

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** May 07,2020

**Report Number:** TH2020-0060

## **Report Name:** The Status of Glyphosate in Thailand

**Country:** Thailand

**Post:** Bangkok

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, FAIRS Export Certificate Report, FAIRS Annual Country Report, FAIRS Subject Report, Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification, Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative, Avocado, Canned Deciduous Fruit, Dried Fruit, Fresh Deciduous Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Kiwifruit, Raisins, Stone Fruit, Strawberries, Grain and Feed, Potatoes and Potato Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Tree Nuts, Vegetables

**Prepared By:** Sakchai Preechajarn, Agricultural Specialist

**Approved By:** Russell Nicely

### **Report Highlights:**

Thailand kept Glyphosate a restricted substance while banning Paraquat and Chlorpyrifos. There has been some confusion on the status of Glyphosate as the effective date of the ban of the other two substances approaches. Due to Glyphosate's status as a restricted substance, U.S. agricultural exports to Thailand should face no trade disruptions with respect to Glyphosate.

## **Executive Summary**

Thailand does not ban Glyphosate but has imposed some restrictions on its use, mainly on the domestic application of Glyphosate in crop cultivation. Thailand's MRLs for Glyphosate are compliant with Codex MRLs standards for residue of Glyphosate in food and food products, while Thailand does not impose any MRLs for Glyphosate in feed ingredients and feed products. Accordingly, there should not be any concerns of possible trade disruptions for U.S. agricultural exports to Thailand with regard to Glyphosate.

Below is a timeline of important events with regard to Glyphosate:

### April 5, 2017

The Ministry of Public Health's (MOPH) Committee on the Mobilization of Problems regarding the Use of High Risk Pesticides (CMPHRP) requested that the Department of Agriculture (DOA) ban the use of Paraquat and Chlorpyrifos, and restrict the use of Glyphosate by 2019. However, the CMPHRP has no legal authority over the DOA as agricultural chemicals are controlled by the National Hazardous Substance Committee (NHSC). In response to CMPHRP's request, the NHSC decided to review the safety of Paraquat, Chlorpyrifos, and Glyphosate.

### December 2017

The NHSC assigned a task force to review the scientific literature and determine possible measures to control the use of these three substances.

### May 23, 2018

Based on the task force's recommendations, the NHSC decided that the use of Paraquat, Chlorpyrifos, and Glyphosate would not be banned but be controlled for domestic use. On August 30, 2018, the NHSC agreed to establish the following measures restricting the domestic use of the three substances as proposed by the task force:

- 1) Legal mechanisms to control the sale, purchase, and use of Paraquat, Chlorpyrifos, and Glyphosate;
- 2) A training program for farmers and vendors on pesticide safety;
- 3) Further research on alternative chemicals and substances for farmers;
- 4) DOA will conduct a risk assessment for Paraquat, Chlorpyrifos, and Glyphosate and research their impact on crops, environment, and human health;
- 5) Other restrictions such as limits on advertising, excise taxes, etc.

### October 22, 2019

The NHSC determined to ban three Glyphosate, Paraquat, and Chlorpyrifos. The Ministry of Industry (MOI) notified to the WTO on November 6, 2019 (G/TBT/N/THA/559), on the MOI's draft notification

Re. List of Hazardous Substances B.E. 2556 (2013) dated 28 August B.E. 2556 (2013), to ban these three active ingredients by re-categorizing them from Category 3 to Category 4. The draft indicated that the effective date was December 1, 2019.

#### November 27, 2019

The Minister of MOI became the new chairperson of the NHSC on October 27, 2019. A month later, the NHSC reversed the October 22 decision, keeping Glyphosate as a Category 3. As for Paraquat and Chlorpyrifos, these two substances were re-categorized from Category 3 (allowable but subject to permission) to Category 4 (prohibited for production, importation, exportation, and possession), with an effective June 1, 2020.

#### April 1, 2020

Thailand notified the WTO of the Ministry of Industry's intention to re-categorize Paraquat and Chlorpyrifos from Category 3 to Category 4 and to enforce the revised list of hazardous substances on June 1, 2020 (G/TBT/N/THA/567).

#### April 30, 2020

Thailand's NHSC held a meeting on April 30, a month before the WTO comment submission deadline, and agreed on the draft MOI notification to ban Paraquat and Chlorpyrifos effective June 1, 2020. Meanwhile, the NHSC voted unanimously to ratify the decisions on November 27, 2019, which implies that the status of determination on Glyphosate remains unchanged.

End of Report.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.