

Berlin, August 4th 2011

Public statement concerning the application of the BNN orientation value to Endosulfan detections in (Brazilian) Soya beans

Please note: This public statement is not valid anymore because the use of Endosulfan was banned in Brazil in the meantime.

BNN orientation value

Organic products are defined not by their freedom from pesticide residues, but rather by the production and processing methods employed to produce them. The legal framework for organic agriculture therefore does not determine maximum pesticide residue levels for organic products; instead it refers to the production processes in organic agriculture and the inspection of them.

The presence of active ingredients that are not permitted in organic agriculture can point to the use of such materials and consequent illegal labelling as an organic product. But equally, the pesticide residues may be traceable back to unavoidable or accidental contamination, or to ubiquitous background environmental loadings.

The BNN Herstellung und Handel has agreed on an orientation value for synthetic chemical pesticides so that a practical flexible means is available to discriminate between fraudulent or intentional use in production and processing methods and accidental and unavoidable contamination.

The BNN orientation value is therefore not a limit defining maximum residue levels.

Instead it requires, whenever a substance exceeds 0.01mg/kg in the unprocessed raw material, that a **case by case examination** in cooperation with the responsible certification body into whether the **organic agriculture provisions** have been followed. If this is the case, in the view of BNN the affected products may be traded.

Endosulfan in (Brazilian) Soya beans

Endosulfan is not permitted for use in organic agriculture. Therefore if proven to be present the origin of the contamination must be investigated - as described above – (generally) by the inspection body responsible for the product. In the case of the Brazilian Soya harvest in 2010, it was shown by independent expert opinion that the difficult climatic conditions, and a high Endosulfan usage in conventional agriculture led to contamination of organic Soya from both rain, and air and water pollution which was above the BNN orientation value. Therefore the inspection bodies responsible have declared in a joint communication (see statement_endosulfan_21052010) that those soybeans with an Endosulfan content up to 0.05 mg/kg are acceptable.

The contamination of Brazilian Soya beans with Endosulfan is neither fraudulent nor avoidable. The BNN Herstellung und Handel e.V. confirms that the procedure used by the affected companies and inspection bodies was in accordance the procedures of the BNN orientation value. **In the opinion of the BNN Herstellung und Handel e.V. the product may be traded.**

Since the active ingredient of Endosulfan is known to be persistent, residues can be expected in the 2011 harvest. The 2012 harvest will require further evaluation.



Meinrad Schmitt, Chairman of the Board

Anlagen