



**Embassy of India**

Belgium, Luxembourg & the European Union

# Pesticide Monitoring

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## EU Updates on Pesticides

### Fenamiphos : Non-renewal of the active substance<sup>1</sup>

A nematicide used to kill plant parasite roundworm and thrips infestation in fruiting vegetables (i.e. tomato, aubergine, cucumber, pepper and courgette), herbaceous ornamentals and in nursery stock (both perennial and herbaceous species).

- **Effective date:** 23 Sept., 2020 (for non-approval of substance); 23 March, 2021 (for withdrawal of authorization of plant protection products); 23 Sept., 2021 (for grace period given if any).
- **Reason for non-approval:** Potential acute risk for consumers - despite of incomplete data, was identified for all the representative uses concerning fruiting vegetables.
- **Usage in India:** Used in wide variety of vegetables such as okra, cauliflowers etc. and fruit crops.

### Bromoxynil : Non renewal of the active substance<sup>2</sup>

A nitrile herbicide, used for post-emergent control of annual broadleaved weeds. It is effective in the control of weeds in cereal, corn, sorghum, onions, flax, mint, turf, and on non-cropland. The compound works by inhibiting photosynthesis in the target plants.

- **Effective date:** 14 Sept., 2020 (for non-approval of substance); 14 March, 2021 (for withdrawal of authorization of plant protection products); 14 Sept., 2021 (for grace period given if any).
- **Reason for non-approval:** Reproductive toxicity. Also, high risk to wild mammals from dietary exposure.
- **Usage in India:** In various field crops.

### Benalaxyl: Non-renewal of the active substance<sup>3</sup>

A widely used fungicide to control oomycetes such as blue mould, late blight and downy mildew in grapes, potatoes and several vegetable crops.

- **Effective date:** 6 Oct., 2020 (for non-approval of substance); 5 April, 2021 (for withdrawal of authorization of plant protection products); 5 Oct., 2021 (for grace period given if any).
- **Reason for non-approval:** Non-renewal based on potential groundwater contamination, long term risk to birds and earthworm-eating birds from secondary poisoning as well as lack of data to assess no endocrine disrupting potential.
- **Usage in India:** Used as a systemic fungicide, especially in combination with Mancozeb to fight against downy mildew in grapes and cucumber.

- The MRLs of all three active substances will be reduced to the level of determination (0.01mg/kg), but the date of entry into force of the new MRLs is not yet known.
- Non-renewal of Fenamiphos and Benalaxyl is by and large, based on potential hazard based approach (rather than risk based approach) in the absence of conclusive data on consumer risk assessment and endocrine disrupting properties.

<sup>1</sup> EU Regulation (2020/1246) dated on 2 September 2020 [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2020/1246/oj](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/1246/oj)

<sup>2</sup> EU Regulation (2020/1276) dated on 11 September 2020 [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.2020.300.01.0032.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2020:300:TOC](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2020.300.01.0032.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2020:300:TOC)

<sup>3</sup> EU regulation (2020/1280) dated 14 September 2020 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1600153393176&uri=CELEX:32020R1280>

## EU Active Substance Renewal Monitor

Open Public Consultation - European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)	Deadline
<b>Public consultation on the active substance oxamyl<sup>4</sup></b> The Renewal Assessment Report (RAR) for oxamyl- a non-fumigant nematicide used for control of wide range of plant parasitic nematodes is open for public comments.	08/11/2020
<b>Public consultation on the active substance Aspergillus Flavus, strain MUCL54911<sup>5</sup></b> The Rapporteur Assessment Report submitted by Italy for approval of new microbial active substance Aspergillus flavus MUCL54911- a naturally occurring atoxigenic strain of the fungus used for reduction of aflatoxins contamination in maize is open for public comments.	13/12/2020

## EU News Corner

### France plans to reverse the ban on Neonicotinoids to support the "unprecedented crisis" faced by its Beet Growers.<sup>6</sup>

Neonicotinoids first approved in EU in 2005, came under scrutiny due to their suspected harm to bees. Since 2018, all outdoor uses of three types of neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam) have been banned in the EU.

France's biodiversity law of 2016 banned five Neonicotinoids.

Recently, transmission of yellow virus by aphids has developed massively in all French producing regions strongly impacting beet production with yield losses of 25-50%. Thus, prompting French Government to request for derogation concerning the use of neonicotinoids for all crops sown in 2021 season, if necessary for 2022 and 2023.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/public-consultation-active-substance-oxamyl-0>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/fr/consultations/call/public-consultation-active-substance-aspergillus-flavus-strain>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/france-mulls-reintroduction-of-neonicotinoids-faces-backlash-from-ngos-and-germany/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.publiceye.ch/en/topics/pesticides/banned-in-europe>

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### Toxic for Europeans not for others? EU exports banned pesticides to third countries<sup>7</sup>

- European Union allows the export of certain dangerous pesticides such as Paraquat, Atrazine etc. even though their use is banned on its own fields being considered potentially lethal, posing great risk to European consumers' health and environment.
- Total export of 81,615 tonnes of pesticides containing substances banned in EU targeted to 85 countries – Brazil, Ukraine, Morocco, Mexico and South Africa among top 10 importers. 75% of the importing countries low- or middle-income countries (LMICs).
- The Basel-based giant Syngenta plays a leading role. Other EU companies which are involved are – Bayer, BASF, Finchimica and Alzchem.

