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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Study finds Bisphenol S more harmful than Bisphenol A

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

A recently published French study funded by the French Food and Environment Safety Agency (ANSES) found that Bisphenol S, a common substitute of Bisphenol A in food packaging, is more easily absorbed by the body and stays in the body for a longer period of time.

General Information:

In late December 2012, France officially passed [a law suspending the production, trade and marketing of food containers containing Bisphenol A \(BPA\)](#) ([GAIN Report FR9133](#)). Such containers were banned as of January 1, 2013 in food products intended for infants and on January 1, 2015 for all other products. France was the first country in the world to suspend BPA in all food packaging.

Most food packaging manufacturers as well as manufacturers of baby bottles switched to using Bisphenol S (BPS) in their products, as BPS has close technical characteristics to BPA.

A group of scientists from the National Veterinary School of Toulouse, working jointly with scientists from the Universities of London and Montreal, published a study on 17 July 2019 in the [Environmental Health Perspectives revue](#) on BPS. Their experiments were funded by the French Food and Environment Safety Agency (ANSES) and was done on piglets fed with both BPA and BPS at level much higher than the admissible daily intake dose. Results of the experiments show that BPS stays in the body for longer periods of time and at higher concentrations than BPA. The study also stated that BPS is fully absorbed by the organism whereas BPA is only partly absorbed (with up to factor 100 difference); BPS takes 3.5 times longer than BPA to be no longer detectable in the blood.

The results show that a substitute of BPA could be more harmful than BPA itself. Some scientists are already calling for a stricter regulation – and in some cases a ban- on BPS. The study has been widely shared on French news media as well as various social media outlets. In some reports, a parallel was done with the proposed ban on glyphosate, highlighting that banning a chemical compound could lead to the increased use of a more toxic one.