

What happens when plant protection products are applied nearby? BfR and South Tyrolean Laimburg Research Centre cooperate in research

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The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and the Laimburg Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry based in South Tyrol, Italy, have signed a cooperation agreement. The aim of the cooperation, which is initially intended to run for four years, is to work together in the fields of applied research and development, supervision of student research projects and theses (bachelor's/master's theses and doctoral dissertations), and events such as training courses and workshops.

A particular topic of research interest will be the prospective "Study on Exposure and Effects of Plant Protection Products on Users, Workers and Residents (A&A Study)". The project intends to investigate the extent to which users, workers and bystanders are exposed to plant protection products over longer periods of time. Such aggregated exposure will result either because of involvement during application of plant protection products or as a result of working on agricultural land or living in its immediate vicinity.

The assessment of health risks for users, workers and uninvolved third parties in the scenario of foreseeable or expected exposure during and after application of plant protection products is an integral part of scientific risk assessment. However, while the respective assessments are deemed to be sufficiently conservative there are gaps with regard to data on long-term exposure. The aforementioned study shall help to close these gaps with the aim of further improving public health protection. Currently the A&A study still is in the stage of planning and procurement of necessary funds. Although the study will be an important aspect for the research cooperation of the BfR with the Laimburg Agricultural Experimental Centre the cooperation is expected to go far beyond. Transfer of knowledge and exchange of experience will also extend to other specialist areas. Both institutions have hence agreed to keep the cooperation open for future extensions.

Further information on the BfR website on the subject of cooperations

https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/european_and_international_co_operations-10361.html

BfR communication on the subject of "Drift from plant protection products":

<https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/349/across-the-fields-and-far-away-adverse-health-effects-due-to-spray-drift-from-plant-protection-products-are-unlikely.pdf>



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About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany. The BfR advises the Federal Government and the States ('Laender') on questions of food, chemical and product safety. The BfR conducts its own research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

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