

Ag Chemical Update - February 2017

(Project AH13027 - Plant protection: Regulatory support and co-ordination)

WHATS NEW

Below is a summary of various regulatory issues and chemical reviews currently underway both locally and internationally.

NATIONAL REGULATORY ISSUES

APVMA

APVMA & Chemical reviews

Current review progress

Dimethoate

The finalisation of the dimethoate review is anticipated within the next few months. The proposed regulatory decision report was published in October 2016. The uses to be deleted include pre-harvest applications to abies, bananas, casimiroas, custard apples, grapes, passionfruit, paw paw, santols, sapodillas, stonefruit, wax jambu, artichoke (globe), broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chilli, parsnips, radish and sweetcorn, as well as post-harvest treatment of chili and eggplants.

It is expected that the APVMA's review of chlorpyrifos will be completed in the second half of 2017.

Priority re-evaluation

The APVMA is unlikely to commence the re-evaluation of chemicals identified on their priority list, i.e., dithiocarbamates, till 2018.

Department of Agriculture

Chemical access

The second round of the government's Assistance grants scheme has been completed. A number of horticulture projects were successful with \$1.2 million made available. Crops where work will commence

include tropical fruits, brassica vegetables, onions, olives, blueberries and pineapples. See the link for more details

<http://horticulture.com.au/horticulture-industry-secures-more-than-1-2-million-in-chemical-grants/>

Productivity Commission

Regulatory reform

The Productivity Commission undertook a review of regulation of Australian agriculture, one aspect of which was Agricultural and veterinary chemicals. As indicated previously the draft report was released in July with submissions closing in August. To date the final report has not become available.

New chemicals

A number of registrations and label extensions have occurred in recent months.

Bayer has recently registered the fungicide Infinito® containing the active constituents fluopicolide and propamocarb for use in cucurbit vegetables, bulb vegetables, lettuce for the control of downy mildew and late blight in potatoes.

ADAMA has recently registered the insecticide Cormoran® containing the active constituents Novaluron and acetamiprid, for use on pome fruit for the control of codling moth, dimpling bug and mealybug.

Dow have sought to extend the use of sulfoxaflor to include avocado, macadamia nuts and strawberries.

Dupont have sought to extend the uses of their product Benevia® to add use in bulb vegetables, potatoes and strawberries.

New pesticides under development internationally include a sucking pest insecticide pyriproxyfen from Nihon Noyaku being developed in grapes and vegetables; a Lepidoptera insecticide broflanilide from Mitsui Chemicals being developed for various vegetable crops, and a new antibiotic fungicide

This project has been funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited using across industry levies and contributions from the Australian Government.

fenpicoxamid with uses in bananas and cereals from Dow.

INTERNATIONAL

Canada

The Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), following re-evaluation, has recently proposed the revocation of all uses of methomyl.

The PMRA has also proposing to phase-out all agricultural uses of imidacloprid due to environmental concerns.

The agency is also granting full registration of a biological fungicide based on *Bacillus mycooides isolate J* (Lifegard®) for the suppression of various leaf diseases in tomato, peppers, potato and spinach crops.

China

The Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of Agriculture of China (ICAMA), has indicated a review of eight pesticides including carbendazim and atrazine

India

India is proposing to ban the following pesticides carbaryl, diazinon, fenarimol, linuron, tridemorph and trifluralin from January 1, 2018. In addition, phorate and trichlorfon are scheduled for removal from December 2020.

Europe

The European Commission has decided to withdraw authorisation for linuron.

A comprehensive review of existing MRLs for dimethoate has been proposed by the European Food Safety Authority. The review is planned under Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005.

Korea

Korea will be implementing a Positive List System for MRLs, in the near future. The first step in the process occurs on January 1st, 2017 when residues above 0.01 mg/kg will not be permitted for non-registered pesticides in

Tropical fruit, tree nuts and oil seeds. The system will then be applied to all other commodities from January 1st, 2018. Basically, for a MRL to exist it will need to be a registered use in Korea or have had an import tolerance recently established. Unfortunately, it appears that Codex MRLs will no longer be accepted in the absence of a domestic MRL.

USA

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently working towards the cancellation of products containing flubendiamide over concerns that certain metabolites are toxic to aquatic fauna. The compound is registered in Australia in a range of crops for the control of various lepidopteran pests. The EPA has also proposed the revocation of all food MRLs for chlorpyrifos over drinking water aquifer contamination concerns.

Companies

DuPont and Dow merger

The merger between Dow and DuPont is taking longer than anticipated due to the time involved in gaining regulatory approvals in the EU. It is now expected to close in the first half of this year, with the intended spinoffs to take place about 18 months later.

Syngenta and ChemChina

ChemChina (China National Chemical Corp) is waiting on EU and US decisions on the merger, with decisions in the US expected in March and in Europe expected in April.