

Pesticides: Who Makes the Call?

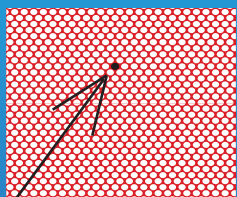
Similar to the process for approving vaccines, and medicines, EPA reviews hundreds of studies conducted for each pesticide by manufacturers and third parties in the U.S. and around the world...*but what does that mean?*

These studies provide data and results related to impacts on non-target species and the environment, and risks to human health, just to name a few. **Studies assess one-time exposure as well as "prolonged and repeated exposure"** in order to determine risks of developing certain diseases over time. This strict regulatory process helps ensure that pesticide discoveries are not pursued if they cannot meet the high safety standards for approval.



Studies must be conducted consistent with international scientific standards, such as Good Laboratory Practices, ensuring that even studies conducted by manufacturers can be relied-upon.

By law, the EPA may request whatever data they need to ensure the safety of a pesticide product. **EPA's in-house, career scientific staff experts are themselves advised by renowned independent experts, including the National Academy of Sciences, and many have worked over decades under multiple Administrations** to help ensure that pesticides are safe for the public and environment when used accordingly.



The deliberately long and demanding scientific study requirements are the primary reason only about **one in 10,000 discoveries will make the long (more than 12 years) and costly journey from the lab to the farmer's field.** To put this into perspective, a discovery made today would likely not be available to farmers until 2036.

That's the one! (Graphic for illustration purposes only)

Through the open and transparent assessment process, **all scientific assessments and public comments are available for public scrutiny,** and the agency receives and considers "hundreds or even thousands" of comments from the public and independent experts. This process helps support an additional layer of transparency and review.



Legally, federal regulators must review each pesticide approved for use in the U.S. at least every 15 years. But the reality is that **the pace of scientific development means regulators make formal assessments frequently** as more data, including long-term epidemiological studies, become available.

