Before a pesticide can be authorised for use, the safety of its active substance must be assessed. An active substance is the key ingredient – usually a chemical – that enables a pesticide to do its job. EFSA oversees the safety assessment of active substances in the EU.

**WHO ASSESSES PESTICIDES IN THE EU?**

EFSA is the keystone of EU risk assessment regarding food and feed safety. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks. EFSA is the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

**Application submitted**
Application for approval of active substance submitted to an EU Rapporteur Member State (RMS).

**Report prepared**
RMS prepares a Draft Assessment Report or Renewal Assessment Report that includes a risk assessment.

**Member State consultation**
EFSA organises consultation with experts from Member States.

**Additional information**
EFSA requests additional information from the RMS if needed.

**EFSA issues conclusions**
EFSA holds final consultation with experts from 28 Member States before issuing its conclusions.

**Draft decision**
Committee comprising representatives of Member States votes on draft decision proposed by European Commission.

**Peer review**
RMS shares report with EFSA, Member States and the European Commission. EFSA begins review of RMS report.

**Public consultation**
EFSA canvasses stakeholders and any other interested parties for views on the report.

**Report updated**
Assessment report is updated by the RMS.

**Substance approved/rejected**
Commission decides whether to allow the active substance to be used in pesticides in the EU. Member States can then decide whether pesticide products containing the substance should be authorised for use in their countries.

CASE STUDY: GLYPHOSATE

The Rapporteur Member State for the re-evaluation of glyphosate was Germany. The peer review of the German assessment was organised by EFSA in cooperation with all 28 EU Member States. A minority opinion was recorded for Sweden, which disagreed with the majority view that glyphosate should not be classified as carcinogenic.

**Rapporteur Member State**

Rapporteur Member States:

- Germany
- France
- Italy
- Sweden

Peer review:

- Ritpic is a major concern
- Majority view is glyphosate is not carcinogenic
- Minority view is glyphosate is carcinogenic

EFSA is the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). EFSA is an independent science-led body established by the European Union to provide food and feed safety information. EFSA was established with a mandate to work in close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, to provide independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging food and feed safety issues.

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