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Update on Sonido® FS400 and MesuroI® FS500 seed treatments

Bayer's recommendation is for zero stock management for 2018 corn planting due to risks for 2019 corn planting

Due to uncertainties linked to the outcome of ongoing EU regulatory processes, Bayer cannot exclude the risk that Sonido® and/or MesuroI® might lose their authorizations prior to the 2019 corn sowing. Furthermore, it cannot be taken for granted that grace periods would apply in such a case. Consequently, Bayer cannot guarantee that Sonido® and/or MesuroI® treated corn seeds can be sown during the 2019 corn planting. In order to be prepared for such a worst case scenario, Bayer has recommended a zero stock strategy for the 2018 corn planting season to keep carry-over stocks of Sonido® and MesuroI® treated corn seeds after the sowing season 2018 as low as possible.

EFSA conclusions for both methiocarb, the active ingredient in MesuroI®, and thiacloprid, the active ingredient in Sonido®, are expected for the third quarter of 2018. Prior to the publication of the EFSA conclusions, no new information that could impact the zero stock guidance is expected to become available.

Some country registrations currently have an expiry date which suggests that using Sonido® and/or MesuroI® for the 2019 corn sowing is possible. An example is the German MesuroI® registration, which is currently valid until 31 July 2019. It needs to be pointed out, however, that a negative outcome of the active ingredient re-registration processes can lead to an earlier revocation of product registrations in those countries.

In case of a negative re-registration decision on thiacloprid and/or methiocarb, the EU Commission will publish a non-renewal implementation guideline which will recommend maximum grace periods for implementation by individual member states. While member states can choose to apply shorter grace periods, they cannot extend them. At this moment in time, forecasting how individual countries might react to a non-renewal decision is not possible.

To summarize, while the 2018 sowing of Sonido® and MesuroI® treated corn seeds will be possible, the same cannot be guaranteed for 2019, necessitating a prudent stock management for the 2018 corn sowing already.

Irrespective of the mentioned potential regulatory developments, Bayer is dedicated to maintaining both Sonido® and MesuroI® as solutions for European corn growers, and will continuously keep you updated on latest developments of the regulatory processes.