Embassy of India
Belgium, Luxembourg & the European Union

Pesticide Monitoring

Newsletter
January- February 2025

For each active substance, the relevant export promotion bodies have been mentioned for their action on analysing the implications of the new MRL's and desimination of these MRL's to relevant stakeholders such as farmers, traders, exporters, private companies etc.

A. EU updates on Pesticides

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I. Approval of the active substance

The approval of a active or basic substance refers to the process by which a substance is evaluated and approved for use within certain regulatory frameworks.

Vitis vinifera L. seed extract[1] is a fungicide used on grape seeds, apples, potatoes and lettuce. EFSA's[2] conclusion based upon their research is that since this applicant is also used as an extract as a food supplement and this extract is already approved. Therefore no concerns were raised and found within the use as this applicant as a fungicide. This fungicide is also not used intensely enough for it to have implications on nature and the soil, therefore EFSA founds no reason not to give Vitis vinifera L. seed extract an approval. Action: APEDA

II. Renewal of the approval of the active substance

The renewal of approval of an active substance refers to the regulatory process by which authorities review and decide whether to extend the approval of a chemical substance for another period of time.

Betabaculovirus phoperculellae[3] is an insecticide used on tomatoes (greenhouse and fields) or potatoes. EFSA[4] comprehensive review has found that although there were initial suggestions that this insecticide could irritate human skin especially the eyes. That these initial suggestions were unfounded as after extensive testing there was no long or short term toxicity of this insecticide in humans. Therefore Betabaculovirus phoperculellae has been given a renewal of the approval. Action: APEDA

Expiration of approval: 12 February 2040

Bascillus Subtilis strain RTI477[5] is a fungicide used to control soil-borne diseases in greenhouses, walk in tunnel crops and field crops. It was used on crops like, lettuce, cucurbit, potatoes, maize, sunflowers, sugar beets and winter oilseed. EFSA[6] found that although some initial research could not finalize its exact residue content after-effects. No risk assessments could be finalized in other words, no real risk for environment, humanity or wildlife can be caused by the use of Bascillus Subtilis strain RTI477. Therefore its approval has been granted by the EU. Action: APEDA, EIC

Expiration of approval: 12 February 2040

Bacillus velezensis strain RTI301[7] is a fungicide used in field and greenhouses for crops like potatoes, Solanaceae and vegetables, such as lettuce. It is also used for seeds treatments like for maize, sunflower, sugar beet and winter oilseeds. EFSA[8] research has found that concern for human health cannot be demonstrated, therefore no consumer risk is founded. Bacillus velezensis strain RTI301 has for that reason been approved as a fungicide within the EU. Action: APEDA

Expiration of approval: 12 February 2040

Pythium oligandrum B301[9] is a resistance inducer/ elicitor to control trunk diseases on grapevines. EFSA's[10] has concluded that repeated doses do not lead to any

toxicity in humans in the short or long term. Together with the fact that this inducer has not caused any damage to the soil, nature or wildlife, Pythium oligandrum B301 has been granted an extension of an approval. Action: APEDA

Expiration of approval: 10 February 2035

III. Change in MRL of Active Substances

Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) refer to the highest levels of pesticide residues legally allowed in or on food and feed products, based on what is considered safe for human consumption. Changes in MRLs can happen for various reasons, and these adjustments can impact agricultural practices, food imports and exports. The changes in MRLs for active substances follow a structured regulatory review process, led by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Fluxapyroxad, Lambda-cyhalothrin, Metalaxyl, metalaxyl-M and **Nicotine**[11] are being used as a fungicide for Kaki/Japanese persimmons and cultivated fungi. A request was made to increase the MRL level of this fungicide on these two products. EFSA's[12] conclusion based upon this request was that there are no risks involved in increasing the MRL based upon the request. Since extensive research has not found any damage to either consumer or surrounding can be caused by increasing the MRL level. Therefore these five fungicides have their MRL increased from 0.01 to 0.2 mg/kg on Kaki/Japanese persimmons and have their MRL increased from 00.1 to 0.3 mg/kg on cultivated fungi. Action: APEDA

Zoxamide[13] is a fungicide used on potatoes, grapes and vegetables. The United Kingdom and Latvia have both submitted an increase in the MRL level of Zoxamide, which had to do with the imports of onions, garlic and shallots. EFSA's[14] research in cooperation with data provided from the UK and Latvia has concluded that for garlic, onions and shallots there is no risk involved for increasing the current MRL level. However EFSA research did found that Zoxamide does impose a risk for consumer health when the fungicide is used on leaf vegetables, herbs and edible flowers. For those agri products the MRL level has been reduced significantly to the minimum MRL level. For the following products there has been an increase in the MRL level of Zoxamide: garlic, onions and shallots from 0.02 to 0.7 mg/kg, for tomatoes from 0.5 to 2.0 mg/kg, for aubergines/eggplants from 0.02 to 0.5 and for honey from 0.05 to 0.2. A decrease in MRL level has now been regulated for leaf vegetables, herbs and edible flowers from 30 to 0.01 mg/kg. Action: APEDA

Acetamiprid[15] is a insecticide used an various agricultural products, but especially on bananas, currants, asparagus, escaroles, chards, and spinach. Almost one year ago several scientific studies where released to the public making the EU aware of the possible risk to consumer health Acetamiprid could cause, based upon that a request for review of EFSA original research from four years ago was suggested. EFSA's[16] extensive research also considering the previous released scientific literature has concluded that indeed the MRL level for several products of Acetamiprid should be lowered. Although the exact toxicity to humans was never fully founded EFSA has decided that it should lower the MRL for acetamiprid in several products to drastically reduce potential health concerns. Action: APEDA, EIC

A full list of the Maximum residue levels for acetamiprid on several agricultural products can be found here: *https://agrinfo.eu/book-of-reports/maximum-residue-levels-for-acetamiprid/*

Fenbuconzole and **Penconazole**[17] are fungicides used on Grapefruits, oranges, apricots, plums, peaches, table grapes, wine grapes, cranberries, bananas, sweet peppers/ bell peppers, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, watermelons, pumpkins, peanuts/ groundnuts, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds/ canola seeds, barley, rye, wheat, tea, milk.

EFSA's[18] own review back in 2018 has found that there was room for further research into certain agricultural products these two fungicides were used on. Now based upon this evaluation of their previous research it has been determined that for some of the products the residue level remains too high for an extended period of time. Therefore for the use on the following products the MRL levels are lowered. For the use of apricots, plums, table and wine grapes, bananas, sweet peppers and bell peppers, cucumbers, gherkins, courgettes, melons, watermelons, pumpkins, peanuts, sunflower seeds, barley, rye and wheat, and lastly milk for the use of certain cattle, have had their MRL levels reduced to 0.01 mg/kg or in other words their minimum MRL level. For grapefuits the MRL level has been reduced from 0.7 to 0.5 mg/kg, for oranges their MRL level has been reduced from 0.9 to 0.5 mg/kg and finally for peaches the MRL level has been reduced from 0.6 to 0.5 mg/kg. On the other end for teas however the MRL level has been increased from 0.05 to 30 mg/kg for these two fungicides. Action: APEDA, DAHD, TeaBoard, EIC

IV. Extension of the approval

The European Commission has extended the approval periods for several active substances used in plant protection products. This extension ensures the continued availability of these substances while their safety and environmental impact assessments are updated.

Extension of the approval periods of the active substances[19]**.** Aureobasidium pullulans (strains DSM 14940 and DSM 14941), Bacillus amyloliquefaciens subsp. plantarum D747, benalaxyl-M, cyprodinil, dichlorprop-P, formetanate, fosetyl, halosulfuron- methyl, imazamox, milbemectin, phenmedipham, pirimicarb, Pseudomonas sp. strain DSMZ 13134, pyrimethanil, pyriofenone, pyroxsulam, spinosad, sulphur, Trichoderma harzianum Rifai strains T-22 and ITEM 908, Trichoderma asperellum (formerly T. harzianum) strains ICC012, T-25 and TV-1, Trichoderma atroviride (formerly T. harzianum) strain T11, Trichoderma gamsii (formerly T. viride) strain ICC080, triticonazole and ziram.

Active substance	Commodities	Approval period extended till
Aureobasidium pullulans (biopesticide)	Various crops, but especially fruits and vegetables Action: APEDA	30/06/2027
Bascillus amyloliquefaciens subsp. Plantorum D747 (fungicide)	Various fruits and vegetables but especially table and wine grapes Action: APEDA, Wineboard	31/08/2027
Benalaxyl-M (fungicide)	Tomatoes, aubergines, grapes, melons, lettuce potatoes garlic and onions, leeks Action: APEDA	30/09/2027
Cyprodinil (fungicide)	Fruits and vegetables, cereals and ornamentals Action: APEDA	31/10/2026
Dichlorprop-P (herbicide)	Cereals, citrus fruits, apple, pears and non-cropped lands Action: APEDA	31/10/2026
Formetanate (insecticide)	Alfalfa, citrus fruits, pome fruits, stone fruits and vegetables Action: APEDA, IOPEPC	30/09/2026
Fosetyl (fungicide)	Citrus fruits, grapes, strawberries, vegetables potatoes, ornamentals Action: APEDA	31/10/2026
Halosulfuron-methyl (herbicide)	Corn, Sugar Cane, Rice, Sorghum, Nuts and Turfgrass Action: APEDA	15/11/2026
Imazamox (herbicide)	Sunflowers, Alfalfa, Oilseed Rape, Soybeans, Peas Action: APEDA, IOPEPC	30/06/2026
Milbemectin (insecticide & acaricide)	Apples, citruses, tea, flowers, ornamental plants Action: APEDA, Teaboard	31/05/2026
Phenmedipham (herbicide)	Sugar beets, table beets, spinach Action: APEDA	30/09/2026
Pirimicarb (insecticide)	Cereals, vegetables, fruits Action: APEDA	31/10/2026
Pseudomonas sp. Strain DSMZ 13134 (fungicide)	Potatoes, barley, maize Action: APEDA	30/06/2027
Pyrimethanil (fungicide)	Grapevine, pome fruits, strawberries, lettuce Action: APEDA	30/06/2026
Pyriofenone (fungicide)	Grapes, berries, cucumbers, melons, fruiting vegetables, cereals Action: APEDA	30/06/2027
Pyroxsulam (herbicide)	Wheat Action: APEDA	30/09/2027
Spinosad (insecticide)	Vegetables, fruits, ornamental plants, turf and lawns. Action: APEDA	31/10/2026
Sulphur (primarily acaricide)	Several plants, but especially, oilseed crops, legumes and cereal crops Action: APEDA, IOPEPC	31/07/2026
Trichoderma asperellum strains ICC012, T-25 and TV-1 (fungicides)	Tomatoes peppers cucumbers and courgettes Action: APEDA	30/11/2026
Trichoderma atroviride strain T11 (fungicide)	Tomatoes, strawberries, lettuce Action: APEDA	30/11/2026
Trichoderma gamsii strain ICC080 (fungicide)	Tomatoes, lettuce, aubergine, vegetables, cereals, potatoes, citrus, soy bean, sugar cane, grapes Action: APEDA	30/11/2026
Trichoderma horzianum Rifai strains T-22 and ITEM 908 (fungicide)	Tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, lettuce Action: APEDA	30/11/2026
Triticonazole (fungicide)	Cereals, turf Action: APEDA	31/01/2027
Ziram (fungicide)	Apples, pears, grapes, stone fruits and almonds Action: APEDA	31/01/2027

B. EU Active Substance Renewal Monitor

I. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) open public consultation

EFSA regularly carries out public consultations on its scientific outputs. The stakeholders and other interested parties are encouraged to share their insights, data and other feedback on draft versions of the scientific assessments. The following active substances are open for public consultation;

Active substance	Deadline
Potassium Phosphonates (Pesticide MRL)[20]	04/03/2025
Tau-fluvalinate (Pesticide MRL)[21]	05/03/2025
Spodoptera littoralis nucleopolyhedrovirus (Pesticide MRL)[22]	10/03/2025
Pinoxaden (Pesticide MRL)[23]	10/03/2025
Spodoptera littoralis nucleopolyhedrovirus (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR)[24]	10/03/2025
Chitosan hydrochloride (Pesticide Basic Substance)[25]	18/03/2025
Beauveria bassiana GHA (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR)[26]	21/03/2025
Napropamide (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR)[27]	11/04/2025
Tau-fluvalinate (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR)[28]	13/04/2025
Tebuconazole (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR)[29]	28/04/2025

II. Up next for review

Under the EU pesticide review program, active ingredients need to reapply for renewal three years before its expiration date. Substances listed below have upcoming deadlines for the submission of the renewal dossier;

Active substance	Date
Fenpicoxamid	11/10/2025
Cypermethrin	31/01/2026
Florpyrauxifen	24/07/2026
Flutianil	14/04/2026
Mefentrifluconazole	20/03/2026

III. Active substances expected to expire

For the below active ingredients, applications for renewal of approval were not submitted or applications have been withdrawn.

Active substance	Date
Chromafenozide	31/03/2025
Gamma-cyhalothrin	31/03/2025
Meptyldinocap	31/03/2025
Terpenoid blend QRD-460	10/08/2025

C. EU News corner

I. EU Agri-vision 2040: vows to impose stricter regulations in regards to pesticides and animal welfare[30]

The European Commission's Agricultural vision for 2040 aims on establishing a fair, sustainable, and competitive food system that supports both farmers and consumers. Key objectives include the implementation of a Generational Renewal Strategy to empower young farmers, enhancing sectoral resilience through innovation and diversification, and fostering sustainable agricultural practices to contribute to a low-carbon economy. The road-map emphasizes addressing societal concerns such as food waste and animal welfare, while promoting inclusivity through collaboration with stakeholders. Initiatives like an annual Food Dialogue and a digital strategy for agriculture aim to modernize and strengthen the agri-food sector, aligning it with the EU's long-term ambitions for 2040. These steps will be implemented gradually until the European Commission vision is complete.

The Commission's vision for the EU agri-food sector in 2025 outlines a stringent approach to food trade, emphasizing stricter standards for third countries, especially concerning pesticides and animal welfare. The roadmap, suggests a stronger alignment of production standards for imported products and preventing banned substances from being produced within the EU for export. This new stance reflects growing support from EU officials and agriculture ministers for stricter import controls and adherence to EU livestock standards.

To promote sustainability, the Commission plans to accelerate access to biopesticides with a fast-track authorization procedure and will carefully evaluate further pesticide bans based on the availability of alternatives. The roadmap acknowledges the essential role of the livestock sector and proposes developing policy pathways to address its climate footprint. Additionally, the document highlights the need to enhance the EU's self-sufficiency in protein production while balancing plant-based and animal proteins.

On the issue of food prices, the roadmap emphasizes the importance of fair practices within the food supply chain and plans to revise the Unfair Trading Practices Directive. The Commission aims to promote local and seasonal products and food produced with high environmental standards through new public procurement legislation. The document also suggests extending mandatory origin labeling to more agricultural and fisheries products to ensure transparency and support for sustainable practices.

II. European Commission establishes the European Board on Agriculture and Food[31]

The European Commission has established the European Board on Agriculture and Food (EBAF), following a recommendation from the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture. Chaired by Commissioner Christophe Hansen, the EBAF aims to foster dialogue, trust, and multistakeholder participation among food supply chain actors, civil society, and the Commission. This consultative body will provide high-level advice on the Strategic Dialogue's report and contribute to the upcoming Vision for agriculture and food.

A call for applications has been published to form the Board's membership, consisting of up to 30 member organizations representing the farming community, food supply chain actors, and civil society. The Board will meet between two and six times a year over the next five years, with additional meetings convened by Commissioner Hansen if urgent advice is needed. The Board's first meeting is expected to take place early in 2025, following the evaluation and finalization of applications.

References

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