**Bayer AG Response**

Thank you for your inquiry to Bayer.

The mere fact that a plant protection product is not authorized or banned in the EU says nothing about its safety. Many other regulatory agencies around the world also have very reliable, robust, carefully working and sophisticated regulatory systems in place to protect human health and the environment. Their safety ratings reflect the specific agronomic conditions in each country and the local needs of farmers.

Examples of the different challenges caused by climatic conditions or crops are locust plagues in parts of Africa and Asia or the spread of the Fall Armyworm in Africa. We therefore support approval processes that follow high science-based standards. In both new registrations and re-authorization procedures, we weigh up whether a plant protection product is even relevant in a region.

In 2012, Bayer stopped selling crop protection products that are classified as acute toxic (Classes 1a or 1b) by the World Health Organization. Since 2016, Bayer has committed itself to only selling crop protection products whose active ingredients are registered in at least one OECD country, or, in the case of new active ingredients, for which an OECD equivalent data package has been compiled.  In addition, we are currently implementing the voluntary commitment announced in 2019, to only market crop protection products in developing countries that meet the regulatory requirements of a majority of renowned international approval authorities. These authorities include the USA, Canada, Brazil, the EU, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and China.

Bayer conducts numerous trainings on the safe use of crop protection products. In the past few years, Bayer has regularly provided more than a million training courses per year. All approved active ingredients sold by us are safe for humans and the environment if they are used in accordance with the instructions for use. If we receive information that suggests improper use, we will of course follow up locally.

In 2022, we continued to offer the virtual training activities we widely used during the COVID-19 pandemic, but also resumed on-site training wherever possible. The flexible approach and the use of digital tools enabled us to reach more than 3.4 million external contacts worldwide (i.e. farmers, field workers, distributors, retailers and other stakeholders in the agriculture industry), including around 2.7 million smallholder farmers. We focused our training activities on countries where there are no statutory certification requirements for farmers concerning the safe handling of crop protection products. Most of the people we trained were in Asia, followed by Africa and Latin America.

For crop protection products, we have committed to the voluntary standard by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO): the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (2014).

Find out more about how we fulfil our commitment in our here:

[**Sustainable Pesticide Management at Bayer - How we live the FAO-WHO Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management**](https://www.bayer.com/en/file/270596/download?token=cwrcmIeA)