

Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft (literally translated as „Alliance for an Agriculture fit for Grandchildren“)

Umweltinstitut München (Environmental Institute Munich)

Joint press release

No to the re-approval of glyphosate – Large aerial dispersal confirmed

Independent experts confirm results of the study "Pesticide pollution of the air". The German *Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft* and the *Umweltinstitut München* demand consideration of the findings in the re-approval process for glyphosate.

Berlin/Bruxelles. The EU authorities' assumption that glyphosate does not spread through the air has been disproven. The results of the German study "Pesticide pollution of the air" prove that glyphosate and dozens of other pesticides are travelling through the air for miles into national parks and cities. The analysis was initially published in 2020 and has now been peer-reviewed by independent scientists and published in the renowned journal "Environmental Sciences Europe". It was commissioned by the *Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft* and the *Umweltinstitut München* and is the most comprehensive data set on pesticide pollution in the air in Germany. However, the EU authorities responsible for the approval process concerning the use of glyphosate have so far excluded air transport.

Boris Frank, chairman of the *Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft*: "The EU approval process for glyphosate is built on false facts. Our study, which has now been reviewed by an independent scientific panel, shows that the agricultural toxin binds to dust particles and is carried through the air for many miles into the country. Glyphosate ends up in protected natural areas, on organic fields and in the air we breathe. Glyphosate must not be re-authorised under any circumstances."

In the peer-reviewed study "Pesticides and pesticide-related products in ambient air in Germany", the agricultural toxin glyphosate was detected at every single one of the total 69 measuring points distributed throughout Germany. It was found far away from potential fields of origin, even in national parks like the Bavarian Forest or on the Harzer Brocken. Glyphosate is classified as "probably carcinogenic to humans" by the *World Health Organisation (WHO)* and has a devastating effect on insects and their habitats.

Christine Vogt, expert for agriculture at the *Umweltinstitut München*: "It has now been clearly proven that agricultural toxins spread far more than what was assumed by the approval authorities so far. We call on the EU authorities to incorporate these scientifically confirmed findings into the re-evaluation of glyphosate. Anything else would be an act of gross negligence". Currently, the public participation process for the re-authorisation of glyphosate from 2022 is underway. The *Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft* and the *Umweltinstitut München* therefore submit the study "Pesticides and pesticide-related products in ambient air in Germany" to the relevant authorities.

In addition to glyphosate, dozens of other pesticides were recorded in the ambient air as the study shows. "We detected 109 different pesticides, including 28 that are not approved for use in Germany," says Dr. Maren Kruse-Platz, lead author of the study and scientist at the research office *TIEM Integrated Environmental Monitoring*, which conducted the analysis. "At each sampling site, we identified at least one pesticide. In most of them, there were several active substances, and at one site there were even 36 different substances. We have a chemical cocktail in the air whose effects on humans and animals are completely unknown".

The *Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft* and the *Umweltinstitut München* support the demand of the European Citizen's Initiative *Save Bees and Farmers* to gradually ban all synthetic pesticides in the EU by 2035. In the meantime, the European pesticide approval process must take the long-range transport of pesticides via the air and the combination effect of different active substances into account. The process for authorising glyphosate after 2022 is a good place to start.

Further information

The scientific publication (open access):

Maren Kruse-Platz; Frieder Hofmann; Werner Wosniok; Ulrich Schlechtriemen; Niels Kohlschütter: *Pesticides and pesticide-related products in ambient air in Germany*, Environmental Sciences Europe, Oktober 2021, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12302-021-00553-4>

The study “Pesticide pollution of the air“:

The study was conducted by the research office *TIEM Integrated Environmental Monitoring*, commissioned by the *Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft* and the *Umweltinstitut München*. For the study, pesticides were measured in the air throughout Germany from March to November 2019. A total of 69 sites were examined, ranging from 100 to more than 1000 meters away from potential sources – in rural areas, cities, conventional and organic agricultural landscapes as well as in protected areas. The data was collected with newly developed technical passive collection devices and with the analysis of filter mats in ventilation systems of buildings. The whole study from 2019 also included the results of the analysis of beehives and the results of a study in which tree barks were tested for pesticides between 2014 and 2019. As the dataset of beehives and tree barks is very complex, it was not used for publication in "Environmental Sciences Europe".

The English, peer-reviewed version of the study "Pesticides and pesticide-related products in ambient air in Germany" can be found here: https://www.enkeltauglich.bio/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-Environmental_Sciences_Europe.pdf

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The Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft is an association of renowned organic companies, many of which are pioneers of organic agriculture, as well as civil society organisations. Based on scientific findings and through dialogue, the actors of the Alliance want to contribute to preserve the livelihoods of future generations and to rebuild them where they have already been damaged. More information can be found on the website (German): www.enkeltauglich.bio.

The Umweltinstitut München is a German environmental protection organisation that was founded as an independent measuring station for radioactivity after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Today, the donation-funded, non-profit association also works on the effects of industrial agriculture on people and nature. The Environmental Institute Munich provides critical information with its own measurements, studies, as well as campaigns and protest actions. More information can be found on the website (German): www.umweltinstitut.org.