



Embassy of India

Belgium, Luxembourg & the European Union

Pesticide Monitoring

Newsletter

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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

CONTENTS

A. EU updates on Pesticides

- I. Renewal of the approval of the basic substance
- II. Change in MRLs
- III. Extension of the approval

B EU Active Substance Renewal Monitor

- I. EFSA Open public consultation
- II. Up next for review
- III. Active substances expected to expire

C. News corner/ NTB measures

- I. EU Regulatory Developments – Omnibus Simplification Proposal
- II. “One Substance, One Assessment” Framework Enters into Force
- III. EU Proposes Phase-Out of High ILUC-Risk Biofuels by 2030
- IV. Mandatory Digital Record-Keeping for Pesticide Use

such as caterpillars, thrips, leafminers and certain beetles. It is commonly applied on crops such as fruits, vegetables, grapes, citrus, cotton and ornamentals. In **EFSA's review**, in regards to the available evidence and assessment both for humans and non-target organisms, spinosad does not meet the criteria for endocrine disruption. [Action: APEDA](#)

Pyrimethanil² is a fungicide used in agriculture to control fungal diseases, particularly those caused by Botrytis (grey mould) and other pathogenic fungi. It belongs to the anilinopyrimidine group of fungicides and works by inhibiting the secretion of enzymes that fungi need to infect plant tissues, thereby preventing the development and spread of fungal diseases. Pyrimethanil is commonly used on crops such as grapes, strawberries, tomatoes, apples, pears and other fruits and vegetables, where it helps control post-harvest and field fungal infections. It is particularly effective against grey mould in grapes and berries, which can cause significant yield and quality losses. **EFSA**³ identified certain data gaps and areas requiring further information, particularly regarding environmental exposure and some aspects of risk assessment. [Action: APEDA](#)

I. 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.

Spinosad¹ is a biological insecticide (not a conventional synthetic pesticide) derived from the fermentation of the soil bacterium *Saccharopolyspora spinosa*. It acts primarily on the nervous system of insects, causing excitation of the nervous system followed by paralysis and death. Spinosad is widely used to control chewing and leaf-feeding pests

II. 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).

Acequinocyl, Chlormequat, Metalaxyl-M, Pyraclostrobin, Sulfoxaflor and Trifloxystrobin⁴ Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/140 of 22 January 2026, amending Annexes II and III of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005,

introduces specific updates to maximum residue levels (MRLs) for several active substances. The Regulation modifies the MRL for acequinocyl in strawberries, revises the temporary MRL for chlormequat in oats under Annex III, and adjusts the MRL for metalaxyl-M in honey and other apiculture products following an application. It also amends the MRL for pyraclostrobin in sweet corn and revises the MRLs for sulfoxaflor and trifloxystrobin across the relevant product categories listed in Annex II. These changes reflect EFSA’s scientific assessments and applications submitted under the EU MRL review framework. In **EFSA’s review** all applications to modify existing MRLs for acequinocyl⁵ (strawberries), chlormequat⁶ (oats), metalaxyl-M⁷ (honey), sulfoxaflor⁸ (various commodities) and trifloxystrobin⁹ (multiple crops including import tolerances), and conducted a peer review of pyraclostrobin¹⁰. In all cases, EFSA concluded that the proposed MRL changes were supported by available data and were unlikely to pose a risk to consumers, subject to compliance with the assessed conditions of use.

Action: APEDA

Ethephon And Propamocarb¹¹ have modified MRLs for acequinocyl (strawberries), chlormequat (oats), metalaxyl-M (honey), pyraclostrobin (sweet corn), sulfoxaflor (various commodities), and trifloxystrobin (multiple crops, including import tolerances). In **EFSA’s review** the supporting residue data and dietary exposure for each substance (EFSA Journal 2023–2025 opinions,

Ethephon¹² And Propamocarb¹³) and concluded that the proposed MRL modifications were unlikely to pose a risk to consumers, provided that the intended Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) are respected. Action: APEDA

III. 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:

Active substance	Commodities	Approval period extended till
Maltodextrin	Used as a low-risk insecticide and acaricide mainly on fruits, vegetables, berries and ornamental crops, particularly in greenhouse horticulture. <u>Action: APEDA, CAPEXIL, IOPEPC</u>	30 April 2041
Diflufenican	Herbicide widely used in cereal crops such as wheat and barley for control of broad-leaf weeds. (amended with condition that it cannot be used on crops that are fed to animals) <u>Action: APEDA</u>	31 December 2040

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
Difenoconazole	01/05/2026
Tebufenpyrad	01/05/2026
acetic acid	24/04/2026
inpyrfluxam (S-2399)	10/04/2026
Etoxazole	05/04/2026
Prohexadione-calcium	27/03/2026
Bifenox	08/03/2026

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
Endo-1,4-beta-xylanase	31/01/2026

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
Flumetralin	15/01/2025

C. News Corner/ NTB Measures

I. EU Regulatory Developments – Omnibus Simplification Proposal¹⁴

The European Commission adopted the Food and Feed Safety Simplification Package on 16 December 2025 as part of its broader simplification agenda. Officially, the package is presented as a measure to streamline procedures, reduce administrative burden, speed up market access for biocontrol products, and make renewal procedures for pesticides, biocides and feed additives more targeted and efficient, while maintaining the existing high level of protection for human, animal and environmental health. The Commission's own materials state that the package does not change the strict approval criteria for active substances or the core authorisation requirements for plant protection products.

A major proposed change is that renewal of approval for pesticide active substances would, in principle, become unlimited in duration, instead of being systematically time-bound, except for certain categories such as candidates for substitution, substances approved under Article 4(7), and substances for which the risk assessment indicates that a limited renewal period is still necessary. At the same time, the Commission proposes a system of periodic identification for full or targeted reassessment of substances with unlimited approvals, alongside the existing ad hoc review powers. In effect, this shifts the framework away from blanket time-driven renewals toward a more targeted risk-triggered reassessment model.

The Staff Working Document notes that some stakeholders and public authorities argued for moving to a risk-based only approach and no longer a hazard-based approach, which indicates that the hazard-based dimension remains a live and contested feature of the EU system rather than a new December 2025 innovation. The Commission also separately indicates its intention to move toward a principle that the most hazardous pesticides banned in the EU should not re-enter through imported products, though for now this is framed as a study/impact-assessment driven process and not yet a fully operational general ban. This proposal has entered a process of discussion and adoption by the Council of the EU (Member States) and the European Parliament, a process that can take up to 2 years.

- All interested stakeholders are invited to give feedback via Have your say platform until 14 May 2026.¹⁵
- Stakeholders wishing to respond must be registered. Those who do not already have an account will first need to Create an EU login account, then register their organisation on the EU Transparency register:

Action: APEDA, CAPEXIL, SHEFEXIL, Spices Board, Tea Board, Coffee Board, MPEDA

For more information, please visit the following report,

<https://agrinfo.eu/book-of-reports/simplification-of-eu-food-and-feed-safety-rules/>

II. EU Proposes Phase-Out of High ILUC-Risk Biofuels by 2030

The European Commission has initiated steps to revise its regulatory framework on high indirect land-use change (ILUC)-risk biofuels, a move that could have significant implications for global trade in oilseed-based feedstocks.

The Commission has issued a draft Delegated Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/807, proposing an updated methodology for identifying high ILUC-risk biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels. The proposal outlines a gradual reduction trajectory leading to a complete phase-out of such fuels' contribution to renewable energy targets by 2030.

The initiative follows the publication of the Commission's report COM(2026) 36 final, which presents updated scientific evidence on the expansion of certain feedstocks into high carbon stock land and their associated greenhouse gas emission impacts. The draft regulation has also been notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in early 2026 under relevant transparency provisions.

According to the Commission's updated assessment, both palm oil and soybeans meet the criteria for classification as high ILUC-risk feedstocks. Based on this classification, the proposal sets out a linear reduction pathway beginning from 2024, with intermediate thresholds of 71.4% in 2025, 42.8% in 2027, and 14.3% in 2029, culminating in a full phase-out by 2030. From that point onwards, rapeseed oil would remain the only cultivated biomass oil source eligible for quota compliance under the EU framework.

The proposal has drawn concern from EU industry stakeholders. FEDIOL, representing the vegetable oil and protein meal industry, and the European Biodiesel Board (EBB) have jointly communicated their apprehensions to the President of the European Commission. The associations have argued that the revised methodology may contain limitations in terms of data and approach, and could result in unintended consequences for EU oilseed processing industries, supply chains, and trade relations.

They further noted that the proposed classification could effectively restrict the use of soy oil-based biodiesel in the EU market, regardless of origin, potentially affecting agricultural competitiveness and food security considerations within the Union. The industry groups have called on the Commission to pause the adoption of the delegated regulation and undertake a comprehensive reassessment of the methodology and underlying data.¹⁶

Action: APEDA, IOPEPC

III. “One Substance, One Assessment” Framework Enters into Force¹⁷

On 1 January 2026, the European Union implemented the “One Substance, One Assessment” (OSOA) framework, a key initiative under the EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. The framework aims to streamline chemical risk assessments across different EU regulatory regimes by ensuring that each chemical substance is evaluated through a single coordinated scientific assessment, rather than multiple separate evaluations under different pieces of legislation.

Under this approach, EU agencies including the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and other scientific bodies will work more closely to share data, methodologies and assessment results. The objective is to improve consistency, transparency and efficiency in chemical risk assessments, including those related to pesticides, biocides, industrial chemicals and food contact materials.

For pesticide regulation, the framework is expected to facilitate more harmonised evaluations of active substances and their environmental or health impacts across different regulatory contexts.¹⁸ Action: APEDA, CAPEXIL

IV. Mandatory Digital Record-Keeping for Pesticide Use

From **1 January 2026**, EU legislation requires **farmers and operators using plant protection products to maintain digital records of pesticide use** in electronic and machine-readable formats. The requirement forms part of the EU’s broader efforts to strengthen monitoring of pesticide usage and improve transparency in agricultural practices.

Under the new system, records must include information such as **product name, active substance used, quantity applied, date of application and crop treated**. The digitalisation of pesticide records will allow authorities to better analyse pesticide usage trends, facilitate traceability within the food supply chain, and support enforcement of EU sustainability objectives related to pesticide reduction.

The measure is also expected to improve data availability for policy evaluation under initiatives such as the **Farm-to-Fork Strategy** and other EU environmental monitoring programmes.¹⁹ Action: APEDA, Spices Board, Tea Board, Coffee Board, CAPEXIL, SHEFEXIL, MPEDA

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