

Save the Bees

BAYER pesticides causing bee deaths worldwide

BAYER managers have known the risks which neonicotinoid pesticides create for the environment since the early 1990s. The company downplayed the risks, submitted deficient studies to authorities and viewed the massive decline of honey bees and pollinators as 'collateral damage'. Although these ingredients are already banned in several countries, the company refuses to halt their production. Food security is in danger because of reduced pollination. The Coordination Against BAYER Dangers needs support for the campaign "Stop BAYER! Save the Bees!"

For twenty years Imidacloprid has been one of the most used insecticides in the world for field and horticultural crops. It is often used as seed-dressing, especially for maize, sunflower, and canola. Imidacloprid is sold under the trade names GAUCHO, CONFIDOR, CHINOOK and IMPRIMO.

Imidacloprid is BAYER's best-selling pesticide, last year's sales were 597 million Euro. More than 1.000 tonnes are exported annually to 120 countries. Since patent protection for Imidacloprid has expired, BAYER brought a similar neonicotinoid to the market called CLOTHIANIDIN (product names: ELADO, PONCHO). Sales have amounted to 192 million Euro last year. The substance is mainly used for seed coating of maize and canola.

United Nations Warnings

Neonicotinoids are systemic chemicals that spread from the seed throughout the plant and disrupt the nervous system of any insect which comes into contact. The neurotoxins travel into the pollen and the nectar and can poison beneficial insects such as bees. The advent of neonicotinoids coincided with the occurrence of large bee-kills, first in France, later on also in Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Eastern Europe, India, the USA and Brazil.

Last spring the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) published a report on bee mortalities around the world. BAYER pesticides are listed there as a threat to numerous animals. According to the report, "Systemic insecticides such as those used as seed coatings, which migrate from the roots through the entire plant, all the way to the flowers, can potentially cause toxic chronic exposure to non-target pollinators. Various studies revealed the high toxicity of



chemicals such as Imidacloprid, Clothianidin, Thiamethoxam and associated ingredients for animals such as cats, fish, rats, rabbits, birds and earthworms. Laboratory studies have shown that such chemicals can cause losses of sense of direction, impair memory and brain metabolism, and cause mortality."

Deficient Studies

Honeybees pollinate over 70 out of 100 crops that provide 90% of the world's food. They pollinate most fruits and vegetables-including apples, oranges, strawberries, onions and carrots. The declining bee population has potentially serious impacts on food security and livelihood of farmers.

An internal evaluation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) describes the studies submitted by BAYER as "inadequate". According to the EPA memorandum, honey bees in particular are at considerable risk. Because the product's registration is based precisely on these studies, we are demanding the registration be withdrawn immediately.

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Please spread this information. Thank you.

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The French government declared that the treatment of seeds with Imidacloprid leads to significant risks for bees. Imidacloprid was banned as a seed dressing for sunflowers in 1999, after a third of French honeybees died following its widespread use. Five years later it was also banned as a treatment for sweetcorn.

Banned in France & Germany

In May 2008 beekeepers in southern Germany reported that two thirds of their hives suddenly died. Wild living insects decreased likewise. The German government immediately banned the

use of BAYER pesticides as a seed dressing for corn and canola.

1.2 million signatures have been collected to underscore our demand to totally withdraw GAUCHO and PONCHO. The signatures were handed over to the BAYER board at the recent shareholder meeting. However, the Bayer management continuously disregards all studies and reports that show the dangers and harmful effects of neonicotinoids. The substances have been banned in several countries and yet, BAYER continues to market these products globally. The company should have given urgent consideration to these matters that were brought to their attention again and again.

Please support our campaign!

We need to ask for your support. Our international campaigns are expensive to run. We receive no public support and depend entirely on your donations. We urgently have to intensify our campaign „Save the bees“ which we're leading with beekeepers from all over the world.

We entirely depend on your help. Please support our work. Our strength results from international solidarity and cooperation.

**Please donate with the keyword
„Save the Bees!“**
GLS-Bank BIC/SWIFT GENODEM1GLS
IBAN DE88 4306 0967 8016 5330 00



Please detach and send the coupon. Thank you.

- I demand the complete withdrawal of neonicotinoid pesticides.
- Resistance against corporate power is necessary. BAYER must be controlled independently. Therefore I'm becoming a member of the Coordination against BAYER Dangers. I'm setting my dues at (min. 60 €/year) €
- I'm interested in the Coordination against BAYER Dangers – please send me more information.
- To support the campaign I wish to make a single donation of €
Please send your contributions to our account with the GLS-Bank in Germany:
IBAN DE88 4306 0967 8016 5330 00 / GENODEM1GLS

Answer/Antwort

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