HI (Hazard Index)		<b><math>3.30 \times 10^{-02}</math></b>	<b><math>7.20 \times 10^{-02}</math></b>	<b><math>1.03 \times 10^{-01}</math></b>	<b><math>8.61 \times 10^{-04}</math></b>	<b><math>4.10 \times 10^{-04}</math></b>	<b><math>6.07 \times 10^{-04}</math></b>	

**Table 6.** Risk index (RI), Total risk index (TRI) and Combined risk index (CRI) for adults and children in the selected regions.

Adults	Lahore Risk Index (RI)				Multan Risk Index (RI)				Faisalabad Risk Index (RI)			
	Ingestion	Inhalation	Dermal	CRI	Ingestion	Inhalation	Dermal	CRI	Ingestion	Inhalation	Dermal	CRI
Pb	$2.89 \times 10^{-07}$	$2.72 \times 10^{-11}$	$1.18 \times 10^{-08}$	$3.41 \times 10^{-05}$	$7.44 \times 10^{-08}$	$7.01 \times 10^{-12}$	$3.04 \times 10^{-09}$	$8.76 \times 10^{-06}$	$9.77 \times 10^{-12}$	$9.77 \times 10^{-12}$	$4.24 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.22 \times 10^{-05}$
Cd	$2.09 \times 10^{-05}$	$1.96 \times 10^{-09}$	$8.53 \times 10^{-07}$	$6.65 \times 10^{-06}$	$3.62 \times 10^{-06}$	$3.41 \times 10^{-10}$	$1.48 \times 10^{-07}$	$1.15 \times 10^{-06}$	$2.28 \times 10^{-05}$	$2.14 \times 10^{-09}$	$9.31 \times 10^{-07}$	$7.26 \times 10^{-06}$
Cr	$4.35 \times 10^{-06}$	$4.09 \times 10^{-10}$	$1.78 \times 10^{-07}$	$8.87 \times 10^{-06}$	$2.20 \times 10^{-05}$	$2.07 \times 10^{-09}$	$9.00 \times 10^{-07}$	$4.49 \times 10^{-05}$	$1.49 \times 10^{-05}$	$1.40 \times 10^{-09}$	$6.09 \times 10^{-07}$	$3.04 \times 10^{-05}$
Total (TRI)	$2.55 \times 10^{-05}$	$2.40 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.04 \times 10^{-06}$	$4.96 \times 10^{-05}$	$2.57 \times 10^{-05}$	$2.42 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.05 \times 10^{-06}$	$5.48 \times 10^{-05}$	$3.77 \times 10^{-05}$	$3.55 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.54 \times 10^{-06}$	$4.99 \times 10^{-05}$
Children	Lahore Risk Index (RI)				Multan Risk Index (RI)				Faisalabad Risk Index (RI)			
	Ingestion	Inhalation	Dermal	CRI	Ingestion	Inhalation	Dermal	CRI	Ingestion	Inhalation	Dermal	CRI
Pb	$2.70 \times 10^{-06}$	$7.62 \times 10^{-11}$	$5.62 \times 10^{-09}$	$3.18 \times 10^{-04}$	$6.95 \times 10^{-07}$	$1.96 \times 10^{-11}$	$1.45 \times 10^{-09}$	$8.18 \times 10^{-05}$	$9.69 \times 10^{-07}$	$2.73 \times 10^{-11}$	$2.02 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.14 \times 10^{-04}$
Cd	$1.95 \times 10^{-04}$	$5.49 \times 10^{-09}$	$8.53 \times 10^{-07}$	$5.45 \times 10^{-05}$	$3.38 \times 10^{-05}$	$9.54 \times 10^{-10}$	$7.03 \times 10^{-08}$	$9.47 \times 10^{-06}$	$2.13 \times 10^{-04}$	$5.99 \times 10^{-09}$	$4.42 \times 10^{-07}$	$5.95 \times 10^{-05}$
Cr	$4.06 \times 10^{-05}$	$1.14 \times 10^{-09}$	$8.43 \times 10^{-08}$	$8.12 \times 10^{-05}$	$2.05 \times 10^{-04}$	$5.79 \times 10^{-09}$	$4.27 \times 10^{-07}$	$4.11 \times 10^{-04}$	$1.39 \times 10^{-04}$	$3.92 \times 10^{-09}$	$2.89 \times 10^{-07}$	$2.78 \times 10^{-04}$
Total (TRI)	$2.38 \times 10^{-04}$	$6.71 \times 10^{-09}$	$9.43 \times 10^{-07}$	$4.54 \times 10^{-04}$	$2.40 \times 10^{-04}$	$6.77 \times 10^{-09}$	$4.99 \times 10^{-07}$	$5.03 \times 10^{-04}$	$3.53 \times 10^{-04}$	$9.94 \times 10^{-09}$	$7.33 \times 10^{-07}$	$4.52 \times 10^{-04}$