
04 Mar 2020 | News | United States | Biologicals | EPA

US EPA to OK AgBiTech biopesticides

by Andy Beer

The US EPA has proposed the registration of two viral insecticides based on Australian biopesticide company AgBiTech's *Chrysodeixis includens* nucleopolyhedrovirus isolate 460 (ChinNPV), which would become a new active ingredient in the US.

The US EPA has proposed the registration of two viral insecticides based on Australian biopesticide company AgBiTech's *Chrysodeixis includens* nucleopolyhedrovirus isolate 460 (ChinNPV), which would become a new active ingredient in the US. Chrysogen (ChinNPV 34.2%) is for the control of soybean loopers (*C includens*) and cabbage loopers (*Trichoplusia ni*) on a wide range of fruit, vegetables and field crops, and Surtivo (ChinNPV 17.1% + *Helicoverpa zea* NPV strain ABANPV-U 17.1%) is for the control of the same pests plus tobacco budworms (*Heliothis virescens*) and corn earworms/cotton bollworms/tomato fruitworms (*Helicoverpa zea*). AgBiTech submitted its registration applications in November 2017 and requested a tolerance exemption for residues in all agricultural commodities. The EPA notified receipt of the applications in October 2018. The Agency's proposed registration decision is open to public comment until March 14th.

06 Mar 2020 | News | Isagro

Isagro reassess business model and issues trading update

by Robert Birkett

Italian agrochemical company Isagro's (Milan) is reassessing its business model in the wake of its sale of India-based subsidiary, Isagro Asia (Mumbai), late last year.



Italian agrochemical company Isagro's (Milan) is reassessing its business model in the wake of its sale of India-based subsidiary, Isagro Asia (Mumbai), late last year. Indian agrochemical company PI Industries (Udaipur) completed the acquisition in December. Isagro warned last year that it was switching from the development of new organic chemical molecules originated from its own research to the

development mostly of biosolutions and copper fungicides. Such development would be financed through extraordinary operations aiming at seeking higher value of assets, the value of which it deems to not yet be "adequately expressed". The company reports "multiple contacts and negotiations which are currently underway are supposed to be better defined in the coming weeks". Isagro claims that the values of such assets "are not adequately expressed". In

such a frame, Isagro will adopt the necessary measures of organisational redefinition, it adds.

Prelim data for 2019

The company anticipates consolidated revenues at around €105 million (\$114 million at the current rate), a fall of some 16% on the previous year's €125 million (\$136 million). The drop in revenues is in line with expectations as of last December, and is attributable to lower purchases during the year by two customers (one in Italy and the other in the US), for de-stocking reasons, as well as to lower revenues from licensing agreements, the company says.

Consolidated earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) is expected to turn negative, falling from a positive €9 million (\$8.8 million) to a loss of around €3 million (\$3.2 million). The company cites missed margins from lower sales, as well as higher R&D cost.

The publication of the full-year results has been delayed until next month.

05 Mar 2020 | **News** | **Bayer Crop Science** | **Operations**

Bayer opens maize breeding greenhouse facility in US

by Andy Beer

Bayer's Crop Science division has opened a \$100 million greenhouse facility in the US for maize breeding and development.

Bayer's Crop Science division has opened a \$100 million greenhouse facility in the US for maize breeding and development. Located in Marana, Arizona, the Marana Greenhouse site is the first of its kind for the company and its most technically advanced, Bayer points out. By locating the facility in the Arizona desert, rather than in the Mid-West where maize is traditionally grown, more days of warmth and sunlight will allow researchers to maintain plants year-round, enabling three to four crop cycles annually. The controlled environment of greenhouses eliminates exposure to adverse weather conditions and prevents delays in seed development, Bayer points out. The 300,000 sq ft (27,871 m²) facility is designed for the sustainable use of inputs throughout the research process. Water used for crops will be recycled, harvested materials will be used for compost and beneficial insects will be used to reduce pesticide applications.

09 Mar 2020 | **News** | **Legal** | **Brazil**

Brazil Ag Ministry faces lawsuit on agrochem approval process change

by Robert Birkett

The new and minor Brazilian centre left party, the Sustainability Network party, is suing the Ministry of Agriculture, for its recent legislation, potentially allowing automatic approval of agrochemicals if a deadline is missed in the latter stages of the process.