

Better Cotton Initiative HHP Exceptional Use Decisions

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Introduction

Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) are pesticides that are associated with significant health and environmental risks. As such, aligned with the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) Principles and Criteria (P&C) v.3.2, BCI Farmers are expected to commit to phasing out HHPs in the context of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan.

While the long-term intent is to eliminate the use of HHPs and reduce the total toxicity of pesticides used, BCI's Exceptional Use Process for HHPs recognises the trade-offs in phasing out pesticides especially where viable alternatives might not yet exist and where phasing out could lead to adverse impacts.

Exceptional use is granted for specific active ingredients at a country or regional level and is subject to a defined period (a maximum of two seasons). Exceptional use is always subject to specific, defined conditions, such as regular monitoring and reporting and use of mitigation measures.

This document provides a summary of the country-level applications and decisions taken by the Better Cotton Pesticides Committee on the exceptional use of pesticides for the seasons 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027.

For more information on Better Cotton Initiative's Crop Protection requirements, please refer to Principle 3 in the P&C v.3.2. For more details on exceptional use per country, please reach out to your Better Cotton Initiative Country Teams or standards@bettercotton.org.

Summary of Decisions 2026-2027

Country	Active Ingredient	Hazard Category	Date of Final Decision	Decision of Committee	Period for which Exceptional Use is granted
Cote d'Ivoire	Thiram	Rotterdam PIC	June 18, 2026	Exceptional Use Approved	<i>1 season, 2026-2027</i>
Pakistan	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	March 16, 2026	Exceptional Use Approved	<i>1 season, 2026-2027</i>
Tajikistan	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	April 22, 2026	Exceptional Use Approved	<i>1 season, 2026-2027</i>
Egypt	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	February 05, 2025	Exceptional Use Approved	<i>1 season, 2026-2027</i>
USA	Aldicarb	Rotterdam PIC	June 19, 2026	Exceptional Use Rejected	

Summary of Decisions 2025-2026

Country	Active Ingredient	Hazard Category	Date of Final Decision	Decision of Committee	Period for which Exceptional Use is granted
China	Abamectin	WHO 1b GHS1	January 21, 2025	Exceptional Use Approved	2 seasons 2025-26 and 2026-27
Cote d'Ivoire	Abamectin	WHO 1b GHS1	April 29, 2025	Exceptional Use Approved	1 season, 2025-2026
Cote d'Ivoire	Bifenthrin	GHS 2	April 29, 2025	Exceptional Use Approved	1 season, 2025-2026
Cote d'Ivoire	Thiram	Rotterdam PIC	April 29, 2025	Exceptional Use Rejected	Use of existing treated seeds allowed for 2025.
Mali	Bifenthrin	GHS 2	March 19, 2025	Exceptional Use Rejected	2024-25 transition season where Producers may use up stocks.
Pakistan	Abamectin	WHO 1b GHS1	January 21, 2025	Exceptional Use Approved	2 seasons 2025-26 and 2026-27
Pakistan	Bifenthrin	GHS 2	February 13, 2025	Exceptional Use Approved	2 seasons 2025-26 and 2026-27
Pakistan	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	February 05, 2025	Exceptional Use Approved	1 season, 2025-2026

Country	Active Ingredient	Hazard Category	Date of Final Decision	Decision of Committee	Period for which Exceptional Use is granted
Tajikistan	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	February 05, 2025	Exceptional Use Approved	1 season, 2025-2026
Turkiye	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	February 05, 2025	Exceptional Use Approved	1 season, 2025-2026
Turkiye	Abamectin	WHO 1b GHS 1	January 21, 2025	Exceptional Use Approved	2 seasons 2025-26 and 2026-27
USA	Abamectin	WHO 1b GHS 1	January 16, 2025	Exceptional Use Approved	2 seasons 2025-26 and 2026-27
USA	Dicrotophos	WHO 1b GHS 2	January 12, 2025	Exceptional Use Approved	Jan 2025 - Jan 2026

Summary of Decisions 2024-2025

Country	Active Ingredient	Hazard Category	Date of Final Decision	Decision of Committee	Period for which Exceptional Use is granted
China	Beta-cyfluthrin	WHO 1b GHS 2	April 26, 2024	Exceptional Use Rejected	2024-25 transition season where Producers may use up stocks.
Cote d'Ivoire	Bifenthrin	GHS 2	May 9, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved <i>For control of <u>Indian cotton Jassids and cotton bollworm.</u></i>	1 season, 2024-25. Subject to a more thorough re-assessment ahead of season 25-26.
Cote d'Ivoire	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	May 9, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved <i>For control of <u>Indian cotton Jassids and cotton bollworm.</u></i>	1 season, 2024-25. Subject to a more thorough re-assessment ahead of season 25-26.
Cote d'Ivoire	Thiram	Rotterdam PIC	May 9, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved <i>For control of <u>Pythium spp, Colletotrichum gossypii, and Phytophthora parasitica.</u></i>	1 season, 2024-25. Subject to a more thorough re-assessment ahead of season 25-26.
Cote d'Ivoire	Carbofuran	Rotterdam PIC WHO 1b	May 9, 2024	Exceptional Use Rejected	2024-25 transition season where Producers may use up remaining stocks.
Egypt	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	April 15, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved	1 season, 2024-25. Subject to a more thorough re-

Country	Active Ingredient	Hazard Category	Date of Final Decision	Decision of Committee	Period for which Exceptional Use is granted
				<i>For control of cotton bollworm.</i>	assessment ahead of season 25-26.
Egypt	Beta-cyfluthrin	WHO 1b GHS 2	April 26, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved <i>For control of mole crickets.</i>	1 season, 2024-25. Subject to a more thorough re-assessment ahead of season 25-26.
Mali	Bifenthrin	GHS 2	May 9, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved <i>For control of Indian cotton Jassids.</i>	1 season, 2024-25
Mozambique	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	September 16, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved	2 seasons 2024-25 and 2025-26. Subject to a more thorough re-assessment ahead of season 26-27
Pakistan	Triazophos	WHO 1b	March 12, 2024	Exceptional Use Rejected	2024-25 transition season where Producers may use up stocks.
Pakistan	Bifenthrin	GHS 2	March 12, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved	1 season, 2024-25. Subject to a more thorough re-assessment ahead of season 25-26.
Pakistan	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	March 12, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved	1 season, 2024-25. Subject to a more thorough re-

Country	Active Ingredient	Hazard Category	Date of Final Decision	Decision of Committee	Period for which Exceptional Use is granted
					assessment ahead of season 25-26.
Tajikistan	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	April 15, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved <i>For control of cotton bollworm.</i>	1 season, 2024-25. Subject to a more thorough re-assessment ahead of season 25-26.
Turkiye	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	April 15, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved <i>For control of cotton bollworm.</i>	1 season, 2024-25. Subject to a more thorough re-assessment ahead of season 25-26.
USA	Dicrotophos	WHO 1b GHS 2	March 1, 2024	Exceptional Use Rejected	2024-25 transition season where Producers may use up stocks.
USA	Lambda-cyhalothrin	GHS 2	March 1, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved	2 seasons 2024-25 and 2025-26. Subject to a more thorough re-assessment ahead of season 26-27.
USA	Bifenthrin	GHS 2	March 1, 2024	Exceptional Use Approved	2 seasons 2024-25 and 2025-26. Subject to a more thorough re-assessment ahead of season 26-27.

Glossary

Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)

Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), as defined by the HHP criteria agreed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management, are pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or environment according to internationally accepted classification systems such as the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) or their listing in relevant binding international agreements or conventions. In addition, pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered and treated as highly hazardous.

Stockholm Convention

The Stockholm Convention is a legally binding treaty that seeks to eliminate or restrict the production, use and release of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). POPs are chemicals that persist in the environment, bioaccumulate and biomagnify and pose a risk of harm to human health and the environment. The use of the pesticides listed in Annex A and B are prohibited under the P&C v.3.2.

Rotterdam Convention

The Rotterdam Convention is a legally binding international treaty that outlines procedures for the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides. It focuses on chemicals and pesticides that have been identified as hazardous and are banned or severely restricted by Parties to the Convention. The use of the pesticides listed in Annex III are prohibited under the P&C v.3.2.

Montreal Protocol

The Montreal Protocol is a legally binding international treaty ratified by 198 countries and the European Union that specifically targets the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances and their alternatives. The use of the pesticides listed in its Annexes are prohibited under the P&C v.3.2.

WHO Class 1a and 1b

The WHO identifies and evaluates the health risks of chemicals for human beings. Pesticides listed in 1a and 1b refer to substances or mixtures that can cause acute toxicity, such as death or severe damage to health, through oral, dermal or inhalation exposure. Their use is prohibited under the P&C v.3.2.

Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

GHS Categories 1 and 2 of pesticides classified as 'acute toxicity' and categories 1a and 1b each of 'carcinogenic', 'mutagenic' and 'reprotoxic' pesticides. The Globally Harmonized System of

Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) provides a standardised global system for classifying and communicating the hazards associated with a wide range of hazardous chemicals. Similar to the WHO class 1a and 1b, chemicals showing the most severe risks related to acute toxicity (category 1 and 2 of class 'acute toxicity') are prohibited under the P&C v.3.0. Those under category 1a or 1b of 'carcinogenic', 'mutagenic' or 'reprotoxic' pesticides are targeted for phase out by 2028 or earlier.

The Pesticide Action Network's (PAN) International List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides Group 3

PAN identifies and provides guidance on reducing the hazards of pesticides. PAN Group 3 contains active ingredients that meet PAN's environmental toxicity criteria (considering their persistence, bioaccumulation and biomagnification, their toxicity to aquatic organisms and their toxicity to bees). This list is used to define the pesticides that require appropriate mitigation measures under Criterion 3.4.