

CCU 4th Floor
Ergon House
Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 2AL

Email: helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.defra.gov.uk



CCU Ref: DWO275667/UR

[REDACTED]
Territory Head, Europe North
Syngenta Crop Protection UK Ltd
CPC4, Capital Park
Fulbourn
Cambridge
CB21 5XE

22 June 2012

Dear [REDACTED]

Neonicotinoids

Thank you for your letter of 14 June to Jim Paice MP about the French Government's proposed action on Cruiser OSR. I have been asked to reply.

The study by Henry *et al* to which you refer, together with others, is currently under detailed review in the UK. Defra is of course aware of the French action and their request for the European Commission to take a similar course, and is examining the limited information we have on the basis for their action as part of our review. Defra is also examining the statement made by EFSA on Henry *et al* and other new studies.

Defra understands that the Commission themselves have not yet decided how to react to the French request and we will decide our position in light of both our review of the evidence and the detail of any proposal that the Commission may make. However, it is clear that in the case of seed treatments, such as Cruiser OSR, EU plant protection products law does not allow Member States to prohibit marketing and use of seeds treated with pesticides authorised for that use in at least one Member State.

The UK is also contributing actively to the broader review by EFSA and Defra will also continue to support research and work with regulators and scientists internationally to continue to develop our understanding of risks to bees and other pollinators.

Bees are valued in their own right and for the economic benefits they bring as pollinators and we take the success of bee populations very seriously. This is why the UK carefully assesses new studies as they emerge, and considers with an open mind whether they alter the overall picture. The UK's assessment of the body of evidence assembled before the latest studies was that it supported the conclusion that neonicotinoids do not threaten honey bee populations. However, we will continue to develop and assess the science and will act if new evidence, including these latest scientific studies which are currently under review, shows the need.

As part of this consideration, Defra is keen that as much data as possible is in the public domain for scientific review and discussion and would continue to urge your company and

other companies with authorisations for neonicotinoid insecticides, to publish the studies relating to effects on honey bees as fully as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.

Defra - Customer Contact Unit