



Pesticide Monitoring

Vol. 2, August 2020

EU Updates on Pesticides

Myclobutanil: Changes in residue definition and MRL¹

This fungicide has preventive, curative and eradicator properties. Based on the assessment of the metabolism of myclobutanil in fruits, root crops, cereals and sugar beet tops (tentatively addressing leafy vegetables) the new residue definition for risk assessment will cover myclobutanil and metabolite RH-9090 free and conjugated, expressed as myclobutanil. Thus, residue definition has been broadened to include "sum of constituent isomers".

- **Effective date:** 2 January 2021
- **Usage in India:** Used to control scab on apples, powdery mildew on grapes, leaf spot on chilies, etc.

New MRLs

- Pome fruits 0.6mg/kg (unchanged)
- Stone fruits - Apricot, Plums 3mg/kg (increased)
- Grapes 1.5 mg/kg (increased)

Tentative MRLs set for several other fruits, vegetables, field crops and food from animal origin due to incomplete scientific information on risk to consumers are to be assessed in 2 years time.

Napropamid: Changes in residue definition and MRL¹

It is a selective systemic amide herbicide, used against a number of annual grasses and broad-leaved weeds. It inhibits root development and growth. On the basis of available information on the metabolism of napropamide following soil treatment in fruits, leafy vegetables, root crops and pulses/oilseeds, a residue definition for risk assessment common to all commodities has been broadened to include "sum of isomers".

- **Effective date:** 2 January 2021
- **Usage in India:** Wide variety of fruit and vegetables, field crops, tea, jute, etc.

New MRLs

- Fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, cereal, pulses – 0.01 mg/kg
- Berries, oilseeds- 0.02 mg/kg
- Tea, coffee, spices- 0.05 mg/kg

MRLs to be revised in 2 years time based on additional information on storage stability, crop metabolism and residue trials.

Under EU Scanner: Glyphosate

- Introduced in 1971, a leading active herbicide ingredient worldwide, is currently under approval review process in EU.
- In case of non-approval of active substance, the MRL for all products will be set at the default level of 0.01mg/kg.
- Presently glyphosate-based products are banned in varying degrees in several EU Member states.



¹ EU regulation 220/770 dated on 8 June 2020. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2020.184.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2020%3A184%3ATOC

Glyphosate on Trial

- Monsanto, American agrochemical and agricultural biotechnology Corporation, that launched first Glyphosate-based herbicide "Roundup" was US patent holder for this product for three decades till 2000.
- The international patent expired in 1990 and thereafter it became a generic compound in any parts of the world outside US.
- Bayer, a German Company acquired Monsanto in 2018. It has been facing about 125,000 filed and unfiled claims against Roundup for causing cancer.
- In June 2020, Company agreed to \$10.9 bn settlement over lawsuits against this weedkiller.
- Still (update August 2020) there are bumps in the road in implementing a resolution of this magnitude

Potential Health Risks: Conflicting opinion

- International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)² : 2015
 - ◊ Probably carcinogenic in humans
 - ◊ Genotoxic
- European Food Safety Agency (EFSA)³ : 2015
 - ◊ Unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans
- European Chemical Agency (ECHA)⁴: 2017
 - ◊ Cannot be classified as a carcinogen, a mutagen or a reprotoxic compound

Status in EU

- Re-approval in EU in 2017 for a period of 5 years mired by controversies

- ◊ Huge public sentiment favoring a glyphosate ban
- ◊ The European Parliament approved a nonbinding resolution to ban the chemical's use by 2022.
- ◊ The European Commission (EC) extended the glyphosate license upto - Dec. 2022
- ◊ Member states against renewal- France, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg and Malta.
- ◊ Major member state for renewal- Germany



Timeline of on-going renewal process

- ◊ May 2019- Setting up of Assessment Group on Glyphosate (AGG) comprising of France, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden
- ◊ Dec. 2019- Application for renewal of approval of glyphosate post-2022 submitted by Group of companies known as Glyphosate Renewal Group (GRG) to the AGG, EFSA, EC and the other Member States.
- ◊ June 2020: GRG submits supplementary dossiers containing the required set of scientific studies and literature data to AGG.
- ◊ AGG will carry out an admissibility check of the supplementary dossiers followed by an assessment of all available information
- ◊ Report to be transmitted to EFSA to initiate the peer review process.

Status in India

- Over four decades of extensive use in India to control weeds in tea plantations, non-crop and cropped areas.
- Market size in India pegged at over Rs 1100 crore - around 90 players with over 70 brands compete⁵.
- July 2020- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India issued Draft notification to restrict the use of glyphosate only through Pest Control Operators (PCOs).⁶

The 2020 Scientific dossier submitted to the European authorities for the risk assessment and authorisation of glyphosate is available at www.glyphosate.eu.

This Dossier includes more than 100 new studies and the summaries of the studies that support glyphosate safety. In addition, it includes the relevant information from the review of 12,000 scientific public literature articles.

² IARC Working Group. Glyphosate. In: Some organophosphate insecticides and herbicides: diazinon, glyphosate, malathion, parathion, and tetrachlorvinphos. Vol 112. IARC Monogr Prog, Q5 2015:1-92

³ European Food Safety Authority. Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance glyphosate. EFSA J 2015;13:4302.

⁴ European Chemicals Agency .Opinion Proposing Harmonised Classification and Labeling at EU Level of Glyphosate (ISO); N-(phosphonomethyl) Glycine. CLH-O-0000001412-86-149/E. Available online at: <https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/2d3a87cc-5ca1-31d6-8967-9f124f1ab7ae>

⁵ https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/2-billion-blow-to-roundup-in-us-may-not-impact-india-s-glyphosate-market-119051400832_1.html

⁶ <http://agricoop.nic.in/sites/default/files/Glyphosate%20notification.pdf>

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