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Glyphosate supply statement

Autumn 2021

Several factors are currently causing a global supply shortage of glyphosate. The shortage is affecting all major markets and is not specific to the UK.

The Bayer team in the UK is well aware of the importance of glyphosate to farmers, especially at this time of year during crop establishment and has been working for some time to secure supplies for the UK market.

Nevertheless, there are still some potential supply challenges this autumn. We are keeping our distribution partners informed of the situation so they can take sensible steps to help farmers work through any difficulties and return to normal supplies as soon possible.

Q&A's:

1. What is the cause of the shortage?

The market is experiencing high demand for glyphosate driven by the increase in commodity prices, leading to strong demand from farmers globally. High demand has come at the same time as global production has been impacted by interruptions. Global stocks were low prior to these production problems. This is partly a result of the pandemic as many businesses used up stocks to reduce outgoings. There have also been some problems globally with logistics and transportation of product to where it is needed.

2. Is Brexit a factor?

No. Low global stocks and production issues are the primary cause, not inward logistics from the EU to the UK.

3. When will the situation return to normal?

The high demand of glyphosate will mean that there is a strong incentive for all producers to step up production which is already taking place. However, it does take time to satisfy demand and build up stocks.

4. As a manufacturer of glyphosate, why does Bayer not have supply priority?

Bayer is a major producer of glyphosate along with many generic producers. Glyphosate is a global market and Bayer has customers all over the world. As is the case in most other industries, when there are shortages, manufacturers aim to ensure that all customers and territories have access to at least some of the supplies they need.

5. Should growers ration usage?

We anticipate the supply shortage will be solved in the medium-term, so there is no need for farmers to stockpile glyphosate for next year. Product efficacy and resistance prevention depend on choosing the correct rate so we would caution farmers not to reduce doses below the recommended rates.