



Embassy of India

Belgium, Luxembourg & the European Union

Pesticide Monitoring

Newsletter

July-August 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 dissemination of these MRL's to relevant stakeholders such as farmers, traders, exporters, private companies etc.

A. EU updates on Pesticides

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France. Although EFSA found no conclusive evidence of toxicological risk from Acetamiprid at current MRLs for several crops, it was nevertheless concluded that the MRLs for certain fruits and vegetables could be safely lowered. These revised levels maintain effective pest control without posing health risks to consumers.

Additionally, following a request to EFSA, an increase in MRLs may be considered for products not directly consumed by humans, such as specific seeds. An overview of the **MRL changes for Acetamiprid are shown in the table below³:** Action: APEDA, DAHD, EIC

Product	Old MRL	New MRL
Decrease in MRL		
Apples, pears	0.4	0.07
Quinces	0.8	0.15
Medlars	0.8	0.3
Apricots	0.8	0.08
Cherries	1.5	0.8
Peaches	0.2	0.08
Plums	0.03	0.04
Table grapes, wine grapes	0.5	0.08
Blackberries, raspberries	2	0.6
Blueberries, cranberries, gooseberries	2	0.7
Currants	2	0.01
Elderberries	2	0.5
Table olives	3	0.9
Bananas	0.4	0.01

I. Change in MRL of Active Substances

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).

Acetamiprid¹ is a neonicotinoid insecticide used to mimic nicotine and disrupt the nervous system in insects, causing confusion, paralysis and death. It is either sprayed directly onto the crops or drenched into the soil for an even distribution. EFSA's² review started in January 2022 after the EC requested additional research into Acetamiprid following research documentation given to the EC by

Product	Old MRL	New MRL
Tomatoes	0.5	0.06
Sweet peppers/bell peppers	0.3	0.09
Cucumber, courgettes	0.3	0.05
Melons, pumpkins, watermelons	0.2	0.08
Broccoli, cauliflowers	0.4	0.06
Head cabbages	0.4	0.03
Lamb's lettuces/corn salads, Roman rocket/rucola	3	1.5
Lettuces	1.5	0.01
Ercaroles/broad-leaved endives	0.4	0.01
Red mustards	3	0.9
Spinaches, chards/beet leaves	0.6	0.01

Product	Old MRL	New MRL
Asparagus	0.8	0.01
Increase in MRL		
Linseeds	0.01	0.06
Poppy seeds	0.01	0.3
Soybeans	0.01	0.01
Mustard seeds	0.01	0.15
Gold of pleasure seeds	0.01	0.06
Liver (animal)	1	0.03
Edible offals (other than liver and kidney)	1	0.05
Honey and other apiculture products	0.05	0.3

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
Ethofumesate ⁴	24/09/2025

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
Metschnikowia fructicola strain NRRL Y27328	27/12/2025
Cypermethrin	31/01/2026
Beauveria bassiana strain IMI389521	19/02/2026
Beauveria bassiana strain PPRI 5339	20/02/2026
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
Terpenoid blend QRD-460	10/08/2025
Methoxyfenozide	31/03/2026

C. EU News corner

I. Coffee Adulteration Concern regarding Indian export of Coffee to the EU

Indian exporters of coffee to the European Union should be aware of the stringent quality benchmarks enforced

by the EU. While ISO standards permit Glucose (2.3%) and Xylose (0.42%), the EU follows the Association of European Producers of Soluble Coffee (AFCASOLE) guidelines, which are more restrictive—Glucose (2.1%), Xylose (0.40%), and Fructose (0.60%). India currently

lacks domestic regulations on these specific parameters, making it essential for exporters to voluntarily align with international standards. European importers increasingly demand certified laboratory testing, and failure to comply may result in shipment rejections or reputational damage.

With India's coffee exports to the EU growing rapidly from €258 million in 2020 to €666 million in 2024, there is a clear opportunity for expansion, provided quality and compliance are prioritized. Exporters should be vigilant about sourcing high-grade beans and avoiding the use of additives like barley or other plant extracts that compromise product integrity. Establishing internal processes for traceability and impurity detection will not only meet buyer expectations but also reinforce India's position as a reliable supplier in the global coffee market.

II. The European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)

The EU Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR) entered into force on 29 June 2023, targeting commodities driving deforestation such as cattle, wood, cocoa, soy, palm oil, coffee, rubber, and derived products like leather, chocolate, tyres, and furniture. Operators and traders placing these products on the EU market, or exporting them, must prove they do not originate from recently deforested land or contribute to forest degradation.

In December 2024, the EU granted an additional 12-month transition period: the law applies from 30 December 2025 for medium and large companies, and from 30 June 2026 for micro and small enterprises.

The European Commission released the country risk classifications under the EU Deforestation Regulation

(EUDR) on 22 May 2025. These classifications categorize countries into three tiers low risk, standard risk, and high risk based on 5 year data extracted from FAO and, based on factors such as deforestation trends, agricultural expansion, and legal enforcement. India has been categorized as a low risk country. Notably, countries like Belarus, Myanmar, North Korea, and Russia were designated as “high risk,” while other countries were placed in the “standard risk” category, and “low risk”. This classification is dynamic and shall be reviewed periodically. Those classified as **high risk** face the most stringent due diligence requirements, with authorities inspecting up to 9% of operators and shipments, subjecting them to frequent checks and stronger verification measures. **Standard risk** countries are required to undergo full due diligence, including risk assessment, mitigation, and traceability, with around 3% of operators and shipments inspected. In contrast, **low risk** countries benefit from simplified due diligence obligations, with only about 1% of operators and shipments checked, unless there are indications of non-compliance.

On 15 April 2025, the European Commission released a revised Guidance Document and a new Delegated Act, aiming to simplify compliance processes for businesses and reduce administrative burdens. The translation was published on 12 August 2025. They may be accessed at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025XC04524..>

References

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3. <https://agrinfo.eu/book-of-reports/maximum-residue-levels-for-acetamidiprid/>
4. <https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/consultations/publicconsultation2/a0ITk0000050R94/pc1585>

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