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PRESS RELEASE

A new scientific study shows that pesticide products on the market are 100s of times more toxic to human cells than their individual active ingredient!

For Générations Futures, this study shows the inadequacy of product testing which currently only takes into account the chronic effects of the active ingredient. GF aspires for regular chronic toxicity tests for all the ingredients in available pesticide products.

Pesticide products are not adequately tested. This new study[1], by a team led by Robin Mesnage and Gilles Eric Séralini from the University of Caen, shows the resounding inadequacies in pesticide risk assessments. We already knew that pesticides in production, made up of an active substance and various additives, were not tested for long-term effects, regardless of the target market. This was confirmed by the director of ANSES (the National Agency of Social Security for Food, Environment and Work) in 2012[2] who said research into long-term effects of marketed pesticides needs to be done.

Effects are 100 times more serious than we thought. We now know from this study how much the real toxicity of commercial pesticides is underestimated. In fact, scientists have found that out of the 9 pesticides[3] tested (3 herbicides, 3 fungicides and 3 insecticides), 8 of them showed clear signs of toxic effects on human cells which were, on average, 100 times[4] more significant than effects caused by the active ingredient. The only exception out of these 9 pesticides was one made with isoproturon, but which, according to the researchers, does not have any openly declared additives.

Unsuitable ADI levels. This study seriously questions the way in which ADIs (Acceptable Daily Intake) for the active ingredients are calculated, as well as the current procedure for the risk assessment of pesticides, which does not include mandatory testing for chronic toxicity in pesticides. The additives used in pesticide production are not considered as much as the inert components even though they themselves often have toxicity levels, which can even surpass those of the active ingredients!

François Veillerette, spokesperson for Générations Futures said: "***This study shows the scale of the scandal regarding the underestimation of the risks from pesticides*** *which farmers and the rest of society are exposed to every day!*" He added: "***We want testing for chronic effects of pesticides to be made compulsory nationally and across Europe*** *as soon as possible, for the sake of public health!*"

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[1] Major pesticides are more toxic to human cells than their declared active principles. Mesnage R, Defarge N, Spiroux de Vendômois J, Séralini G.E. BioMed Research International ,2014 (in press). http://www.hindawi.com/journals/bmri/aip/179691/

[2] Cf. Statement from ANSES on the study by GE Séralini, 2012.

[3] Base active materials : glyphosate, isoproturon, fluroxypyr, pirimicarb, imidaclopride, acétamipride, tebuconazole, epoxyconazole, prochloraz.

[4] 2 / 3 times more toxic for the pirmicarb-based pesticide up to 1056 times more toxic for the tebuconazole-based pesticide.