

Date : 6 April, 2001
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About : imidacloprid
Ref. to your e-mail dated 27.03.2001

The french beekeepers have been enduring important injuries for 5 years :
Depopulation of the honeybees in summer, losses of sunflower honey crop (-50%), mortality of the bees more important in winter, since the confirmation of « Gaucho », the active substance imidacloprid sold by the firm Bayer.

Bayer affirmed that the persistence of Gaucho was controlled, and that the bees could never have any contact with the molecule and its metabolites across the nectar or pollen.

The scientific researches from INRA, CNRS, AFSSA laboratories confirmed the different matters :

- The persistence of Gaucho is very long (DT 50 > 180 days or 350 days according to the soils). This persistence is inadmissible, in contradiction with the european law (91/414) stipulating that DT 50 must not exceed 90 days.
- Imidacloprid is in the pollen of the sunflowers and corn, and in the adventice plants, between 1 to 12 ppb
- Imidacloprid is in the nectar (1 to 5 ppb) (CETIOM research)
- The effects on the bees are sensible from 3 ppb.

January 1999 : the French Ministry of Agriculture decided to put a stop of the use of Gaucho on sunflowers for 2 years.

January 2001 : he confirmed this decision.

But, because of the persistence, of the toxic and deadly effects of Gaucho, the french beekeepers require the complete dismissal of this molecule.

Portugal : importation of sunflower seeds treated with imidacloprid : problems with the bees.

Italy, Spain, Belgium, Autriche: the beekeepers have problems with the bees via sunflowers and corn.

P.S. Under, the conclusion of the scientific research made by Dr BONMATIN (INRA)
(One page)