

Wederhoor Syngenta

Vraag Zembla, 6 september 2023:

The question we have relates to this publication by Swedish scientists Axel Mie and Christina Rudén:

<https://ehjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12940-023-00994-9>

We would like to have a response relating the following:

- The authors of the publication conclude that so-called DNT studies, and information about the results of these studies, has been withheld from European regulators by companies such as Syngenta. The authors conclude that this is in violation of legal requirements in the EU. What is Syngenta's response to this?

Antwoord Syngenta, 7 september 2023:

We appreciate that a leading Dutch programme on national television is looking at the complexity of crop protection regulation and approvals of pesticides in Europe more generally. The agrochemical market is one of the most regulated markets in the world and for the evaluation of any pesticide active substance in the EU, and in many other parts of the world, hundreds of different studies are conducted. This can be from 200 studies to as many as 1,500, depending on the substance. They test aspects like toxicity, environmental fate and behavior, possible impact on non-target species and so on. This is also what we explained at the European Parliamentary Public Hearing on 18 July 2023 where we outlined that Syngenta has complied with all data requests at all times and has provided the relevant studies in accordance with prevailing regulatory requirements. During the hearing, the Commission confirmed that there was, and still is, a difference of interpretation over the relevance of these studies.

Since March 2021, the EU Transparency Rules affecting food require companies and test laboratories to notify EFSA of any new study commissioned or carried out by them to support an application for pesticide approval in the EU or for a non-EU regulatory need where the study contributes to the global safety dataset and could be relevant to an EFSA output. Syngenta welcomes and fully complies with these new transparency requirements.

You can find Syngenta's full statement at the public hearing here :

<https://www.syngenta.com/en/syngenta-statement-european-parliamentary-public-hearing>