Plant protection products, fertilisers, growing media, adjuvants and biocidal products

2020 Annual Report
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Under Article L. 1313-3-1 of the French Public Health Code, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) prepares a report each year, addressed to Parliament, giving an account of its activities, in the framework of:

1) Its missions relating to plant protection products, adjuvants, fertilisers and growing media, laid down in the tenth paragraph of Article L. 1313-1;

2) Its risk monitoring missions, in particular as part of the phytopharmacovigilance scheme, laid down in Article L. 253-8-1 of the French Rural and Maritime Fishing Code;

3) Its missions relating to biocidal products, laid down in the eleventh paragraph of Article L. 1313-1.
Since 2010, ANSES has been providing the scientific benchmarks needed to protect against health risks related to food, the environment and the workplace, as well as against risks affecting the health of animals and plants. Ever since it was created, ANSES has been responsible for assessing products and active substances; in 2015, to supplement this mission, it was tasked with the development of a phytopharmacovigilance scheme and was also put in charge of issuing, amending and withdrawing marketing authorisations (MAs) for plant protection products, fertilisers and growing media. In 2016, it was entrusted with the mission of managing MAs for biocidal products.

ANSES performs these tasks in accordance with European and national regulatory frameworks and has set up a system guaranteeing their robustness and independence:

- **The functional separation of assessment and management activities.** The Regulated Products Assessment Department (DEPR) assesses the hazards and risks of products to humans, animals or the environment, as well as their effectiveness. The Marketing Authorisations Department (DAMM) receives dossiers and verifies their admissibility, and reviews decisions relating to marketing authorisations and experimentation and parallel trade permits. The Managing Director General in charge of ANSES’s Regulated Products Division coordinates this work and ensures that it is in step with the Agency’s monitoring and vigilance activities.

- **A strengthened capacity for detecting warning signals and alerts relating to any adverse effects or non-compliance of these products,** in particular through implementation of the phytopharmacovigilance scheme, the links with the toxicovigilance scheme – which is now coordinated by ANSES – and means of inspection and control.

- **A capacity for funding independent studies** in the framework of phytopharmacovigilance, or more broadly in the context of the National Research Programme for Environmental and Occupational Health (PNR EST) funded by ANSES.

All of these activities are subject to ISO 9001 certification – renewed at the end of 2019 – and form part of a dedicated process that was radically overhauled in 2019 when ANSES’s process and risk maps were revised. These activities are therefore covered by a quality process that guarantees traceability, takes identified risks into account and ensures management based on indicators.
In the interests of transparency regarding the decisions taken, all acts are published on the Agency's website, along with the findings of the assessment on which they are based.

For plant protection products and fertilisers, the information contained in the MA decisions is also available on a dedicated “E-Phy” website, the updated catalogue of products and their conditions of use. It is also published on the open platform for French public data (data.gouv.fr website).

For biocides, the list of products authorised in the European Union in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 is available on the register for authorised biocidal products managed by ECHA via the R4BP (Register for Biocidal Products) platform.

**DEFINITIONS**

**BIOCIDES**

According to Regulation (EU) No 528/2012: a harmful organism is “an organism, including pathogenic agents, which has an unwanted presence or a detrimental effect on humans, their activities or the products they use or produce, on animals or the environment”. Biocidal products are used with the intention of “destroying, deterring [or] rendering harmless ... any harmful organism”. This term encompasses a large number of products used for a wide variety of purposes (disinfectants, insecticides, repellents, wood treatment products, preservatives, antifouling paints for boats, etc.). Biocides are used in industry and in the workplace, and as everyday products.

**PRODUITS PHYTOPHARMACEUTIQUES**

The term “plant protection product” is defined in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. It refers to products, in the form in which they are supplied to the user, intended to protect plants or plant products. They are used to i) protect plants against all harmful organisms or prevent the action of such organisms, ii) influence the life processes of plants (when they are not nutrients), iii) preserve plant products, iv) destroy undesired plants, or v) destroy parts of plants, or check or prevent undesired growth of plants.

Every plant protection product contains one or more active substances that give it its properties, as well as substances called co-formulants. These enable the preparation to be given a form suitable for its intended use.

Plant protection products are authorised for specific uses. In accordance with Article D. 253-8 of the French Rural and Maritime Fishing Code, a use is a “plant, plant product or plant family combined either with a pest, group of pests, disease or group of diseases against which the product is directed or with a function or method of application of these products”.
GENERAL ORGANISATION OF WORK IN 2020

While major milestones were expected in 2020 with regard to work on regulated products, such as the results of the national exploratory campaign on pesticides and those of the comparative assessment of glyphosate, the SARS-CoV-2 health crisis is what ultimately left its mark.

In terms of organisation, when the first lockdown was ordered in March, the Agency's teams rapidly responded to ensure the continuity of work in the best possible conditions and avoid disruptions in the handling of dossiers. A system was proposed for managing dossiers from home and new forms of work were set up. External stakeholders were also informed of these measures.

The Agency's experts also responded to the crisis, and its various Expert Committees continued to hold meetings in 2020. Work to assess and review dossiers therefore continued and major deadlines were met.

FERTILISERS AND GROWING MEDIA

European regulations are not harmonised for fertilisers and growing media. In France, the Rural and Maritime Fishing Code includes a dedicated chapter (Chapter V, title V, book II) on the marketing and use of fertilisers, adjuvants for fertilisers, and growing media.

According to the Rural and Maritime Fishing Code:

**Fertilisers** are products intended to maintain or improve plant nutrition or the physical, chemical and biological properties of soils. They include:

- fertilisers intended to supply plants with directly useful nutrients. These may be primary or secondary nutrients or trace elements;
- soil conditioners used to modify or improve the physical, chemical or biological properties of soils;

- materials whose role, once applied to the soil or plant, is to stimulate the natural processes of plants or soil, to facilitate or regulate their absorption of nutrients or improve their resistance to abiotic stress.

**Adjuvants for fertilisers** are preparations that modify the physical, chemical or biological qualities of a fertiliser, with which they are tank-mixed.

**Growing media** are products intended to serve as growth media for certain plants and enable them, by anchoring of their absorbent organs, to be in contact with the solutions required for their growth.
FOUR TYPES OF PRODUCTS TO BE ASSESSED AND AS MANY REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

The assessment activities of the Regulated Products Assessment Department (DEPR) focus on plant protection products, biocides, fertilisers & growing media, and macro-organisms. Each of these product categories is covered by specific European and national regulations. Within these various legal frameworks, the DEPR is responsible for:

- assessing the hazards and risks to humans, animals or the environment, as well as the agro-nomic benefits, of plant protection substances and products (Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009);
- assessing the hazards and risks to humans, animals or the environment, as well as the effectiveness, of biocidal substances and products (Regulation (EC) No 528/2012);
- assessing fertilisers, adjuvants for fertilisers and growing media, in accordance with the provisions of the French Rural and Maritime Fishing Code, and according to Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003;
- assessing non-indigenous macro-organisms beneficial to plants and released into the environment, in accordance with the provisions of the French Rural and Maritime Fishing Code.

Regarding plant protection products and biocides, the active substances they contain are assessed at European level, leading to an approval regulation if the active substance fulfils the conditions for approval of the European regulations. The European Commission has drawn up a positive list of active substances approved at EU level. Once the active substance(s) they contain have been approved, the formulated products undergo a zonal (plant protection products; see box below) or EU (biocides) assessment prior to national marketing authorisation being granted. The general purpose of the regulations is to ensure a high level of protection for humans, animals and the environment by only placing on the market those products that are effective and do not have adverse effects on human health or entail unacceptable risks for the environment and the organisms it harbours.
ASSESSMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCES

Active substances are assessed at European level, from three angles:

- assessment of the hazard intrinsic to the active substance;
- assessment of exposure and of the risks resulting from this exposure under the proposed conditions of use, to humans and the environment for one or more representative uses;
- assessment of the substance's effectiveness.

Approval of plant protection active substances, whether they are microbiological, chemical, synthetic or natural, falls within the remit of the EU and is granted following an opinion by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). ANSES participates in the assessment of these substances, in the framework of EFSA’s work. Active substances are approved for a limited period, after which a new application can be submitted for their approval, which also entails a new assessment. The timetable for re-examinations and the allocation of the substances to be assessed between the various Member States are decided at EU level.

The EU also has competence for the approval of biocidal active substances, which is granted after an opinion by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). The biocidal active substance can be a chemical compound or derived from a micro-organism exerting its biocidal action on or against the harmful organisms.

In the field of biocides, there are 22 types of biocidal products divided into four groups:

- disinfectants (human or animal hygiene, disinfection of surfaces, disinfection of drinking water, etc.);
preservatives (for products during storage, wood preservatives, construction material preservatives, etc.);

pest-control products (rodenticides, insecticides, repellents, etc.);

other biocidal products (embalming fluids, antifouling products).

Approval of a biocidal active substance is established for one or more product types. The assessment therefore focuses on an active substance – product type combination. The assessment of effectiveness and risk focuses on representative uses of the product type concerned.

ANSES participates as a Rapporteur Member State in the assessment of biocidal and plant protection active substances, in the framework of the EU assessment of dossiers. ANSES also takes an active part in the comment phase and in discussions of the draft assessment reports submitted by the other Rapporteur Member States and, for biocides, in the drafting of opinions by ECHA’s Biocidal Products Committee (BPC).

Once the active substances have been approved, the products containing them undergo an assessment. A company wishing to market a product in a country submits an authorisation application to the competent authority. In France, this role is played by ANSES.

**SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT OF MARKETING AUTHORISATION APPLICATIONS**

The assessment of MA applications for plant protection products, biocidal products, fertilisers and growing media relies on a scientific examination of the dossier, which is essentially carried out at European, zonal or national level depending on the regulations concerned. It consists of a thorough review of the product’s physico-chemical properties, the risks to human health, fauna, flora and different environmental media, as well as an assessment of the product’s effectiveness.

This assessment is based on the dossier provided by the applicant, which includes the studies required by the regulations and relevant scientific publications, if available. In addition, for MA renewals for plant protection products, observation data is needed on the impact of these products, collected as part of the phytopharmacovigilance scheme. The findings of the assessment are then presented to one of ANSES’s Expert Committees (CESs). These expert committees are made up of independent external individuals who responded to a call for applications and were selected by ANSES for their recognised skills in the scientific fields mobilised for the assessment (toxicology, ecotoxicology, chemistry, exposure assessment, risk assessment, agronomy, entomology, microbiology, etc.), after an analysis of their personal connections and interests. The experts undertake to comply with ANSES’s ethical framework, including its charter for health-related expert appraisal, which guarantees the independence and impartiality of the Agency’s opinions and decisions.

Several expert committees, each specific to a substance or product type, contributed to ANSES’s assessment work in 2020:

- The CES on “Substances and plant protection products, biocontrol”, associated with the permanent Working Group on “Macro-organisms beneficial to plants”;
- The CES on “Fertilisers and growing media”;
- The CES on “Biocidal substances and products”.
The conclusions of the assessment summarise the results concerning the hazards and risks for humans, animals or the environment, as well as the effectiveness of the products in question for the claimed uses. The conditions of use for which the assessment has been carried out are also specified (doses, conditions of application, targets, etc.).

FOCUS ON MACRO-ORGANISMS

Since the entry into force of Decree 2012-140 of 30 January 2012 laying down conditions for the authorised import or release into the environment of non-indigenous macro-organisms beneficial to plants, in particular in the context of biological control, ANSES has been in charge of assessing these authorisation applications. Applications for release into the environment are assessed by the DEPR, which refers to the expertise of the Working Group on "Macro-organisms beneficial to plants". The draft opinion is then adopted by the CES on “Substances and plant protection products, biocontrol". Authorisation is granted by a joint ministerial order of the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment.

In 2020, ANSES issued 19 opinions relating to these applications for release into the environment. This figure is increasing from year to year.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THE PRODUCTION OF USEFUL DATA FOR THE ASSESSMENT

ANSES's scientists working to assess plant protection products, fertilisers and biocides are also involved in a wide range of activities aimed at developing or optimising assessment methodologies, as well as drafting and developing harmonised guidelines for the examination of dossiers in accordance with European regulations. This work is most often undertaken in partnership with other organisations or in the framework of national, European or international working groups. Its purpose is not only to enhance the interpretation of assays used to determine chemical hazards, but also to construct detailed exposure scenarios and models used in assessing hypothetical risks and agricultural benefits.

Moreover, when carrying out its assessment missions, in addition to the information present in the dossiers submitted by the applicants, ANSES may identify additional data needed for effectively conducting the assessment of certain dossiers, or for proposing changes to assessment methods and practices. These data most frequently concern contamination of the environment, human exposure to the products concerned, or the risks to humans and the environment associated with the products' uses.

ANSES also funds specific studies to encourage the production of new knowledge needed for its expert appraisals. Some of these studies, dealing with the adverse effects of the products concerned, are made possible thanks to the financing put in place as part of the phytopharmacovigilance scheme (see chapter on The Agency's other activities in the area of regulated products), while others fall within the general framework of the National Research Programme for Environmental and Occupational Health funded by ANSES.
Activities for the issuing, amendment and withdrawal of product marketing authorisations

Due to the lockdown in March 2020 and the conditions associated with the health crisis, special procedures were put into place for MA applications relating to plant protection products to enable applicants to submit them in electronic form. Emphasis was also placed on providing stakeholders with information through the publication of memos that were regularly updated to take into account changes in the health situation. The first lockdown therefore sped up discussions on the digitisation of the application process. Ministerial orders were published in late 2020 to sustain these new measures simplifying the submission of applications.

Procedures for processing dossiers and sending out documents (acknowledgements of receipt, assessment findings, decisions) were also completely digitised, while the digitisation of signatures for these documents was accelerated.

Activities relating to plant protection products, fertilisers and growing media

Decisions regarding the issuing, amendment and withdrawal of marketing authorisations are examined by the Market Authorisations Department (DAMM) and submitted to ANSES’s General Directorate for a final ruling. Several types of applications are examined by the DAMM, whether in relation to marketing authorisations (new application, renewal, amendment, withdrawal) or permits for parallel trade and experimentation.

The DAMM is in charge of receiving applications and dossiers, and reviewing decisions for marketing authorisations (MAs) and applications for permits related to these products. It rules on their admissibility and provides information that helps place the applications in context: agronomic context and conditions of use of the products, as well as analytical information for the comparative assessment of products in application of Article 50 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, for the submission of dossiers concerning active substances that are candidates for substitution.
The DAMM also examines applications for experimentation permits and manages declarations of product trials and experiments, using the dedicated SIDEP online reporting service, both before tests have been set up and after experiments have been established, within the framework of officially recognised trials.

With the examination of parallel trade permits, the DAMM acts as the interface with the other Member States for the transmission of information needed for this examination, as well as for updating the list of products whose introduction is authorised for personal use, in application of Article R. 253-27 of the French Rural and Maritime Fishing Code.

Decisions relating to marketing authorisations (authorisation, amendment, refusal or withdrawal) and permits are reviewed taking into account the findings of the scientific assessment, the agronomic context in which the product is used, any other products available on their market and their characteristics, and the results of the comparative assessment implemented for substances that are candidates for substitution, in accordance with Article 50 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. For the assessment of alternatives to glyphosate, which is not a candidate for substitution, a specific regulatory mechanism has been developed.

DEFINITIONS

MARKETING AUTHORISATION

Authorisation of a plant protection product is an administrative act by which the competent authority of a Member State authorises the placing on the market of a plant protection product in its territory. Placing on the market is the holding for the purpose of sale within the Community, including offering for sale or any other form of transfer, whether free of charge or not, and the sale, distribution, and other forms of transfer themselves, but not the return to the previous seller. Release for free circulation into the territory of the Community constitutes placing on the market according to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

PARALLEL TRADE PERMIT

According to Article 52 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, a plant protection product that is authorised in one Member State (Member State of origin) may, subject to granting a parallel trade permit, be introduced, placed on the market or used in another Member State (Member State of introduction), if this Member State determines that the plant protection product is identical in composition to a plant protection product already authorised in its territory (reference product). ANSES is tasked with this responsibility in France. An application for a parallel trade permit shall be submitted to the competent authority of the Member State of introduction. A plant protection product for which a parallel trade permit has been issued shall be used only in accordance with the provisions of the authorisation of the reference product. The parallel trade permit shall be valid for the duration of authorisation of the reference product.
FOCUS ON THE COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF NON-CHEMICAL ALTERNATIVES TO GLYPHOSATE-BASED PRODUCTS

In November 2018, as part of the government’s glyphosate withdrawal plan, ANSES conducted an assessment of non-chemical alternatives to this herbicide. Its results were published on 9 October 2020.

The aim was to determine the uses for which glyphosate-based products could be substituted by non-chemical alternatives and identify deadlock situations where no suitable alternatives are currently available. The assessment referred to Article 50.2 of European Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, which states that a comparative assessment of a plant protection product can be performed “if a non-chemical control or prevention method exists for the same use and it is in general use in that Member State”.

The assessment focused on four main areas of use: viticulture, fruit trees, arable crops and forestry. ANSES worked to identify the practical or economic drawbacks of alternatives to glyphosate, referring to three reports produced by the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE). For forestry, the Agency used information provided by the National Forest Office (ONF) and the National Forest Ownership Centre (CNPF).

Following this comparative assessment, products containing glyphosate can now only be used when this substance cannot be replaced in the short term.

These restrictions are now taken into account by the Agency when issuing marketing authorisations for products containing glyphosate.

EXPERIMENTATION PERMIT

According to Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, experiments or tests for research or development purposes involving the release into the environment of an unauthorised plant protection product or involving unauthorised use of a plant protection product may be carried out if the Member State in whose territory the experiment or test is to be carried out has assessed the available data and granted a permit for trial purposes.

The permit may limit the quantities to be used and the areas to be treated and may impose further conditions to prevent any harmful effects on human or animal health or any unacceptable adverse effect on the environment, such as the need to prevent entry into the food chain of feed and food containing residues unless a relevant provision has already been established under Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. This regulation sets maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin.
The various uses of glyphosate in non-agricultural areas (industrial sites, military sites, railways, motorways, airports, power grid, conservation of historical monuments, etc.) cannot be fully replaced by non-chemical alternatives without major consequences, particularly for the safety of operators and users of these services. Reducing the use of glyphosate in these different situations cannot therefore be addressed by a restriction laid down in the marketing authorisations, but needs to be considered as part of a change in weed-control practices.

ACTIVITIES RELATING TO BIOCIDAL PRODUCTS

Since 2016, ANSES has been responsible for issuing, withdrawing and amending MAs for biocidal products, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 528/2012, on the basis of a scientific assessment of their effectiveness and risks.

The organisation put into place at ANSES takes into account the specific features of the European regulations governing biocidal products, while guaranteeing the independence of the assessment and at the same time safeguarding the Agency’s ability to effectively support its positions in assessment and management in the framework of the European procedure. This is because biocidal products have certain specific features that impact ANSES’s organisation and work in examining these dossiers:

- a very broad field of products and uses, classified into 22 “product types (PTs)”;  
- very tight regulatory deadlines;  
- a European procedure that simultaneously addresses issues relating to assessment and management, and in which mutual recognition is predominant. Great importance is thus attached to the collegial review of dossiers between Member States, and efforts are systematically made to harmonise conditions of use and management measures before the decision is made.

The Agency is also responsible for declarations to the biocidal products inventory (Simmbad computer system for the placing of biocidal products on the market: authorisations and declarations).
There has been high demand for work on biocides as part of the control of COVID-19, with questions raised regarding hand sanitiser gels, the proper use of disinfectants, and the safety of certain masks treated with biocidal products.

Owing to the gradual implementation of the regulation, most active substances are still under assessment. Products containing substances under assessment are therefore marketed under the transitional regime, without a marketing authorisation. Once an active substance has been assessed, it is either approved or not approved at European level for a given product type. If it is approved, an MA application has to be submitted for any biocidal product containing this active substance and included in this product type. If no assessment dossiers have been submitted or if the assessment resulted in non-approval, the marketing and use of products containing the substance in question are prohibited.

**FOCUS ON HAND SANITISERS**

Alcohol-based gels and solutions used as hand sanitisers are disinfectant biocidal products designed for human hygiene (product type 1).

The hand sanitisers on the market contain mainly ethanol, isopropanol (propan-2-ol) or propan-1-ol. Not all of these biocidal substances have been assessed and approved to date, which has an impact on the regulatory framework for the products. This means that alcohol-based gels and solutions are currently marketed according to two different regimes, but always without an MA:

- Ethanol is still being assessed for use for human hygiene. Therefore, products containing ethanol have not yet been subject to MA.

- The other two substances have been approved for human hygiene; the marketing and use of isopropanol and propan-1-ol products are therefore covered by the authorisation regime provided for in the European Biocides Regulation, although the MA applications are currently being assessed.

Following the massive use of hand sanitisers during the COVID-19 pandemic, the government facilitated their production and marketing by granting, for certain formulations and by the Ministerial Order of 13 March 2020, waivers from the regulatory requirements for products containing ethanol and isopropanol.

In an opinion published on 8 June 2020, ANSES considered that hand sanitisers containing at least 60% alcohol are effective against enveloped viruses, including coronaviruses. Products formulated under the waiver procedure therefore appear to be effective against coronaviruses.

ANSES also issued a set of general recommendations relating to conditions of storage, repacking and use, with the main aim of preventing alcohol from evaporating when bottles are opened to guarantee the effectiveness of products and control their microbial contamination.

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1 The opinion was revised in 2021.
FOCUS ON MASKS TREATED WITH BIOCIDAL PRODUCTS

The wearing of masks as barriers against contamination by the COVID-19 virus sparked new industrial developments and raised questions regarding the treatment of certain models, especially cloth masks, with biocidal substances. Surgical masks, which are medical devices, are not covered by the regulations on biocides and do not fall within the remit of ANSES.

Masks are treated for one of two purposes: to protect the user or to protect the fabric.

If a treated mask claims to protect the wearer against viruses and bacteria, the European Commission believes that it should be viewed first and foremost for its biocidal function and that it is therefore a biocidal product itself. If the manufacturer wishes to sell the mask in France, it must comply with European and French regulations on biocidal products. In particular, this means declaring the mask on the Simmbad database and to the National Research and Safety Institute (INRS) and providing appropriate labelling.

If the treated mask does not claim to protect the user (e.g. if the purpose is to protect or disinfect the fabric), it is considered as a treated article. This type of mask can be marketed in France providing that the biocidal substance used is authorised for this type of treatment under European regulations, and that it is correctly labelled. No declaration is required.

Since most of the substances used on masks are still being assessed at European level, treated masks can be sold in compliance with the declaration and labelling conditions of the transitional regime.

In October 2020, ANSES received an urgent request to assess the potential risks relating to the wearing of washable cloth masks treated in two ways: i) with silver zeolite and ii) with silver-copper zeolite. These washable masks were brought to market by the company Hanes against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An evaluation of silver zeolite and silver-copper zeolite is currently under way at European level, as part of the Biocides Regulation. ANSES analysed the data provided by the mask manufacturer along with the findings of the evaluations carried out by the European health authorities. The Agency found no evidence of a health risk providing that the conditions of use are strictly observed. However, if the treated mask is worn without prior washing, or if is not changed when wet, ANSES cannot rule out a health risk.
MONITORING OF MARKETING AUTHORISATIONS, INSPECTION AND CONTROL

When reviewing decisions relating to marketing authorisations, the Director General of ANSES may call on the Marketing Authorisations Monitoring Committee, set up to deal with plant protection products from 2015 and biocidal products from 2019.

The Monitoring Committee’s members have recognised experience in the areas of crop protection and fertilisation and the use of biocidal products; their experience may be related to agronomy, the impacts of these products on health or the environment, or occupational uses of these products. The Director General may consult the Committee on the conditions under which the marketing authorisations will be implemented (Art. L. 1313-6-1 of the French Public Health Code). The minutes of these meetings are made publicly available on the Agency’s website.

The Monitoring Committee was convened five times in 2020. It examined themes such as the comparative assessment of glyphosate-based products, for uses in non-agricultural areas, forests, arboriculture and arable crops, as well as the ongoing situation regarding metazachlor metabolites detected in groundwater. Based on the presentations given at its meetings, the discussions initiated and the information in the minutes, ANSES finalised its proposals for restrictions on the use of glyphosate-based products (reports published on 9 October 2020) and ruled on the conditions of use of metazachlor-based products.

Furthermore, ANSES has an inspection mission with regard to the production, formulation, packaging and labelling of plant protection products, adjuvants, fertilisers and growing media. This mission essentially consists in providing support to the various government departments in charge of inspecting these products.

In 2020, there was a sharp increase – of around 60% – in requests for information compared to 2019. Indeed, 136 requests for information were processed, from ministries, decentralised services and research institutes, concerning opinions, decisions, and the interpretation of information relating to MAs (management measures, grace periods, composition, etc.); most of these requests fell within the remit of the regional directorates in charge of agriculture.

There were requests to access past MA decisions for products, as well as requests to interpret information given in MA decisions or the applicable regulations.

Moreover, a mission to inspect an industrial site that formulates products intended to be placed on the market was carried out in collaboration with the National Brigade for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Investigation (part of the DGAL) at its request, following an alert reported at European level.
Review of ANSES's work in 2020 in the area of plant protection products, fertilisers and growing media

Despite the unusual situation generated by the health crisis, ANSES's work nonetheless remained sustained, five years after the transfer to the Agency of competence for MAs and permits for plant protection products, fertilisers and growing media.

In 2020, ANSES received:

- 368 applications relating to dossiers for active substances;
- 1972 applications relating to marketing authorisations or permits, of which 258 involved fertilisers and growing media (including 87 administrative applications), 44 adjuvants (including 27 administrative applications), and 1670 plant protection products. The latter included:
  - 109 dossiers regarded as “major” (new MA, MA renewal or extension of major uses);
  - 678 administrative dossiers;
  - 110 experimentation permits;
  - 237 parallel trade permits;
  - 536 other applications subject to scientific assessment.

In 2020, nearly 2000 authorisation, refusal or withdrawal decisions for products were signed, of which 248 were for fertilisers and growing media (including 125 decisions relating to administrative applications), 50 for adjuvants (including 36 administrative decisions), and 1689, i.e. 85% of the total, for plant protection products. These included:

- 92 decisions corresponding to dossiers regarded as “major”, including renewals of authorisations restricting uses;
- 1017 administrative decisions (including the withdrawal decisions described below);
- 124 decisions for experimentation permits;
- 157 decisions for parallel trade permits;
- 299 other authorisation decisions subject to scientific assessment.

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2 This concerned all types of dossiers relating to active substances: amendments, classifications, confirmatory data, maximum residue limits (MRLs), new substances, renewals, specifications, administrative amendments, etc.
ANSES issued 318 decisions to withdraw products from the market (products with MAs or parallel trade permits). The main reasons for the withdrawals, and the number of products concerned, were as follows:

- withdrawal of parallel trade permits due to Brexit (78);
- withdrawal of products intended for amateurs not complying with the new regulatory provisions (68);
- withdrawal of products not falling within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 (physical barriers [51]);
- withdrawal of products after the end of their approval period or the withdrawal of active substances at European level (47);
- absence of MA renewal applications for plant protection products or adjuvants (52);
- withdrawal from the market at the request of companies (8).

In addition to these withdrawals, several unfavourable decisions were also issued following the assessment of MA renewal applications.

In 2020, 1660 products were granted MAs, i.e. a 12% drop versus 2019.

**Number of decisions for plant protection products taken in 2020 according to the type of application**

![Bar chart showing the number of decisions for plant protection products in 2020](attachment:image.png)

Figures as of 30 December 2020
As part of the simplification of procedures for users, the project to digitise applications (D-Phy) continued, with the goals of launching it for a representative panel of volunteer companies at the end of the first quarter of 2021 and then for all holders in the second quarter.

This is a major opportunity for ANSES to improve efficiency; it is expected to save time on data entry and improve the reliability of data collection, contributing to a reduction in processing times. In spite of the difficulties generated by the health crisis, the Agency's teams continued their efforts to implement and then finalise the specification and acceptance phases of this project so it could be operational at the beginning of 2021. Emphasis was placed on involving a small panel of three firms in the acceptance phase, to ensure that the future tool would meet the needs of both the Agency and the user firms. The feedback received from the firms was very positive, boding well for the adoption by applicants of this future tool for the electronic submission of the administrative aspects of dossiers.

**ANSES's work in assessing plant protection active substances significantly increased in 2020.**

This activity concerns previously authorised substances that have to be re-assessed before their approval can be renewed, or new substances that have to undergo an assessment with a view to obtaining a first approval.

### ANSES's work in assessing plant protection active substances – Number of dossiers processed, by category (2016-2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submitted dossiers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>undergoing assessment – RMS*</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(0 micro-organism)</td>
<td>(0 micro-organism)</td>
<td>(2 micro-organisms)</td>
<td>(0 micro-organism)</td>
<td>(1 micro-organism)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submitted dossiers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>undergoing assessment – Co-RMS</td>
<td>(0 micro-organism)</td>
<td>(2 micro-organisms)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalised assessment reports</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMS</td>
<td>(1 micro-organisms)</td>
<td>(1 micro-organism)</td>
<td>(3 micro-organisms)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalised assessment reports</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-RMS</td>
<td>(2 micro-organisms)</td>
<td>(3 micro-organisms)</td>
<td>(2 micro-organisms)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator of activity for the substances</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* RMS: Rapporteur Member State.
IN 2020, ANSES CONTINUED ITS EFFORTS TO FACILITATE THE MARKETING OF BIOCONTROL PRODUCTS

In order to develop access to the market, a certain amount of latitude is granted for applications concerning plant protection products meeting the criteria for biocontrol products referred to in Article L. 253-6 of the French Rural and Maritime Fishing Code. These applications are therefore dealt with immediately and benefit from a lower tax rate, half the normal processing time for new authorisations and priority examination at each stage.

In 2020, among the dossiers identified on submission as relating to biocontrol:

- 16 applications for macro-organisms, not covered by the plant protection regulations, were received;
- 54 applications for MAs and new uses (first MAs, MAs by mutual recognition, generic products, extensions of major use) were received;
- 51 decisions involving new MAs and new uses were made.

After the accelerated processing of pending applications that marked 2019, a balance was struck between incoming and outgoing applications in 2020.

Number of incoming and outgoing biocontrol applications: new MAs and new uses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incoming biocontrol applications</th>
<th>Outgoing biocontrol applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The number of applications for biocidal products remained broadly stable in 2020. The number received for first MAs was limited, due to the low number of active substances approved in 2020 at European level.

Activity involving the issuing of marketing authorisations declined compared to 2019. In 2020, ANSES issued 261 decisions for biocidal products. This included 50 relating to a first MA, major change or mutual recognition (compared with 86 in 2019).

The decisions issued clearly illustrated the implementation of the Biocides Regulation with a wider variety of product types now subject to MA. Indeed, decisions were issued in 2020 for products used for various purposes: household and professional disinfectants, insecticides, repellents, wood preservatives and preservatives for products during storage. In 2020, among other things, ANSES issued several MA decisions for disinfectant products containing hydrogen peroxide or lactic acid intended for use by the general public. Moreover, 23 decisions involved authorisations for products with “simplified” MAs – these are specific authorisations for products that contain active substances listed in Annex I of the Biocides Regulation and that have a very favourable hazard profile compatible with a streamlined procedure.

The Agency’s work on the assessment of biocidal active substances did not lead to any new finalised applications being submitted to ECHA. The review of two new active substances and the recovery of applications that had initially been entrusted to the United Kingdom but were transferred to France due to Brexit represented a total of 11 new applications received in 2019; these are still being processed.
France is also a competent assessment authority for MA applications for the European Union. These MAs are issued at European level by the European Commission following an assessment reviewed by all of the Member States, as with the approval procedure for active substances. Products having an MA for the European Union can be marketed throughout the EU without national MAs.

Work to assess MA applications for the European Union was sustained in 2020. The first EU MA application examined by France was approved by the European Commission in 2020; moreover, two other MA applications examined by ANSES for classes of products containing CMIT/MIT were the subject of opinions by ECHA’s Biocidal Products Committee adopted in 2020.

### Biocidal active substances: number of applications processed by ANSES, where France was a Rapporteur Member State or Member State involved in the European process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finalised assessment reports sent to ECHA by ANSES (first draft Competent Authority Report (CAR))</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment reports submitted by other Member States and commented on by ANSES</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This very small number was due to the fact that in 2019 only one assessment report was submitted by the other Member States to ECHA. ANSES commented on this report.*
In 2020, ANSES continued its efforts to improve information and dialogue with stakeholders in its activities relating to plant protection products, fertilisers and growing media.

The platform for dialogue with stakeholders, set up in 2018 and chaired by Bernard Chevas-sus-au-Louis, continued to operate with three plenary meetings organised in January, June and November, in digital format for the last two. These meetings, which took place in an atmosphere of productive, constructive dialogue, each brought together some 50 participants representing all the stakeholders.

In 2020, in addition to topical issues relating to ANSES’s work, the following themes were addressed:

- Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain, and its impacts for plant protection products;
- the development of ANSES’s charter governing its relations with interested parties;
- proposals to improve risk assessment methodologies for honeybees and wild pollinating insects as part of MA applications for products;
- the phytopharmacovigilance scheme (principles, studies, management of reports);
- the status of ANSES’s work in the area of plant protection products;
- the comparative assessment of glyphosate-based products with available non-chemical alternatives;
- the labelling guide of the French Crop Protection Industry Association (UIPP).

Management of the E-Phy website was improved, with news regularly updated, in particular on the conditions for withdrawing products from the market, handling of information requests as they are received and verification of error reports. Training was also organised for interested users. To make this tool easier to use, especially for non-professional users, a “FAQ” section was developed and made available online in 2020.

A contact form was created, improving the characterisation of questions and enabling them to be efficiently allocated, to ensure the most relevant and rapid response possible from ANSES.

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1 UIPP : Union des industries de la Protection des Plantes.
The file of information on MAs, available as open data on the data.gouv.fr website, also evolved, offering new information that had been requested by users. For example, essential data on the active substances in the Agritox database are now available on the data.gouv.fr platform.

In addition, in order to improve the dissemination of information on MAs, and to supplement the decision register and the E-Phy website, ANSES continued producing its MA bulletins, which provide easy access to the decisions taken by the Agency. One edition was dedicated to plant protection products and another to fertilisers.

Lastly, discussions were launched in 2020 on the management of SIDEP, the reporting site for tests and experimentation permits, to enhance the reporting data and make them more usable.
The phytopharmacovigilance scheme for monitoring adverse effects related to the use of plant protection products

The phytopharmacovigilance scheme, created in October 2014 under the French Act on the future of agriculture, food and forests, is designed to monitor and detect any adverse effects on humans, farmed animals, honeybees, cultivated plants, biodiversity, wildlife, water and soil, air quality and food, associated with the real-life use of plant protection products, as well as the emergence of resistance to these products.

This scheme, which ANSES is responsible for implementing with the support of a network of partners designated by Interministerial Order, enables information to be produced on a continual basis. This information is taken into account when assessing risks and marketing products, as part of the risk management missions of ANSES and the competent ministries, and more broadly when informing all stakeholders and interested parties.

In 2020, ANSES continued to develop and ramp up this phytopharmacovigilance scheme, as set out in its strategic orientation document for the period 2019-2021, with:

- the investigation of several reports of adverse effects;
- the production and publication of summaries by active substance based on the data available from the partner schemes;
- the continuation or initiation of studies to consolidate the surveillance and data collection schemes that work in partnership with phytopharmacovigilance and generate new knowledge to meet its objectives.
The network of partners in phytopharmacovigilance

MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA
- Surface water (Ministry of Ecology)
- Groundwater (BRGM)
- Drinking water (Ministry of Health)
- Soil (GIS-Sol/INRAE)
- Food and feed (Ministries of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs)

RESISTANCE OF PESTS (Ministry of Agriculture)

EFFECTS ON HUMAN HEALTH
- Toxicovigilance in agricultural workers (MSA/Phyt’attitude)
- Toxicovigilance in the general population (CAP-TV)

EFFECTS ON ANIMAL HEALTH
- Veterinary toxicovigilance (GIS-Toxinelle)
- Acute mortality of adult bees (Ministry of Agriculture)

SALE AND USE OF PPPS
- Sales (OFB/BNV-d)
- Surveys of cropping practices (Ministry of Agriculture)

COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF REPORTS OF ADVERSE EFFECTS

In order for the phytopharmacovigilance scheme to be effective, various tools are needed for identifying reports of adverse effects potentially related to plant protection products. Firstly, on a yearly basis, ANSES’s phytopharmacovigilance partners generate millions of data including reports of adverse effects or even alerts. In addition, declaration forms are provided on the ANSES website; they may be filled out by professionals with a reporting obligation (MA holders, manufacturers, importers, distributors, professional users, advisers and trainers) and can also be completed by any other stakeholder, including healthcare professionals and representatives from civil society. Lastly, literature monitoring also helps identify the results of scientific research that may be regarded as real-life reports of adverse effects of plant protection products.

The information collected is processed by ANSES in close collaboration with its partners, as well as with reporters and possibly the authors of the scientific publications, in order to classify the reports, the nature of the observed effects, their spatio-temporal magnitude, the circumstances under which they arose, their link with the incriminated plant protection products, and their potential impact on populations and their environment.

Several alerts and signals received or identified by ANSES in 2020 led to in-depth analyses being initiated, in particular:

- In 2019, the association Alerte des Médecins sur les Pesticides (AMLP) had alerted ANSES to concentration levels in ambient air – qualified as high – reached occasionally by certain pesticides at a measurement site in the Bordeaux winegrowing area. This alert was investigated within the broader framework of collective expert appraisal work on interpreting the results of the national exploratory campaign to measure pesticides in ambient air, funded by ANSES and implemented by the Central Laboratory for Air Quality Monitoring and the approved air quality monitoring associations, whose results were published in July 2020 (see focus on page 31).
The presence of terbuthylazine in surface water was reported by the Brittany regional directorate for food, agriculture and forestry (DRAAF) and also described in a scientific communication for a study in the Brie region. This herbicide in the triazine group which is intended to control weeds in maize has been re-authorised since 2017 and has been contaminating water bodies since 2018. Although terbuthylazine concentrations very seldom exceed the ecotoxicological threshold value, the high frequency of detection (up to 20%) warrants special attention being paid to its monitoring, in surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

The detection of plant protection substances in soil was documented in a scientific publication focusing on a study conducted in the Zone Atelier Plaine et Val de Sèvre site (Deux-Sèvres) in 2016 by the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE). Since there are very few data on the contamination of French soil by plant protection substances, any new data are of great interest for phytopharmacovigilance. In addition, certain substances have reached concentration levels exceeding the ecotoxicological threshold values. These data will be supplemented by the results of the exploratory measurement campaign of the Soil Quality Measurement Network (RMQS), which should be available in 2022.

The other reports received in 2020 were analysed without, so far, any risk management measures needing to be recommended. Some have been included, together with other monitoring data, in the regular reviews prepared by ANSES or its partners (fact sheets for each substance), while others are currently undergoing more in-depth analyses.

**PRODUCTION AND UPDATING OF SUMMARY REVIEWS FOR EACH ACTIVE SUBSTANCE**

In order to make phytopharmacovigilance data available both to the ANSES teams responsible for assessing risks and re-assessing MAs and to all interested parties, ANSES regularly reviews the available phytopharmacovigilance data on the active substances used in plant protection products. To this end, the Agency calls on its partners in order to obtain information from national monitoring and vigilance schemes.

The priority substances studied are those for which marketing authorisation applications or amendments are currently being examined by ANSES, including when these involve recently authorised substances. This information supplements the results of the a priori risk assessment from the dossiers submitted by the applicants seeking MA renewal.

Special attention is also paid to substances concerned by specific uses, or by agronomic, health or environmental issues in France, as well as to substances that are the subject of specific formal requests (expert appraisal on herbicide-tolerant varieties, expert appraisal on plant protection substances of concern). All the data collected for a substance or product in the framework of phytopharmacovigilance can also be reviewed to support the analysis of a report involving an adverse effect.

These reviews, in the form of fact sheets by active substance, are regularly placed online on ANSES’s website, with an information note describing the sources and nature of the available information.

After the publication of fact sheets for glyphosate and copper in 2019, fact sheets were published for the following substances in 2020: pethoxamid, zeta-cypermethrin, dazomet, aluminium phosphide, 1-methylcyclopropene, dimethenamid-P, carfentrazone-ethyl, forchlorfenuron, methoxyfenozide, trifloxystobin and tribenuron-methyl.
The information available through the phytopharmacovigilance scheme sometimes needs to be supplemented by strengthening the existing schemes or generating missing knowledge, for example when a new warning signal emerges. ANSES undertakes specific studies for this purpose. They must be able to respond to precise questions with a view to rapid application (revision of MA conditions).

For the period 2018-2020, ANSES identified four strategic priorities:
- Ambient air for the general population and for specific populations;
- Exposure and the impact on agricultural workers;
- Bees and other pollinating insects;
- Biodiversity and environmental media (soil).

ANSES can also undertake studies in emergency situations following alerts or new evidence requiring a signal to be investigated or more knowledge to be produced.

### Phytopharmacovigilance: studies implemented and funded since 2015

![Graph showing-funded-studies](image-url)
MEASURING PESTICIDES IN AMBIENT AIR

On 2 July 2020, ANSES published its initial interpretation work on health impacts based on the results of the national exploratory campaign to measure pesticides (CNEP) in outdoor air, conducted jointly by ANSES, INERIS and the approved air quality monitoring associations (AASQAs). During the national large-scale campaign launched in June 2018, 75 substances were measured over 12 months according to a newly harmonised protocol, and around 1300 analyses were produced for each of these substances. France is one of the few countries in Europe, besides Belgium, to have undertaken this kind of campaign for measuring pesticides in ambient air on a national scale.

On the basis of the CNEP results, ANSES carried out initial interpretation work to assess the health impacts of 70 substances confirmed in outdoor air. This analysis identified substances requiring further consideration for possible inclusion in the national monitoring system for pesticides in air.

This initial work to interpret the health impacts was carried out using two approaches capitalising on measured concentration levels, the frequencies at which substances were measured in the air, toxicity reference values, and the most unfavourable hazard classifications for each substance, by reviewing both the databases from regulatory dossiers and the scientific literature.

The first health approach used compared the results of air measurements with available toxicological data to provide initial health risk indicators. In the current state of knowledge, these did not show a major health issue in connection with the exposure of the general population via outdoor air, apart from areas with local emission sources. However, some uncertainties remained regarding the toxicity reference values used.

The second approach adopted by ANSES led to the prioritisation of 32 substances of interest for which additional expert appraisal work will be carried out in the near future; this will include chronic exposure routes to these substances other than via air. These investigations will make use of the latest available data, with regard to both toxicological values and data on the hazards and health impacts of the various substances.

The findings of this work are guiding the choices of the Bureau for Air Quality of the Ministry of Ecological & Inclusive Transition in terms of the permanent national monitoring of pesticides in air.

1 Deltamethrin, diuron, epoxiconazole, etofenprox, fenarimol, iprodione, lindane, linuron, metribuzin, myclobutanil, pentachlorophenol, phosmet, permethrin, 2,4-d, boscalid, chlorothalonil, chlorpropham, chlorpyriphos-ethyl, cyprodinil, fenpropidin, fluazinam, folpet, glyphosate, meta-zachlor, oxadiazon, pendimethalin, propyzamide, pyrimethanil, S-metolachlor, spiroxamine, tebuconazole and triallate.
EXPOSURE LEVEL AND HEALTH STATUS OF PEOPLE LIVING NEAR AGRICULTURAL CROPS

In 2020, two studies on residents living near agricultural crops continued:

Geocap-Agri – an epidemiological study on associations between paediatric cancers and the presence of crops, undertaken by the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM) and Santé publique France, which uses data from the national register of childhood cancers – entered its third phase; the second phase had found, using an ecological analysis, a positive statistical association between the incidence of acute leukaemia in children and areas cultivated with vines, but no associations with other crops.

The third phase is focusing on a case-control analysis in which the agricultural environment around the children’s homes will be characterised more thoroughly.

Regarding Pestiriv, a study on the exposure of residents living near vines, whose investigation and sampling stages will begin in the autumn of 2021, preparatory work continued and took into account the findings of the pilot study of 2019. Conducted by Santé publique France and ANSES, Pestiriv aims to study differences in exposure to plant protection products used in winegrowing between people living and not living near vines, and also to characterise the determinants of these exposure differences through biological measurements (urine, hair) and environmental measurements (ambient air, indoor air, dust, home-grown foods).
The Agency’s other activities in the area of regulated products

Besides assessment and placing on the market of plant protection and biocidal products, which are the responsibility of ANSES’s Regulated Products Department, the Agency also works extensively to assess hazards and risks, whether in response to formal requests, on its own initiative or as part of European projects. This work informs decisions relating to the issuing of marketing authorisations.

The reports and opinions issued in 2020 and published on the ANSES website included:

- The opinion of 10 April 2020 on the plant protection substances identified as being of concern in the CGAAER-CGEDD-IGAS report on the use of plant protection products.

- The opinions on the potential risks associated with the spreading of municipal sewage sludge during the COVID-19 epidemic: seven opinions were issued between March 2020 and February 2021. These opinions took into account the impact of various sludge disinfection treatments and the methods for testing for SARS-CoV-2 in sludge.

- The opinion of 9 December 2020 on the risk mitigation measures that should appear in any waiver of the ban on the use of products containing neonicotinoids or substances with similar modes of action.

- The evaluation of the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate for which ANSES had issued an international call for applications in 2019 and selected, in April 2020, a consortium of seven laboratories to conduct further toxicological studies aiming to supplement the exploration of this substance’s carcinogenic potential. ANSES had also approved the funding of an original project conducted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) aimed at exploring possible genotoxic effects of glyphosate following long-term exposure of cell cultures. In July 2020, ANSES announced the withdrawal of the selected consortium; then, in October 2020, the IARC informed ANSES of its decision to withdraw its study programme on the toxicity of glyphosate to focus on new research priorities.

- Following a call for applications, a Working Group on “Fungicidal substances in the class of succinate dehydrogenase inhibitors” (SDHIs) was set up; its members include experts in the fields of neurotoxicity, toxicology, epidemiology, kinetics, mitochondria and neurosciences. This group’s work began in September 2020.

Furthermore, the Observatory on Pesticide Residues collects, organises and optimises the use of information and results from testing and measurement of pesticide residues in different environmental media and in products consumed by humans.
INTERNET RESOURCES
E-Phy database: ephy.anses.fr
Simmbad database: simmbad.fr
The phytopharmacovigilance fact sheets are available online at anses.fr