



Newsletter about Pesticides

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Legislative and regulatory News



Mexico: Glyphosate imports to be reduced by half in 2022

The National Council of Science and Technology (*Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología*, Conacyt) [recommended](#) on January 17, 2022 to the Mexican Government to reduce the import quotas of glyphosate by half for 2022 compared to 2021, which corresponds to 8,263,088.5 kilograms as the maximum amount of formulated glyphosate and 628,615.50 kilograms as the maximum level of technical glyphosate.

This recommendation is based on the results of scientific research, as well as consultations with different authorities, which confirm the availability in Mexico of viable alternatives for weed management, in different crops and scales of

production. This is one more step towards a total ban on the herbicide, set for 2024 by a [historic presidential decree](#) of December 31, 2020.

This ban is of particular importance in Mexico, where 19% of national agricultural production is directly dependent on pollination by bees, whose survival is being challenged by the extensive use of glyphosate. The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) had pointed out in a [report](#) published in December 2018 that a variety of extremely dangerous pesticides were still allowed and widely used in Mexico. The ban on glyphosate is part of a process of reduction of use initiated since 2019 by the Government, under the impetus of the CNDH. The objective is to favor agrochemicals, biological or organic products of low toxicity, agroecological practices or those requiring intensive use of labor.

To this end, the decree gives a central role to Conacyt, both in coordinating the search for alternatives, in conjunction with stakeholders, and in recommending the quantities of glyphosate to be imported during the transition period.

Unsurprisingly, the industry has been very critical of the recommendation, which has been [described as worrying](#) and without scientific basis by the *Unión Mexicana de Fabricantes y Formuladores de Agroquímicos* (UMFFAAC) and the *Protección de Cultivos, Ciencia y Tecnología* (Prococy). At the same time, various transnational companies (such as Bayer-Monsanto or Syngenta Agro), the National Agricultural Council (*Consejo Nacional Agropecuario*, CNA), the Xacur group, Velsimex and civil associations financed by agribusiness filed more than twenty appeals to cancel the presidential decree ordering the gradual suspension of glyphosate imports. However, on October 13, 2021, the First Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN) upheld the gradual ban on the importation of glyphosate into Mexico.

The authorities will have to show determination and follow the recommendation of Conacyt despite the pressure from the agribusiness lobbies that had already pushed the former Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Victor Toledo, to leave office in 2020. He [describe](#) a fierce battle, especially in view of the means of the industries, which have "an army of scientists, technicians, advertisers, lobbyists, spies and promoters".

Nevertheless, the Government seems to remain firm on its policy of avoiding pesticides and promoting alternatives and is an example to follow for its neighbors in the Americas.

If you've made it this far, can you make one more tiny effort?

*Justice Pesticides needs your help to continue this work of investigation
and information to support victims of pesticides.*

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