



Foreign Agricultural Service

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The Netherlands

Agricultural Situation

Prohibition of Pesticides: A Compromise Between Nature & Economy is Needed

2000

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Report Highlights:

An amendment to the Pesticide Law is needed for an extension of the use of 11 pesticides. Next week the Parliament will vote for the amendment.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1], NL

Pesticides in The Netherlands are regularly reviewed by the Institute for the Approval of Pesticides (CTB). The CTB uses criteria in existing EU legislation that looks at local environmental factors such as climate effects on the breakdown of the pesticides.

We are told that the use of the pesticides is only prohibited for domestic use in The Netherlands. They can still be used in other countries and on imported goods.

From 1995 until 1999, about 85 pesticides were banned and exemptions were made by the CTB for pesticides which had no alternative. This exemption period ended January 1, 2000, and no alternative exists for the 11 remaining pesticides.

The Dutch Farm Bureau (LTO) is concerned about Dutch exports because these pesticides are needed in the production of vegetables, fruits and flowers. Without alternatives, some of the production will end. The LTO is also concerned that farmers will have to illegally use the pesticides or go out of business.

The LTO wants an extension of exemptions for the pesticides which have no alternative. The Dutch Environment Minister Pronk, promised a temporary exemption for eleven pesticides (see below) but the Dutch Court decided that the Minister has no authority to do that. The CTB is the only body with the power to approve or ban pesticides .

Minister Pronk (supported by Geke Faber, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture) and some parliamentarians want to amend the Pesticide Law of 1962 to exempt pesticides where alternatives are not yet tested and approved. The socialist members oppose the exemption and it does not seem that a majority currently exists for the amendment unless some compromises are made. Next week a vote will be taken on the amendment.

The pesticides that Minister Pronk wants the extension for are:

Carbaryl	Insecticide for fruit
Fenbutatinoxide,	Insecticide against mite, for a wide range of products
Penconazool, Fungicide & Parathionethyl	Insecticide for raspberries and strawberries
Pirimifosmethyl, Dichloosvos & Chloorpyrifos	Insecticides for a wide range of products
Simazin & Propachloor	Herbicides for a wide range of products
Carbofuran	Insecticide for trees and flowers.
Chloridazom	Herbicide for bulbs

Note: for some agricultural products, exemptions for pesticide usage are only granted dependent on the method of culture (open air or greenhouses).

