



Embassy of India

Belgium, Luxembourg & the European Union

# Pesticide Monitoring

Newsletter

November-December 2025

For each active substance, the relevant export promotion bodies have been mentioned for their action on analysing the implications of the new MRLs and dissemination of these MRLs to relevant stakeholders such as farmers, traders, exporters, private companies etc.

## A. EU updates on Pesticides

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#### A. EU updates on pesticides

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### 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.

**Gibberellic acid**<sup>1</sup> and **Gibberellins**<sup>2</sup> are plant growth regulator (not a conventional insecticide or herbicide) that alters plant physiological processes such as stem elongation, germination, and fruit development. It is commonly used on crops like grapes, citrus, barley, rice, and apples to increase fruit size, improve malting quality, or break seed and bud dormancy. It is typically applied as a foliar spray or seed treatment at very low concentrations during specific growth stages. **EFSA's review**<sup>3</sup> of Gibberellic acid and gibberellins showed no critical concern regarding the use of Gibberellic acid and gibberellins as a growth regulator, primary used in EU on apples and pears. However in areas

such as ecotoxicology the full effects of the use of gibberellic acid and gibberellins could due to lack of data not be identified. However since no critical area of concern was found a renewal of approval was still granted to gibberellic acid and gibberellins. [Action: Apeda](#)

**Milbemectin**<sup>4</sup> is a biological insecticide and acaricide derived from soil microorganisms, used to control mites and certain insect pests. It is commonly applied on crops such as fruit trees, vegetables, tea, and ornamentals to manage spider mites and leafminers. Milbemectin is typically applied as a foliar spray, where it acts mainly through ingestion and contact with the pests. **EFSA's review**<sup>5</sup> found no critical concern in major areas that causes concern. However for the use of Milbemectin on plots in non covered permanent structures there was a high risk identified for bees. There was also a missing data regarding the active substance component milbemycin A<sub>3</sub> that is active in milbemectin effect on aquatic environment. However these concerns were not critical enough, therefore milbemectin was given a renewal of an approval. [Action: Apeda, Teaboard](#)

### 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).

**Betabaculovirus phoperculellae**, **Elemental iron** and **Plant oils / Rapeseed oil**<sup>6</sup> have had their maximum MRL removed since 28/12/2025<sup>7</sup>. **Betabaculovirus Phthorimaea operculella** is a biological insecticide, specifically a baculovirus used to control the potato tuber moth in potato crops. Elemental iron is considered a fungicide or micronutrient-based pesticide, sometimes used to suppress

certain plant diseases while also serving as a nutrient. Plant oils (rapeseed oil) are insecticides/acaricides, acting mainly by smothering pests such as aphids, mites, and scale insects, and are applied as foliar sprays. These three pesticides have had their maximum MRL removed since EFSA’s review<sup>8</sup>, indicated that removing their maximum MRL, doesn’t raise consumer risks or any other major area of concern. [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<sup>9</sup>:** aluminium silicate, difenoconazole, diflufenican, disodium phosphonate, extract from tea tree, flurochloridone, indolylbutyric acid, maltodextrin, phosphane, plant oils/clove oil, plant oils/spear mint oil, potassium phosphonates and triclopyr.

Active substance	Commodities	Approval period extended till
aluminium silicate	rapevines, apples (and other pome fruits), stone fruits (such as peaches and plums), citrus fruits, and tree nuts <a href="#">Action: Apeda, IEC</a>	31 March 2026
difenoconazole	wheat, barley, apples, grapes, and bananas <a href="#">Action: Apeda</a>	15 March 2026

diflufenican	wheat, barley, rye, triticale, and oats <a href="#">Action: Apeda</a>	15 January 2026
disodium phosphonate	grapes, citrus fruits, apples, pears, and potatoes <a href="#">Action: Apeda</a>	31 January 2026
extract from tea tree	grapes, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and strawberries <a href="#">Action: Apeda</a>	31 January 2026
flurochloridone	sunflower, potato, carrot, onion, and garlic <a href="#">Action: Apeda</a>	15 March 2026
indolylbutyric acid	ornamental plants, fruit trees, grapevines, olives, and citrus crops <a href="#">Action: Apeda</a>	15 March 2026
maltodextrin	ornamental plants, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and strawberries <a href="#">Action: Apeda</a>	28 February 2026
phosphane	stored grains, rice, maize (corn), wheat, and barley <a href="#">Action: Apeda</a>	15 March 2026
plant oils/clove oil	tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, strawberries, and apples <a href="#">Action: Apeda</a>	31 January 2026
plant oils/spear mint oil	tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, strawberries, and lettuce <a href="#">Action: Apeda</a>	31 January 2026
potassium phosphonates	grapes, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, and citrus fruits <a href="#">Action: Apeda</a>	31 January 2026
triclopyr	pasture grasses, forestry trees, brush/weeds, rangeland, and turf <a href="#">Action: Apeda, IEC</a>	31 March 2026

## 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
Quizalofop-P-ethyl	16/01/2026
Flupyradifurone	18/01/2026
Prohexadione-calcium	26/01/2026

### 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
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
Methoxyfenozide	31/03/2026

## C. News Corner/ NTB Measures

### I. Change in official controls of food imports

Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 governs the import conditions for certain food products from non-EU countries due to identified risks from contaminants such as pesticide residues. The review is conducted biannually, based on Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notifications, third-country monitoring reports, and Member State inspection data. Commodities showing reduced risk may be removed, while those with recurring non-compliance are subject to stricter measures.

It is suggested that the competent authorities take appropriate measures to ensure that exported commodities from India meet EU requirements. Any violations notified in RASFF should be followed by appropriate action by the competent authority, and the same must be communicated to DG SANTE via the portal or through email to avoid unnecessary increases in sampling checks. The changes in physical checks for commodities exported from India in the 13th review of the standing committee on Plants, Animals, Food en Feed (PAFF) on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 are as follows:<sup>10</sup>

#### 1. Cloves (whole fruit, cloves and stems) and vanilla (dried spices) :

- Will be removed from Annex I

#### 2. Nutmeg (Myristica fragrans):

- Will be removed from Annex I

#### 3. Okra:

- Remove the hazard in relation to ethylene oxide from Annex I to the Regulation.
- The commodity remains listed in Annex I due to possible risk of pesticide residues.

#### 4. Rice:

- Remove the hazards in relation to aflatoxin and ochratoxin A from Annex I to the Regulation.
- The commodity remains listed in Annex I due to possible risk of pesticide residues.

#### 5. Peppers of the genus Piper:

- Removed from Annex II to the Regulation
- Included in Annex I to that Regulation, maintaining a 20% frequency of identity and physical checks upon its entry into the Union.

#### 6. Calcium carbonate:

- Removed from Annex II to the Regulation
- Include in Annex I to that Regulation, maintaining a 30% frequency of identity and physical checks upon its entry into the Union.

- As a consequence, consignments of calcium carbonate from India will be subject to an increased level of official controls by national competent authorities at their entry into the Union, however, consignments will no longer be required to be accompanied by an official certificate with the results of sampling and analyses performed by the third country of origin.

#### 7. Sesamum seeds

- frequency of controls decreased from 30% to 20 % in Annex II.

#### 8. Food supplements containing botanicals

- frequency of controls decreased from 20% to 10 % of consignments entering the Union in Annex II.

Current Indian-Origin Products under Regulation (EU) 2019/1793:

Annex I includes products subject to increased frequency of identity and physical checks at EU borders.

Annex II includes products requiring the same checks plus

**Annex 1 (as from 17 February 2026)**

S. No	Commodity	Hazard	Frequency of identity and physical checks (%)
1	Betel leaves	Salmonella	50
2	Okra	Pesticide residues	30
3	Drumsticks	Pesticide residues	30
4	Rice	Aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A	5
		Pesticide residues	10
5	Yardlong beans	Pesticide residues	30
6	Guava	Pesticide residues	30
7	Nutmeg	Aflatoxins	30
8	Cumin Seeds	Pesticide residues	30
9	Peppers of the genus Capsicum	Aflatoxins	10
10	Mixtures of food additives containing locust bean gum or guar gum	Pesticide residues	20
11	Vanilla (Food – dried spices)	Pesticide residues	20
12	Cloves	Pesticide residues	20

Annex II (as from 17 february 2026)

S. No	Commodity	Hazard	Frequency of identity and physical checks (%)
1	Curry leaves ( <i>Bergera/Murraya koenigii</i> ) (Food – fresh, chilled, frozen or dried)	Pesticide residues	50
2	Groundnuts	Pesticide residues	50
	Groundnuts	Aflatoxins	50
3	Peppers of the genus <i>Capsicum</i> (other than sweet)	Pesticide residues	30
4	Sesamum seeds	Salmonella	30
		Pesticide residues	20
5	Pepper of the genus <i>Piper</i> ; dried or crushed or ground	Pesticide residues	20
6	Cinnamon	Pesticide residues	20
7	Nutmeg, mace and cardamoms	Pesticide residues	30
8	Seeds of anise, badian, fennel, coriander, cumin or caraway, juniper berries	Pesticide residues	20
9	Ginger, saffron, turmeric ( <i>curcuma</i> ), thyme, bay leaves, curry and other spices	Pesticide residues	20
10	Sauces and preparations	Pesticide residues	20
11	Calcium carbonate	Pesticide residues	30
12	Food supplements containing botanicals	Pesticide residues	10

## II. France: Suspension of Import and Sale of Certain Foodstuffs Containing Non-EU-Approved Pesticides<sup>11</sup>

The French Government, on 7 January 2025, unilaterally issued an Order suspending the import and sale of certain foodstuffs originating from outside the European Union (EU) if they contain residues of specific pesticides not approved for use in the EU.

The Order applies to both raw and processed foodstuffs, including fruits, vegetables, soya beans, cereals, and honey, where residues of the following active substances are detected:

- Carbendazim (including the sum of carbendazim and benomyl)
- Thiophanate-methyl
- Glufosinate
- Mancozeb

The measure shall apply from 8 February 2026.

It may be noted that this is a national measure applicable only to the French market. The newly established French Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) under this Order are not aligned with the EU-wide MRLs currently applicable in other EU Member States.

Under EU law, individual Member States may adopt national emergency measures only in cases where there is an evident serious risk to human health. In this context, the French Order was notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 9 January 2026.

The products potentially impacted by this measure include, inter alia:

Citrus fruits (grapefruit, oranges, lemons, limes, clementines/tangerines), pome fruits (apples, pears, quinces, loquats), stone fruits (apricots, cherries, peaches, plums), avocados, grapes (table and wine), mangoes, papayas, berries, tomatoes, eggplant, okra, Brussels sprouts, beans and peas with pods, cultivated mushrooms, potatoes, peppers, melons, lettuce, soya beans, barley, oats, rye, wheat, honey and other apiculture products.

For reference, the official French Order is available on the Legifrance website. (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000053313910>)

## III. Maximum residue levels for copper compounds<sup>12</sup>

The European Union is set to raise the Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for copper compounds on a wide range of food products under a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes II and III of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. The revision, based on updated scientific assessments by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), reflects a comprehensive review of dietary exposure and recognises both authorised agricultural uses of copper and its natural presence in soil and water. While earlier proposals to lower MRLs for certain products have been postponed to allow further data collection, the draft regulation increases or adjusts MRLs for numerous fruits, vegetables, nuts, cereals, herbs, honey and certain animal products, and revises the residue definition to “total copper”. The regulation is expected to be adopted and apply from April 2026, potentially easing compliance challenges for exporters, including from India, for affected products.

## IV. European Commission Launches “Implementation Dialogues” under Better Regulation Agenda

The European Commission has launched a new series of Implementation Dialogues as part of its Better Regulation, Simplification and Implementation agenda. These

Dialogues are designed to gather practical, real-world feedback from stakeholders on the implementation of EU legislation and to identify opportunities for simplification and improved regulatory effectiveness.

From spring 2025 onwards, each Commissioner is expected to hold at least two Implementation Dialogues per year within their portfolio. The findings will feed into the Commission's annual reports to the European Parliament and the Council on simplification, implementation and enforcement.

Importantly, Implementation Dialogues are distinct from public consultations. They are high-level, targeted exchanges with invited stakeholders, aimed at addressing concrete implementation challenges.

### Purpose of the Implementation Dialogues

The Dialogues aim to:

- Assess progress and identify barriers in the implementation of EU laws
- Gather direct input from industry, SMEs, civil society, social partners and national authorities
- Identify unintended effects and administrative burdens
- Explore simplification measures to enhance competitiveness
- Improve enforcement and policy outcomes
- Ensure structured stakeholder feedback directly informs Commission action

### Follow-Up on Import Controls: Reinforced EU Measures

Following the Implementation Dialogue on import controls, the Commission issued a press release (IP/25/2979, 9 December 2025) announcing reinforced measures affecting food, animal and plant products entering the EU. These include:

- 50% increase in audits of non-EU countries over the next two years
- 33% increase in audits of EU Border Control Posts
- Strengthened monitoring of non-compliant commodities and exporting countries
- Additional support to Member States for reinforced controls
- Establishment of a dedicated EU Task Force on pesticide residues, food and feed safety, animal welfare and coordinated enforcement
- Training programmes for approximately 500 national authority staff
- Forthcoming updates to rules on imports containing residues of hazardous pesticides banned in the EU

### References

- 1 [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2025/2313/oj](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/2313/oj)
- 2 [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2025/2272/oj](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/2272/oj)
- 3 <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2024.9066>
- 4 [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2025/2068/oj/eng](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/2068/oj/eng)
- 5 <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.8126>
- 6 <https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/eu-pesticides-database/start/screen/mrls/latest>
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- 8 <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9194>
- 9 [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2025/2316/oj](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/2316/oj)
- 10 [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2026/194/oj](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2026/194/oj)
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- 12 <https://agrinfo.eu/book-of-reports/temporary-increased-official-controls-on-foods-from-certain-countries-january-2026-update/>

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