

The Syngenta logo is positioned on the right side of a dark green horizontal bar. It consists of the word "syngenta" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, with a small green leaf icon above the letter 'a'.

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Can we continue to grow Oil Seed Rape in the UK : Impact of new EFSA Guidance and Politicisation of Science

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EFSA Scientific Opinion on Terrestrial Non-Target Plants



Current major concerns:

- Spray drift values potentially increase massively
- Additional 35x safety factor to assess potential repro effects
- Existing Buffer zones to increase by x10
- Protection Goal Proposals:
 - Negligible effects on populations at the edge-of field
 - Protect in-crop biodiversity to support food web (i.e. protect in-field weeds!!)
 - No effect on endangered species ???



How can Herbicides be registerable under Guidance based on this Opinion?

EFSA Guidance Document for bees

Still not adopted by EU MSs (almost 2 years delay)

VERY Problematic and cannot be complied with

- Honeybee Protection goal impossible to meet
- Over- conservative trigger values and safety factors
- New study types required where no methods are available
- Field study specification impossible to meet

Insecticides will be unregistrable and many herbicides and fungicides will also fail.

- EU Neonicotinoid restrictions
- Recent EFSA Evaluation of Ethofumesate a herbicide assessed for use on sugarbeet – many outstanding data gaps and risk assessments that could not be finalised!!
- US EPA and Canadian PMRA & Australia APVMA have not followed the EFSA Approach or the EC Neonic restrictions



EFSA Scientific Opinion on Terrestrial Non-Target Arthropods



Current major concerns:

- Biodiversity needs to be protected in-field
- Direct and indirect effect from multiple pesticide applications

Specific Protection Goal Proposals

- **Infield** - small effects on NTA poplns abundance & occupancy key functional groups
- **Off-field** (at 1m from crop!) - negligible effects on densities of NTA species, predator and parasitoids, key functional groups & NTA Pollinators
- Recovery potential should be based on species with low recovery potential!!!



How can insecticides be registerable under Guidance based on this Opinion + Bee Guidance??

Science Complicated by Politics & Media

- Academic Community seem to be divided on role of Neonics in bee losses and bee health decline
 - Science reviews can be biased and based on “Selective” use of evidence
 - Hazard versus Risk – Lab versus Field Evidence
- Systematic Bias of literature
 - Paper showing no effects of a pesticides not easy to publish
 - How effective is the Journal Peer Review process?
- Politicisation of Science – need to show impact !!
 - Media Press Releases of Scientific Publications
 - Bad news more newsworthy
- Proprietary Industry data:
 - Not available to Public Scientists - But now industry publishing more!
 - Conflict of interest – What about other potential conflicts?
- NGO campaigns

