

Investor News

Suspensions lifted for insecticidal seed treatment products for use in oilseed rape

Leverkusen, June 25, 2008 – The Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) has now lifted the suspension of registration imposed on May 15, 2008 for insecticidal seed treatment products used in rapeseed. This means that these products have been made available once again to farmers in Germany for the impending sowing season.

The registrations for insecticidal seed treatment products in oilseed rape and maize had been suspended originally in response to reports of bee losses in the south of Baden-Württemberg at the beginning of May, which were linked to the sowing of maize seeds treated with the seed treatment active ingredient Clothianidin from Bayer CropScience. As a precaution this official measure extended not only on maize seeds but also on rapeseeds.

After intensive technical discussions and consultations at expert level, the BVL took the view that the treatment of rapeseed with insecticidal seed treatment products as also the sowing of the treated seeds, can be classified as safe to the environment. The documents required by the BVL and made available by Bayer CropScience had been scrutinized closely beforehand by BVL experts and submitted to a renewed risk assessment.

“Operator safety and environmental protection are top priority issues for us. The decision of the BVL to lift the precautionary suspension provides definite confirmation of the safety of our seed treatment products,” said Dr. Hans-Josef Diehl, Head of Development and Registration at Bayer CropScience Germany.

The decision of the BVL is of major importance particularly for agriculture and the seed industry. Rapeseed sowing is due to take place very shortly. Experts had feared massive

harvest losses as a result of pest infestation if the ban on the sowing of treated seed had been prolonged.

With a view to securing renewed registration for use in maize, Bayer CropScience is working closely together with all groups concerned in the seed production and machinery industries in a search for solutions. The aim is to ensure high seed dressing quality for seeds and to optimize sowing technology. "At the present time there is, in fact, no alternative method which is more expedient, practicable or environmentally compatible than seed treatments", said Dr. Hans-Josef Diehl.

Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the fields of health care, nutrition and high-tech materials. Bayer CropScience AG, a subsidiary of Bayer AG with annual sales of about EUR 5.8 billion (2007), is one of the world's leading innovative crop science companies in the areas of crop protection, non-agricultural pest control, seeds and plant biotechnology. The company offers an outstanding range of products and extensive service backup for modern, sustainable agriculture and for non-agricultural applications. Bayer CropScience has a global workforce of about 17,800 and is represented in more than 120 countries. This and further news are available at: www.newsroom.bayercropscience.com.

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