

Syngenta Responds To Activist Claims Regarding Atrazine



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- Backed by 6,000 studies and 50 years of use, atrazine can be used safely
- Syngenta advocates transparent, scientific review of products
- Thousands of U.S. farmers rely on atrazine for safe, affordable and abundant food production

For 50 years, sound science has governed U.S. regulatory decisions on atrazine, a well-studied herbicide that farmers rely upon worldwide to produce safe, healthy and abundant crops. Syngenta, as a science-based company, looks forward to a continuing,



open and transparent safety review of atrazine by the U.S. EPA in 2010 and expects a positive outcome.

Last week, two environmental activist groups escalated their attacks on Syngenta and atrazine, urging a departure from the EPA's methodical, science-based approach to regulating crop protection products such as atrazine. Syngenta believes these claims are baseless and wrong.

These activist groups urge the removal of safe, regulated crop protection tools farmers rely on to produce safe and abundant food for the world. It is estimated forty percent of the world's food supply would not exist without the use of such products.

Committed to the highest ethical standards

"Syngenta is committed to promoting and maintaining high standards of corporate responsibility worldwide in an industry that is essential to global agriculture and food production," said Dr. Tim Pastoor, principal scientist for Syngenta Crop Protection. "The activist report is an irresponsible and defamatory characterization of our company's efforts to implement high standards of stewardship for the safe, effective and environmentally responsible use of its products. Our people are committed to the highest level of ethical standards in all our business practices."

Transparent review of the best science

EPA's 12-year evaluation completed in 2006 found atrazine poses "no harm that would result to the general U.S. population, infants, children or other ... consumers."

To reach its conclusion, EPA required that Syngenta initiate studies defined by the EPA and conducted using internationally recognized Good Laboratory Practices.

"Syngenta is required by the EPA to conduct a long list of mandatory high-quality studies under rigorous scrutiny by the agency," said Pastoor. "Every data point is available to verify the studies were done properly and the science can be verified by EPA scientists. Recently cited studies by activist organizations are not required to adhere to the same standards. The EPA's recent evaluation reviewed the best science in its regulatory decision, so these activist calls for yet another review of atrazine would only be repeating the work that has been done already."

World-renowned institutions including the World Health Organization, the National Cancer Institute, and governments in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom all have studied atrazine. WHO said atrazine is deemed "not classifiable as to carcinogenicity to humans," placing it in the same cancer risk category as substances such as tea, rubbing alcohol and talc. The Australian government said "it is unlikely that atrazine is an endocrine disruptor in humans."

In addition, Anne Lindsay, former Deputy Director, Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. EPA, in testimony before the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of the Minnesota House of Representatives, said "EPA has taken an especially close look at the research conducted by Dr. Tyrone Hayes which reports that atrazine adversely affects sexual development in frogs, causing a mixture of sex organs in a single animal. EPA has concluded that the existing data are insufficient to demonstrate that atrazine causes such effects. The Agency's conclusions are supported by the independent, expert peer review of the SAP (Science Advisory Panel)."

Thousands of farmers rely on atrazine for more than half of U.S. corn

"Farmers have told us again and again to fight for atrazine, which is an

important tool in growing affordable and abundant food, and we will," Pastoor said. "Atrazine is relied on to control weeds on more than half of U.S. corn, and a 2003 EPA review said 'the total or national economic impact resulting from the loss of atrazine to control grass and broadleaf weeds in corn, sorghum and sugar cane would be in excess of \$2 billion per year if atrazine were unavailable to growers.' That would have a devastating effect on our farm economy."

For more information, visit www.atrazine.com.

About

Syngenta:

Syngenta is one of the world's leading companies with more than 24,000 employees in over 90 countries dedicated to our purpose: Bringing plant potential to life. Through world-class science, global reach and commitment to our customers we help to increase crop productivity, protect the environment and improve health and quality of life. For more information about us please go to www.syngenta.com or www.growmorefromless.com.

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