

## **Corteva statement on Mancozeb EU authorisation and Maximum Residue Levels**

**8 May 2020**

**Take away: Mancozeb, a long serving and globally used broad spectrum fungicide, is currently under review for authorisation renewal in the EU. While Corteva Agriscience is not part of the EU Mancozeb Task Force, we have a vested interest in the continued trade standards within the EU as we are a registrant for this active substance in many other geographies. This document covers the renewal scenario for mancozeb in the EU, potential trade implications, and what Corteva is doing to ensure freedom to operate for users of mancozeb in all geographies.**

Mancozeb is a widely recognized broad-spectrum fungicide which has been an instrumental tool for farmers around the world for over 50 years. It is a globally important disease-management product that is used, both alone and as a key partner, on a diverse range of crops, including fruits, nuts, vegetables, soybeans, potatoes, bananas, citrus and grapes. Mancozeb has a multi-site mode of action and is a key resistance management tool with no reported resistance.

### **EU authorisation status and proposed non-renewal**

Mancozeb is authorised in the European Union and products containing mancozeb are registered in all EU Member States. Mancozeb active substance is currently under review to renew its EU approval. Corteva Agriscience is not part of the EU Mancozeb Task Force, a joint activity of UPL Europe Ltd and Indofil Industries Ltd as notifiers of the active substance mancozeb in the renewal process. However, we are one of the global leaders for the mancozeb business and hold product registrations in many countries including European countries, China, Japan, Brazil and the United States.

To date, no decision on the renewal of mancozeb has been taken in the EU and the decision-making process is ongoing. On 17 April 2020, the European Commission notified to the World Trade Organization Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) a draft non-renewal proposal, open for comments until 17 June 2020. A six-month grace period is foreseen if the proposal is adopted.

The EU Mancozeb Task Force remains confident in the safe use of mancozeb in the EU and actively supports its renewal. The European Commission will discuss this proposed non-renewal with EU Member States during the 18-19 May 2020 Standing Committee meeting, and a vote could be scheduled in the following meetings.

### **Potential impact on Maximum Residue Levels**

The EU WTO TBT notification initially referred to a separate action to reduce mancozeb maximum residue levels (MRLs) to the limit of quantification, expecting new MRLs applying from Q3 2020. This information was incorrect and subsequently corrected via an addendum to the notification published on 7 May 2020, stating that *“separate action will likely be taken on MRLs and a separate notification will be made in accordance with SPS procedures.”* Our understanding is that the European Commission does not intend to immediately propose to amend mancozeb MRLs following a non-renewal decision.

In fact, mancozeb MRLs are covered under the established dithiocarbamates MRLs, which are also including other active substances under renewal review such as metiram and ziram. We understand that the European Commission intends to initiate a collective review of dithiocarbamates MRLs (Article 12) in the second half of 2020. As it would take approximately one year for the European Food Safety Authority to provide a reasoned opinion, discussions on proposed changes to MRLs could start end 2021/2022.

Mancozeb MRLs are therefore expected to remain in place in 2020 and 2021. Tentative timelines are subject to change and more information will be timely communicated according to developments.

### **Our engagement towards trade-facilitating outcomes**

As a company, we are fully committed to drive industry efforts for trade-facilitating policies on MRLs, and work towards ensuring that the MRLs set for our products meet the needs of international trade.

Any lowering of mancozeb MRLs to the limit of quantification could have a significant impact on global trade for key commodities such as banana or citrus. We stand behind the safe use of registered mancozeb products around the world and farmers relying on this important tool to protect their crops. We are particularly concerned that lowering MRLs could create trade disruptions for non-EU growers market access, and negatively affect entire EU agri-food chain relying on imported commodities.

In this context, we encourage the European Commission to maintain the existing EU MRLs for mancozeb when they are necessary to enable trade, and to ensure alignment with the existing Codex MRLs. We will also consider relevant regulatory initiatives to secure trade-facilitating MRLs during the MRL review process. In parallel, we will continue to work with growers to ensure they have information on likely residue levels at harvest so that they can make informed decisions on product choice and export destinations.

**In conclusion: Discussions on mancozeb EU renewal are ongoing. Existing EU MRLs are expected to remain in place in 2020 and 2021, and proposed changes are expected to be discussed end 2021/2022. Corteva will continue to support the maintenance of MRLs that are necessary to enable trade. We will regularly update stakeholders on mancozeb developments and will always work to support the safe use of essential and effective crop protection products.**

Please do not hesitate to contact your local Corteva Representative for any country specific information.