

STATEMENT FROM ACTION COMMITTEE - MAY 2021 PRE-HARVEST AERIAL APPLICATION OF GLYPHOSATE-CONTAINING PRODUCTS OVER MAIZE

(Adama South Africa, AECI Plant Health, UPL South Africa, Bayer CropScience, Rolfes Agri, Villa Crop Protection)

An Action Committee consisting of interested CropLife SA member companies holding current registrations for aerial applications of glyphosate-containing products plus representatives from GRAIN SA and CropLife South Africa.

Background

The Action Committee engaged on several occasions with DALRRD to request an urgent grant for an "Emergency label extension", on glyphosate-containing products already registered for aerial application over genetically modified maize up to V8 growth stage, to enable farmers to do a pre-harvest aerial application spray over maize, during the 2021 season in order to control late season weeds. It should be noted that every single avenue to generate data and Risk Assessment to obtain a label extension for use during the current season, have been exhausted, but with no avail.

Risk Assessment

During said engagements, a Risk Assessment was requested by DALRRD, to enable them to make a recommendation for such an approval on any application for an extension on a glyphosate-containing label, for use during the 2021 season. After careful review of the available data from the various Registration Holders represented on the Working Group, it became apparent that said data were not fulfilling all of the requirements and that a compliant Risk Assessment would not be feasible for any application to be approved.

Pre-Harvest Aerial Application on Maize During 2021 Season

It remains an illegal practice to apply any glyphosate-containing product by air after the V8 growth stage of the crop and that no glyphosate-containing product (label) is registered for aerial application, prior to harvest. Remember, it is illegal for any plant protection solution to be applied for any use whatsoever if said use is not explicitly registered in terms of Act No. 36 of 1947.

However, each of the involved Registration Holders will endeavour to generate sufficient efficacy and residue data, to enable them to submit an application for approval of a pre-harvest aerial application of glyphosate-containing products at their earliest convenience. Notably, it has been confirmed that no Registration Holder will have sufficient data to submit a full dossier to DALRRD for evaluation, in order for an exceptional label extension approval for the aerial application of glyphosate-containing products to be available to end-users during 2021.

Conclusion

Farmers, Crop Advisers and Distributors are welcome to contact any of the Registration Holders of glyphosate-containing products, or refer to the Agri-Intel database, to seek advice on which alternative product/s have an approved use on their label, for an application on maize prior to harvest.



Noëlene Odendaal

Action Committee Chair