

Embassy of India

Belgium, Luxembourg & the European Union

Pesticide Monitoring

Newsletter May - June 2024

A. EU Updates on Pesticides

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I. Non-renewal of the approval of the active substance

The European Commission (EC) has published its decision not to renew approval for the active substance(s) listed below. Active substances are either not reapproved, or are withdrawn or restricted; the EC usually also lowers or removes MRLs. These are typically set at the limit of determination (LOD) or default level of 0.01 mg/kg. Decisions on active substances serve as an early indication of upcoming MRL changes and the need to adapt agricultural practices for produce exported to the EU.

- Mepanipyrim¹: A fungicide used to control a wide range of fungal diseases mainly on salads and fruit. It is used on Strawberries; Grapes; Blackberries; Raspberries; Tomatoes; Apples; Pears; Cucumber; Peppers; Aubergine.
 - ♦ Transitional measures: 20 November 2024
 - ♦ Grace Period: 20 May 2025
 - ♦ **Reason for non-approval**: EFSA (2023)² identified long-term risks for wild mammals, and concerns regarding the substance's endocrine disrupting properties for humans and mammals.
- 2. Dimethomorph³: A fungicide effective against various fungal pathogens in vines and other crops. It is used on Oranges, grapes, strawberries, papayas, potatoes, radishes, bulb vegetables, fruiting vegetables, brassica vegetables, leaf vegetables, herbs and edible flowers, legume vegetables, celeries, globe artichokes, leeks, seed spices, and caraway
 - ♦ Transitional measures: 20 November 2024
 - ♦ **Grace Period**: 20 May 2025
 - ♦ Reason for non-approval⁴: A high long-term risk to mammals and a high risk to aquatic organisms in permanent greenhouses were identified for all representative uses. Dimethomorph is classified as an endocrine disruptor for both humans and wild mammals. Environmental exposure is likely significant, as predicted environmental concentrations (PEC) in soil, surface water, and sediment for all assessed uses exceed routinely measurable levels.

3. Extension of the approval periods of the active substances⁵:

Active Substance	Commodities	Extension upto
1-decanol	Tobacco	15-07-2026
6-benzyladenine	Appel & Maize	15-07-2026
Aluminium sulfate	()rnamentals = mainly cut flowers	
Azadirachtin	Commercial insect growth regulator	31-01-2027
Bupirimate	Apples; Pumpkins; Squash; Strawberry; Blackcurrant; Raspberry; Gooseberry; Hops; Courgette; Ornamentals	31-01-2027
Dithianon	Apples; Pears; Grapes (table & wine); Blackcurrants	31-01-2027
Dodine	Tree fruit including apple, pear, peach, cherry; Strawberries; Walnuts; Sycamore; Onions; Roses	15-07-2026
Fluometuron	Cotton; Sugarcane	15-07-2026
Hexythiazox	Fruit including apples, pears, stone fruit, citrus, grapes; Nuts; Turf; Cotton; Cucumber	
Isoxaben	Tree-nut plantations; Orchards; Vinyards; Ornamental trees and shrubs; Winter cereals	31-01-2027
Lime sulphur	Deciduous ornamental trees; Fruit trees; Ornamental shrubs; Roses	
Orange oil	Animals; Humans	31-12-2026
Prosulfuron	Sorghum; Millet; Winter wheat; Forage and grain maize; Soybean	
Quinmerac	Cereals; Rape; Beet	31-12-2026
Sintofen	Wheat	15-07-2026
Sodium silver thiosulfate	Ornamentals - cut flowers	31-12-2026
Tau-fluvalinate	Potatoes; Cereals including wheat; Turf; Cotton; Fruit trees including cherries, peaches, plums, nectarines, Tamarillos, avocados; Beehives	31-01-2027
Tebufenozide	Fruit including grapes, apples, pears, berries; Brassicas, leafy vegetables, turnips, and fruiting vegetables	31-01-2027
Tembotrione	Maize; Sweetcorn	31-12-2026
Zinc phosphide	Agricultural crops; Vegetables; Ornamentals; Orchards; Crop storage	31-12-2026

II. Change in MRL of Active Substances

1. Prothioconazole⁶: A fungicide for use both as a seed treatment and foliar spray to treat a variety of diseases in cereals. Bayer CropScience Deutschland GmbH submitted an application to the competent national authority in Germany (evaluating Member State, EMS) to modify the existing maximum residue levels (MRLs) for the active substance prothioconazole in sugar beet roots and chicory roots. EFSA⁷ concluded that the

proposed use of prothioconazole on sugar beet roots and chicory roots will not result in a consumer exposure exceeding the toxicological reference values of parent prothioconazole and TDMs and therefore is unlikely to pose a risk to consumers' health. The available residue trials are sufficient to derive MRL proposals of 0.03 mg/kg for sugar beet roots and via extrapolation 0.03 mg/kg for chicory roots.

♦ Effective date: 05 June 2024

- 2. Dithianon⁸: A dicarbonitrile fungicide for control of scab and other foliar diseases excluding powdery mildew. Used on Apples; Pears; Grapes (table & wine); Blackcurrants. The risks addressed in EU Regulation 2024/1314 and EFSA's⁹ findings include: endocrine disruptors in humans and wildlife, environmental fate and behaviour and ecotoxicological risks to nontarget organisms, including aquatic life and mammals, from exposure to plant protection products. To prevent unacceptable risks to consumers, the European Commission has decided to reduce the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for dithianon on apples and pears from 3 to 1.5 mg/kg.
 - ♦ **Effective date:** 5 December 2024
- 3. **Benzovindiflupyr, Quinclorac, Spiromesifen**¹⁰: The EU has raised the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for Benzovindiflupyr, Quinclorac, and Spiromesifenin on various products to bring them into alignment with established Codex MRLs. **Benzovindiflupyr**¹¹ a fungicide (ginseng) new MRL: 0,3 mg/kg; **Quinclorac**¹² a herbicide (cranberries) new MRL: 1,5 mg/kg; (rapeseeds/canola seeds) new MRL: 0,15 mg/kg; **Spiromesifen**¹³ an insecticide (oranges) new MRL: 0,15 mg/kg; (beans without pods) new MRL: 0,05 mg/kg. EFSA¹⁴ did not identify any health risks to consumers for Codex MRLs (CXLs) set for these substance/product combinations.
 - ♦ **Effective date:** 11 June 2024
- 4. **Chlorantraniliprole, Emamectin B1a, Triflumuron**¹⁵: The EU has raised the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for Chlorantraniliprole, Emamectin, Triflumuron on various products to bring them into alignment with established Codex MRLs. **Chlorantraniliprole**¹⁶ an insecticide (avocados) new MRL: 0,3 mg/kg; (teas) new MRL: 80 mg/kg; (animal products) new MRL ranging from: 0,005 to 0,09 mg/kg; **Emamectin B1a**¹⁷

a naturally occuring soil Actinomycete (kales) new MRL: 0,2 mg/kg; (teas) new MRL: 0,09 mg/kg; (animal products) new MRL ranging from: 0,005 to 0,09 mg/kg; **Triflumuron**¹⁸ an insecticide (soya beans) new MRL: 0,1 mg/kg; (animal products) new MRL ranging from: 0,05 to 0,1 mg/kg.

♦ **Effective date:** 11 June 2024

Propamocarb, Mepiquat, Fenazaquin¹⁹: The EU has raised the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for: Propamocarb²⁰ a fungicide on honey and other

apiculture products from 0.05 to 15 mg/kg. This follows a request to amend the MRL and a positive safety evaluation by EFSA. **Mepiquat**²¹ a plant growth regulator on oyster mushrooms from 0.7 to 3 mg/kg following a safety evaluation by EFSA. **Fenazaquin**²² a quinazoline acaricide, The EU has raised the MRL for fenazaquin on hops from 0.05 to 30 mg/kg following an import tolerance request from the United States. An evaluation by EFSA (2023)²³ concluded that there are no risks to consumers at this level.

♦ Effective date: 16 June 2024

B. EU Active Substance Renewal Monitor

I. The European Food Safety Authority (ESFA) 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 is open for public consultation:-

Active substance	Deadline
Azoxystrobin (Pesticides MRL) ²⁴	01-08-2024
Dodine (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR) ²⁵	26-07-2024
Flonicamid (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR) ²⁶	09-08-2024
Kresoxim-Methyl (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR) 27	12-08-2024
Cyantraniliprole (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR) 28	25-08-2024
Fluoxastrobin (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR) 29	01-09-2024
Terbuthylazine (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR) 30	06-09-2024
Thiencarbazone-methyl (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR) 31	09-09-2024
Metobromuron (Pesticides Peer Review - AIR) 32	10-09-2024
Beauveria Bassiana R444 (Pesticides Peer Review - NAS) 33	19-08-2024
Trichoderma harzianum T78 (Pesticides Peer Review - NAS) ³⁴	08-09-2024

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:

Beauveria bassianastrain 147	06-06-2024
Beauveria bassiana strain NPP111B005	07-07-2024

III. Active substances due for renewal – expected to expire

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

Active Substance	Date
Ascorbic acid (or L-ascorbic acid)	30-06-2024
Pyridalyl	30-06-2024
Spinetoram	30-06-2024
Bacillus pumilus QST 2808 (31/08/2024)	31-08-2024
Flubendiamide (31/08/2024)	31-08-2024
Fatty acids C8-C10 methyl esters (CAS 85566-26-3)	15-12-2024
Metaflumizone	31-12-2024
Chromafenozide	31-03-2025
Gamma-cyhalothrin	31-03-2025
Meptyldinocap	31-03-2025

C. EU News Corner

Temporary increase official controls on certain food products imported from India to EU

The Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and compliance

of goods entering the European Union from specific third countries. This regulation is particularly focused on addressing risks and non-compliance related to the EU's agri-food chain legislation. By updating and consolidating previous regulations, it establishes comprehensive requirements for controls at border points to mitigate identified risks.

The regulation encompasses two key annexes. Annex I outlines the increased official controls for food and feed of non-animal origin that present identified risks such as pesticide residues, contaminants, or other hazards. This annex provides detailed descriptions of the affected products, including various types of fruits, vegetables, and nuts. It also specifies the origin countries subject to these controls and the frequency of identity and physical checks, which are based on past compliance history and associated risk levels. Annex II details the emergency measures for food and feed of non-animal origin that pose significant contamination risks. These measures focus on products with high levels of contaminants such as mycotoxins, pesticide residues, pentachlorophenol, dioxins, and microbiological hazards. The annex lists specific food and feed items along with the contaminants they are monitored for, and provides country-specific details identifying the third countries where these products originate. It also includes stringent testing requirements, mandating that sampling and laboratory analysis results accompany consignments to confirm they meet EU safety standards.

Commodities listed under Annex I and Annex II exported from India to EU as on 12/06/2024

S. No	Annex	Product	Hazard	Frequency of identity and physical checks (%)
1	Annex 1	Okra & Drumsticks	Pesticide Residues	30
2	Annex 1	Betel Leaves	Salmonella	50
3	Annex 1	Nutmeg, mace and cardamoms Aflatoxins		30
4	Annex 1	nnex 1 Rice Aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A		5
	Annex 1	Rice	Pesticide residues	10
5	Annex 1	Yardlong Beans	Pesticide residues	30
6	Annex 1	Guava	Pesticide residues	30
7	Annex 1	Cumin Seeds	Pesticide residues	20
8	Annex 1	Vanilla	Pesticide Residues	20
9	Annex 1	Cloves, whole fruit, cloves and stems	Pesticide Residues	20
10	Mixtures of food additives Annex 1 containing locust bean & Pesticide Reguargum		Pesticide Residues	20
11	Annex 2	Peppers	Aflatoxins	10
12	Annex 2	Curry Leaves	Pesticide Residues	50
13	Annex 2	Sesame Seeds	Salmonella	30
	Annex 2	Sesame Seeds	Pesticide Residues	30

S. No	Annex	Product	Hazard	Frequency of identity and physical checks (%)
14	Annex 2	Peppers Not Sweet	Pesticide Residues	30
15	Annex 2	Nutmeg, mace and cardamoms	Pesticide Residues	30
16	Annex 2	Groundnuts	Aflatoxins	50
17	Annex 2	Cinnamon and cinnamon-tree flowers	Pesticide Residues	20
18	Annex 2	Seeds of anis, badian, fennel, coriander, cumin or caraway; juniper berries	Pesticide Residues	20
19	Annex 2	Ginger, saffron, turmeric "curcuma", thyme, bay leaves and other spices	Pesticide Residues	20
20	Annex 2	Sauce and preparations therefor; mixed condiments and mixed seasonings	Pesticide Residues	20
21	Annex 2	Calcium Carbonate	Pesticide Residues	30
22	Annex 2	Food Supplements	Pesticide Residues	20

For suppliers, being listed in Annex I or Annex II has significant implications. Inclusion in Annex II, in particular, requires each consignment of affected commodities to undergo laboratory analysis and checks by competent authorities in the exporting countries. This ensures that the products comply with EU safety standards before entering the market.

In the initial regulation published on May 27, 2020, India had two commodities listed under Annex I for pesticide residues and seven under Annex II for issues such as Salmonella, pesticide residues, and aflatoxins. By June 2024, the corrigendum showed an increase to 22 commodities and 24 issues for India. Despite these challenges, trade between the EU and India has improved significantly over the past decade, although certain products like sesame seeds and specific fruit species of peppers have faced increased scrutiny.

Overall, the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 is vital for protecting public health by ensuring that only safe food and feed products enter the EU market. It addresses identified and emerging risks from specific third countries, maintaining high safety standards and ensuring consumer confidence in the safety of the EU's food supply.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2019/1793/oj

Trend in number of commodities and issues in Annex I and Annex II (2019 - 2024)

	No. of Commodities		No. of Issues		
S. No	Month/Year	Annex I	Annex II	Annex I	Annex II
1	Oct. 2019	2	7	2	7
2	May 2020	2	6	2	7
3	Oct. 2020	2	6	2	7
4	May 2021	2	6	2	8
5	Nov. 2021	2	6	2	8
6	Jan. 2022	4	13	4	15
7	Jul. 2022	7	11	8	14
8	Feb. 2023	7	18	8	21
9	Jun. 2023	5	13	6	14
10	Feb. 2024	12	15	13	16
11	Jun. 2024	12	12	14	13

II. EU Farm to Fork and Green Deal Initiatives

The EU Farm to Fork and Green Deal initiatives aim to establish sustainable and climate-neutral food systems by 2050. One of the primary components is the Sustainable Food Systems Framework, which seeks to standardize sustainability across all food products. Additionally, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting and Due Diligence Directives are designed to enhance sustainability reporting and corporate responsibility. Another key aspect is the Deforestation Regulation, which ensures that products in the EU market do not contribute to deforestation. The Green Claims Directive is intended to standardize environmental claims to prevent misleading practices such as greenwashing. Finally, the Animal Welfare Legislation focuses on updating and improving standards for animal welfare. For more details, you can visit the AGRINFO platform.

https://agrinfo.eu/book-of-reports/overview-eu-farm-tofork-and-green-deal-initiatives/

Compilation:

Dr. Venkatesh Palani Samy Adviser (Agri. & Marine Products)

Mr. Oliver Trusgnach
Assistant (Commerce & Economic Wing)

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