- Recent food safety testing revealed that **nearly half of the tea samples** examined across the country over the past two years did not meet prescribed food safety standards, mainly due to pesticide residue levels.
- To address this issue, the government has decided to revise the **Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)** for the pesticides **Imidacloprid** and **Acetamiprid**, which account for a significant share of non-compliant tea samples.
- **Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)** are the highest legally permitted levels of pesticide residues that may remain in food products without posing unacceptable health risks to consumers.
- The revised limits are expected to improve regulatory compliance, support tea exports, and reduce rejection of tea consignments, while the formal government notification is awaited.

APSC Relevance: Tea Industry; Food Safety