

## Expertise of INSERM<sup>1</sup> : the adverse effects of pesticides on health are now officially recognized by the French research.

After reading the collective expertise "Pesticides and Health" of INSERM, Generations Futures urges the government to take strong and swift action to reduce the use of pesticides and exclude the most dangerous of them.

**Context.** INSERM publishes today in the National Assembly a report<sup>2</sup> on "Pesticides and Health". This document aims to meet the demand of the Directorate General of Health on the effects of pesticides on human health. This work is based on data from the available and international scientific literature in the first semester of 2012.

**Presentation of results.** Générations Futures welcomes this report which confirms the message that the association has distributed over 10 years: the existence of multiple scientific studies showing links between exposure to pesticides and many serious diseases.

**The INSERM report confirms indeed "high or medium presumptions" of a link between exposure to pesticides and: Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL), prostate cancer, multiple myeloma, leukemia, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, various cognitive disorders and impacts on fertility.**

For other diseases, even if the links seem less clear to scientists because of often less common and less studied diseases (such as ALS<sup>3</sup>), there are very significant French data as in the case of brain tumors (risk multiplied by 3) or meta-analysis showing significant excess of more than 80% in the case of the ALS. Our conclusion on this point is that scientists engaged in a relatively conservative analysis of the scientific literature.

« **After Generations Futures has sounded the alarm about the dangers of pesticides including disseminating the results of numerous scientific studies around the world on this subject for more than 10 years, we welcome today this publication which clearly shows the role of exposure to pesticides in the occurrence of extremely serious chronic diseases such as Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, prostate cancer, multiple myeloma, Parkinson's disease, fertility disorders etc.** » says François Veillerette spokesman of Générations Futures.

« **Even if, as rightly claimed the INSERM, researchers must continue scientific research in this field, the final publication that shows the reality of the danger of pesticides should lead to a rapid and strong public action in reducing the use of pesticides and excluding active substances suspected to be carcinogenic, mutagenic, neurotoxic or endocrine disruptors. Given the health risks, we also call on the government to legislate to end the use of these products by public authorities and to make sure that they are not sold to non-professional users anymore.** © Botanic Garden centers for 4 years showed that this was possible by removing completely synthetic pesticides in their stores. » He adds.

« **In addition, as researchers from INSERM, we ask the Government to take into account the effects of pesticide mixtures and formulated products in the evaluation process, and we ask for a greater transparency in the products composition and the content of the files of the evaluation dossiers.** » He concludes.

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<sup>2</sup> Read the expertise online here : <http://www.generations-futures.fr/pesticides/pesticides-sante-expertise-inserm> (only in French)

<sup>3</sup> Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis