

Viewpoint: Glyphosate herbicide a safe method for Pakistani farmers to fend off weeds, boost yields

It is estimated that on an average 20-30 % crop losses are attributable to weed infestation and growth in Pakistan.

Chemical weed-control methods have always been an attractive solution because they are relatively cost-effective and easy to use and have therefore played a key role in the production of food, feed, and fiber over the past 60 years.

However, careful consideration needs to be given to any potential hazards that these chemicals may pose, especially due to frequent contact with farmers, food and the environment.

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In order to fully appreciate the rigorous scrutiny Glyphosate is subjected to by regulators around the world one has to take into account the various safety parameters an applicant is required to comply with. These include identification of physical /chemical properties of the active ingredient, its fate and behavior in the environment, possible effects on the environment, non-target animals, -plants and microorganisms (ecotoxicology), possible effects on mammals (toxicology) and finally, residues in crops, food and feed.

Given the stringent requirements above, all evaluations of glyphosate by regulatory authorities have so far concluded that glyphosate does not pose any unacceptable risk to human health, the environment or non-target animals and plants.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: Glyphosate becomes important herbicide in global agriculture