

IUCN: Pesticides prove to be a threat to global biodiversity

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New scientific analysis gives solid proof that systemic pesticides cause significant damage to bees and to a wide range of beneficial species.

Greenpeace welcomes the release of the “*Worldwide Integrated Assessment*”^[1] by the *International Union for Conservation of Nature* (IUCN)^[2] as the most comprehensive scientific analysis evidencing the harmful impacts of pesticides on the planet. Based on the analysis, bees and wild pollinators are not the only species affected by neonicotinoids and systemic pesticides, other beneficial animals like aquatic insects, earthworms, and birds are also impacted. They are exposed to deadly pesticides via multiple pathways, including through the plant itself, air (dust from spraying) and even more importantly soil and water. In fact, neonicotinoid pesticides have been proven to impair many essential eco-functions.

Matthias Wüthrich, ecological farming campaigner and European bees project leader at Greenpeace Switzerland said: “*The facts are explicit and strong. Agrochemical companies falsely claim to utilize the most advanced plant protection technology and this is in fact another example of the broken industrial agriculture system serving mainly the interests of companies like Bayer, Syngenta, and BASF & Co. This analysis is yet further proof of the dangerous and toxic pesticide treadmill that we are caught in as long as we buy what the big agrochemical industry is trying to sell us. History seems to be repeating itself, as systemic pesticides originate from the same incorrect thinking that had previously promoted now-banned pesticides like Organophosphates and DDT.*”

We must get out of the pesticide treadmill and start working alongside nature instead of against it. We need an immediate shift to ecological farming methods that ensure healthy farming and healthy food for today and tomorrow by protecting soil, water, climate, and one that promotes biodiversity. Solutions are available: www.sos-bees.org/solutions

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Notes to editors:

[1]"Worldwide Integrated Assessment": <http://www.tfsp.info/>

[2]The "Worldwide Integrated Assessment" is the new four-year scientific analysis elaborated on behalf of the *International Union for Conservation of Nature* (IUCN) by the scientific advisory Task Force on Systemic Pesticides -a group of global, independent scientists. Undertaking a full analysis of all the available literature (800 peer reviewed reports) the Task Force on Systemic Pesticides has found that there is clear evidence of harm sufficient to trigger regulatory action. The analysis will be published in the peer reviewed Journal Environment Science and Pollution Research.

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