

BANNED EU PESTICIDES EXPORTED TO SOUTH AFRICA



Total tonnes of banned EU pesticides exported to South Africa in 2024

2,154 TONNES



MAIN PESTICIDE ACTIVE SUBSTANCES EXPORTED TO SOUTH AFRICA

1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE

Soil fumigant used in fruit and vegetable crops.

It has been banned in the EU since 2007 due to **concerns about groundwater contamination, consumer exposure, risks to mammals and aquatic organisms, and possible impacts on non-target organisms.**

In 2024, 1,3-D was the most exported pesticide from the EU, with 810 tonnes shipped to South Africa

EPOXICONAZOLE

An azole fungicide used on various crops (including cereals, soy, and sugar beet).

It has not been authorised in the EU since 2020. Its producer, BASF, withdrew its license renewal application in anticipation of a ban due to its toxicity. Already in 2016 certain issues were highlighted: unresolved risks to some animal species and the environment, incomplete data on triazole metabolites (TDMs), potential endocrine-disrupting properties, and uncertainties regarding long-term exposure for users and consumers.

It is included on the **PAN International Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHP) list**. Different classifications reflect similar concerns regarding its potential carcinogenic and reproductive risks: it is classified as a **probable/likely carcinogen** by the EPA, and under the EU harmonised classification it is listed as **Carc. 2 "suspected of causing cancer", Repr. 1B "may damage fertility or the unborn child", and Aquatic Chronic 2 "hazardous to the aquatic environment"**.

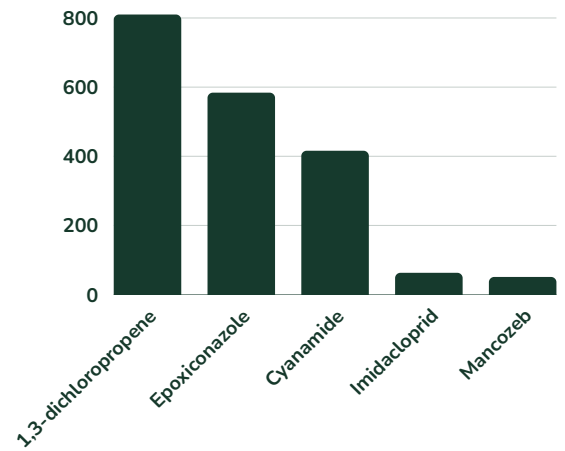
CYANAMIDE

Used in particular as a growth regulator or herbicide.

It has been banned in the EU since 2008 due to health concerns: "it may **be expected that it has harmful effects on human health**, in particular for operators," as well as concerns regarding **acute and long-term risks to small herbivorous mammals.**

It is included on the PAN International HHP list and is classified under the EU harmonised classification as **Carc. 2 "suspected of causing cancer" and Repr. 2 "suspected of damaging fertility"**.

1000 (IN TONNES)

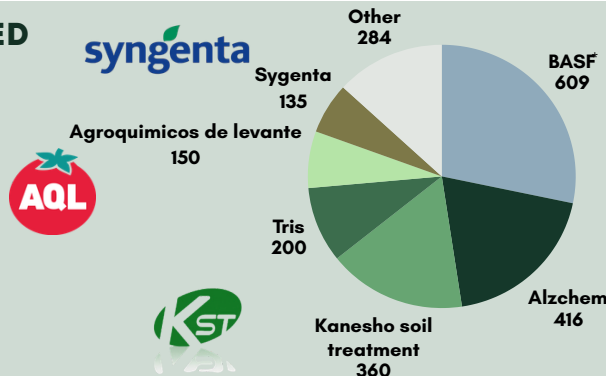


Sources: *Unearthed/Public Eye analysis of 2024 export notifications received from the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and national authorities*

OTHER DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES THAT ARE EXPORTED FROM EUROPE TO SOUTH AFRICA ARE:

- **Neonicotinoid pesticides** (imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin, thiacloprid): These substances **are neurotoxic and highly toxic to bees and pollinators**. They were banned in Europe as it was demonstrated that their use contributed to the collapse of bee colonies. Because of their neurotoxic mechanism of action we now find they may harm brain development in children and fetuses during pregnancy. Thiacloprid is classified as toxic to reproduction Category 1B.
- **Dithiocarbamate (DTC) fungicides (mancozeb, propineb, thiram):** **Mancozeb is classified in Europe as toxic to reproduction 1B and is an endocrine disruptor**, as it affects thyroid function. This means it can have an impact on early life development, posing a high risk for pregnancies and children. DTC pesticides break down to a common and very harmful metabolite ethylenethiourea (ETU), which has been shown **to cause birth defects, brain malformations and cancer in laboratory studies.**
- **Propiconazole:** another azole fungicide which was banned in Europe as it was shown that is toxic to reproduction and can contaminate water resources, including groundwater. Issues were raised in relation to its endocrine disrupting properties and consumers' protection.

COMPANIES INVOLVED



BASF
We create chemistry

AlzChem

*IN TONNES

MAIN EU COUNTRIES EXPORTING TO SOUTH AFRICA



GERMANY

1187 TONNES



SPAIN

441 TONNES

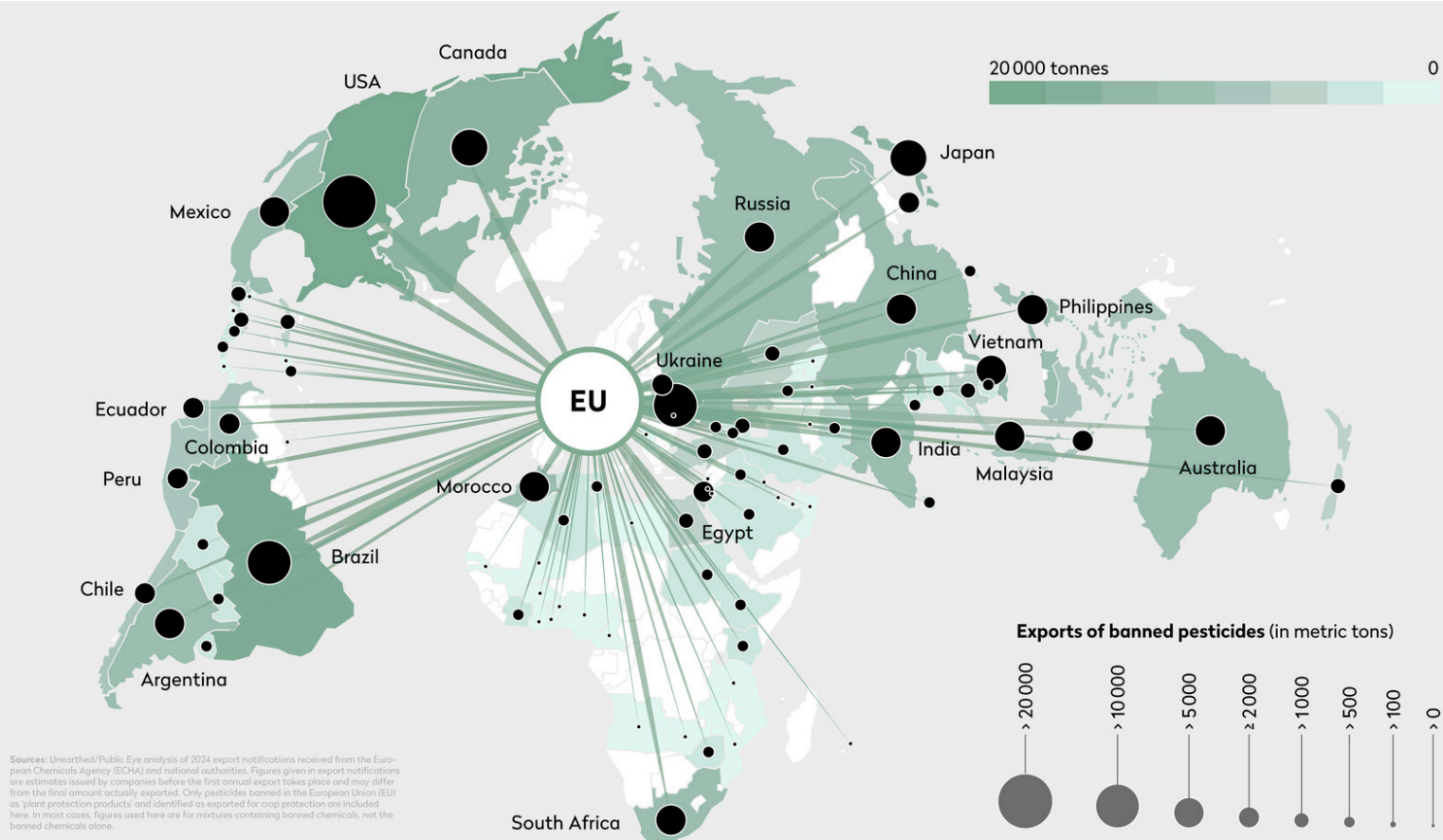


BELGIUM

436 TONNES

DESPITE A 2020 EU COMMITMENT TO END THE PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF EU-BANNED HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS, NO EU-LEVEL MEASURES HAVE YET BEEN PROPOSED

BANNED PESTICIDES NOTIFIED FOR EXPORT FROM THE EU (2024)



UNEARTHED/PUBLIC EYE INVESTIGATION (SEPTEMBER 2025) : SHARP RISE IN EU EXPORT TRADE IN BANNED PESTICIDES DESPITE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROMISES

<https://www.publiceye.ch/en/topics/pesticides/sharp-rise-in-eu-export-trade-in-banned-pesticides-despite-european-commission-promises>



JOINT STATEMENT : NGOS AND TRADE UNIONS DEMAND THE END OF EU'S PRODUCTION, EXPORT AND IMPORT OF BANNED PESTICIDES

<https://www.pan-europe.info/resources/letters/2025/06/ngos-and-trade-unions-demand-end-eu%E2%80%99s-production-export-and-import-banned>

WOMEN ON FARMS

Women on Farms Project is a South African feminist organization supporting women farmworkers and dwellers around their rights as workers, and working collectively to claim those rights.

Since 2019 they're fighting against the use of harmful pesticides on the Cape region's vineyards.

Website : <https://wfp.org.za/>



END TOXIC PESTICIDE TRADE COALITION

The End Toxic Pesticide Trade Coalition, a group of EU-based organizations, collaborates closely with partners in the Global South to address the double standards of trade of hazardous and banned pesticides. Being formed in the EU the coalition also works to stop the import of foods grown with these dangerous chemicals. This work underscores the urgent need for the EU to match its internal commitments with ethical global trade policies and uphold its role as a leader in sustainability and human rights.

Contact : Coordinator of the coalition, Natalija Svrtan : natalija@pan-europe.info

