

# **Pesticide Policies in China in 2020–2021**

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## **Executive Summary**

In 2020–2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has issued a number of policies, including Registration for Export-only Pesticide Product, Special Rectification Work on Paraquat, Measures for the Collection and Disposal of Pesticide Packaging Waste, etc. These policies have standardised the production, operation and sales management of pesticides, which make export trade more convenient, and improve the pollution prevention and control of pesticide packaging waste to ensure the green, healthy and sustainable development of the pesticide industry.

As the province of largest export volume of pesticides in China, Jiangsu Province issued the Notice of Provincial Government on Strengthening the Standardised Management of Chemical Industrial Parks & Chemical Centralised Areas and the list of chemical parks and industrial centralised areas in November 2020. Since then, many regions in China have announced the relevant management notices.

The Outline of the Ecological Protection and High-quality Development Plan of the Yellow River Basin involves maintaining the integrity of important ecosystems, the rationality of resource allocation, and the relevance of cultural protection, inheritance & promotion; measures shall be planning and implementing in ecological, economic, and cultural fields in light of actual conditions, and extend the efforts to closely connected regions.

The pesticide industry has experienced its realisation of the 13th Five-Year Plan in 2020 and the beginning period of the 14th Five-Year Plan in 2021. Due to the strengthened pesticide management, the industry suffers from the transformation and upgrading into the green development. This report attempts to describe the development trend of China's pesticide industry through introducing pesticide management policies, environmental protection policies and pesticide residue policies, as well as the latest list of banned and restricted pesticides.

## **Methodology**

The report is drafted by diverse methods as follows:

### **- Desk research**

The sources of desk research are various, including published magazines, journals, government statistics, industrial statistics, association seminars as well as information from the Internet. A lot of work has gone into the compilation and analysis of the obtained information.

### **- Internet**

CCM contacted with players in the domestic agrochemical industry through B2B websites and software as well as obtained registration information on the internet.

### **- Data processing and presentation**

The data collected and compiled were sourced from:

- Published articles from Chinese periodicals, magazines, journals, and the third-party databases
- Government statistics & customs statistics
- Comments from industrial experts
- CCM's innovative database
- Professional databases from other sources
- Information from the internet

The data from various sources have been combined and cross-checked to make this report as precise and scientific as possible. Throughout the process, a series of internal discussions were held in order to analyse the data and draw the conclusions.

# 1 Pesticide Management Policies

## 1.1 No.1 Central Documents in 2020 & 2021

On 5 Feb., 2020, the Xinhua News Agency was authorised to issue the No.1 Central Document in 2020 of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the State Council, namely Opinions on Focusing on Key Work Relating to Agriculture, Rural Areas and Rural People to Ensure the Realization of a Moderately Prosperous Society in all Respects as Scheduled. On 21 Feb., 2021, the Comprehensively pushing forward rural vitalisation and accelerating the modernisation of agriculture and rural areas was issued. These are the 17th and 18th No.1 Central Documents guiding on agriculture, rural areas and rural people since the 21st century.

The document consists of five parts:

- Fulfill the poverty elimination resolutely;
- Improve weak links in rural infrastructure and public services in line with the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects;
- Safeguard the effective supply of important agricultural products and promote sustainable income growth of farmers;
- Strengthen rural grass-roots governance;
- Strengthening measures to improvement of weak links in rural areas.

Highlights:

- In terms of social services, there are two points: regarding the areas in deep poverty, concentrating on providing strong assistance to ensure poverty alleviation as scheduled; for the special poor groups, namely the elderly, the weak, the sick, the disabled, etc., who lacks the ability to work, through the overall planning of all kinds of social security policies, to ensure that they are fully involved and protected.
- Strengthen weak links in rural infrastructure and public services, mainly in eight aspects: public infrastructure in rural area, water supply, improvement of the living environment, quality of education, community-level medical and health services, social security, cultural services, and prominent problems in the ecological environment.
- Increase farmers' income through industrial development and develop rural industries to enrich people, promote the integrated development of rural primary, secondary & tertiary industries, accelerate the construction of various industrial park bases, and focus on cultivating family farms and farmers' cooperatives; build local well-known brands of agricultural products and increase the supply of high-quality green agricultural products; stabilise the employment of migrant workers, strengthen vocational skills training, develop urban jobs, and ensure that wages are paid in full and on time; encourage farmers to find employment nearby and locally.
- In 2019, the overall output of grain in China hit a record high of 663.84 million tonnes, which remains above 650 million tonnes for 5 consecutive years, indicating a sufficient grain supply. However, the production capacity is not stable. Nowadays, with low grain prices, unstable grain inventory and COVID-19, farmers should be encouraged to raise their enthusiasm for farming by government's investment in agricultural areas.
- Since 2019, China has introduced a series of comprehensive measures to stabilise sowss' prices and ensure supply. By the end of 2020, the production capacity should be gradually restored to a level close to normal as usual.
- Smart agriculture is based on a certain number and scale of large growers, family farms and agricultural cooperatives, which is the development direction of new agricultural subjects in the future. Meanwhile, scientific, accurate and efficient fertilization and drug use services can be better provided through agricultural data.
- In order to build agricultural industry chain, focus should be given on cultivating family farms, farmers' cooperatives and agricultural industrialised union.
- Prevent the uncontrolled occupation of land, deepen the reform of the farmer land use system, explore the development of the rural collective economy, and strengthen the management of collective assets; reform agricultural reclamation, state-owned forestry, collective forestry rights system, grassland contract management system, agricultural water prices, etc.; deepen the reform of comprehensive agricultural administrative law enforcement.

The realization of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and the comprehensive poverty elimination must be done in 2020. The CPC Central Committee believes that to achieve the above

two goals, poverty elimination must be achieved, and major weak links in agriculture, rural areas and rural people must be strengthened. In 2021, the beginning period of the 14th Five-Year Plan, our work tasks of Agriculture, Rural Areas and Rural People transit from poverty crucial to rural revitalization, ecological comprehensive revitalization, organization, promote poverty engines and towns promoting organic link, the ultimate goal is to improve the quality of agricultural competitiveness, realize the comprehensive modernization of agriculture, countryside and farmers.

Other than the general requirements, there are four parts:

1. To consolidate and Expand poverty alleviation efforts in tandem with rural vitalization.

(1) A transition period will be set. (2) To consolidate and expand our achievements in poverty alleviation continually, we shall improve the dynamic monitoring and support mechanism for preventing poverty return. (3) We shall continue to promote rural revitalization in poverty-stricken areas. (4) We shall strengthen regular support for low-income rural people.

2. To accelerate agricultural modernization.

(1) We shall enhance our ability to ensure the supply of grains and important agricultural products. (2) We shall do a good job in the seed industry. (3) We shall resolutely guard the red line of 1.8 billion hectares (120million ha) of farmland. (4) We shall strengthen the support of modern agricultural science and technology and material equipment. (5) We shall build a modern rural industrial system. (6) We shall promote green agricultural development. (7) We shall promote the development of a modern agricultural management system.

3. To vigorously implement rural construction action.

(1) We shall accelerate village planning. (2) We shall strengthen the construction of public infrastructure in rural areas. (3) We shall implement a five-year campaign to improve the rural living environment. (4) We shall improve basic public services in rural areas. (5) We shall promote rural consumption across the board. (6) We shall accelerate integrated urban-rural development at county levels. (7) We shall ensure that agricultural and rural development is given priority to. (8) We shall deepen rural reform.

4. To strengthen CPC's overall leadership over work related to agriculture, rural areas and farmers.

(1) We shall strengthen the working mechanism of the fifth level secretaries to focus on rural revitalization. (2) We shall strengthen the construction of party Committee leading group and working organization for rural work. (3) We shall strengthen the party's construction of rural grassroots organizations and rural governance. (4) We shall strengthen rural spiritual civilization construction in the new era. (5) We shall improve the evaluation and implementation mechanism for rural revitalization.

Attached is a list of No.1 Central Documents from 2004 to 2021.

Table 1.1-1 Themes of No.1 Central Document, 2004–2020

Year	Major theme of the No.1 Central Document
2021	Comprehensively promoting rural revitalisation and accelerating agricultural & rural modernisation
2020	Implementing key works related to agriculture, rural areas and rural people to ensure the realisation of a moderately prosperous society in all respects as scheduled
2019	Prioritizing the development of agriculture and rural areas to address the issues relating to agriculture, rural areas and rural people
2018	Implementing the rural revitalisation strategy
2017	Deepening the advancement of supply side structural reform of agriculture, accelerating cultivation of new development force of rural agriculture
2016	Implementing the new ideas of development, accelerating the modernization in agriculture, realizing the well-off society in an all-around way
2015	Reform and innovation, accelerating agricultural modernization and actively adapting to the new normal in economic development
2014	Increasing rural reforms and accelerating agricultural modernisation
2013	Speeding up modernization in agriculture and strengthening rural growth
2012	Accelerating scientific and technological innovation to strengthen the supply of agricultural products
2011	Accelerating the development of water conservation
2010	Speeding up coordinated development between urban and rural areas and further cementing the foundations of agricultural and rural area development
2009	Achieving steady agricultural development and sustained income increases for farmers
2008	Fortifying the foundations of agriculture
2007	Developing modern agriculture and steadily promoting the construction of a new socialist countryside
2006	Constructing a new socialist countryside
2005	Strengthening rural work and improving the overall production capacity of agriculture
2004	Boosting farmers' incomes

Source: No.1 Central Document of 2004–2020

## 1.2 Key Points of Pesticide Management in 2020

On 13 Feb., Key Points of Pesticide Management in 2020 was released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China (MARA). General ideas for the policy are: to grasp the messages sent out in the National Conference of Directors of Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the National Conference on Pesticide Management and carefully implement them; to adhere to the new development concept and focus on high-quality & green development of pesticides; with structural adjustment, quality improvement, ensured safety as the goal, in accordance with the principle of "taking into consideration of both strengths and weaknesses, addressing both symptoms and root causes, providing management and support", to optimise approval services and strengthen market supervision; to accelerate the construction of an innovation-driven, green & safe, high-quality

& efficient modern pesticide industry system with standardised management; to continuously improve pesticide management; to help ensure bumper harvest and promote quality & safety of agricultural products.

Thereinto, optimising management, strengthening supervision, guiding development, reducing drug use & increasing efficiency, and improving pesticide management are priorities.

As to pesticide production, we should notice the following points:

1. Chemical park or industrial park

Optimise production layout, control the number of new enterprises through strict control of access conditions, and urge pesticide enterprises to re-locate into chemical park or industrial park in accordance with relevant rules.

To guide high-quality development of the pesticide industry, the development of high-efficiency and low-risk pesticides will be encouraged, and backward production capacity with high pollution & high risk will be eliminated.

2. To enterprises with production licences

Strictly control extension of their production licences. If a pesticide producer fails to submit applications within the prescribed time limit or fails to meet the production prerequisites, extension shall not be granted.

Encourage merger and reorganization. A number of small and weak pesticide enterprises should be phased out.

Market supervision and inspection should be carried out from time to time on pesticide production, business operation and chemical use. Focuses are whether the production enterprises enter a park as scheduled, whether their set of certificates and licences is complete, whether their production management conforms to the norm, whether their products are qualified, as well as how is the application of QR code labeling and traceability platform.

3. Work safety supervision

Pesticide producers should fulfill their primary responsibilities for production safety, including: improving production safety management system, identifying potential safety hazards, and implementing prevention measures to ensure production safety.

4. Establish a credit evaluation index system for pesticide producers

5. Strict punishment for violations

Investigation and punishment for the production and sale of counterfeit products should be strictly enforced, especially the illegal production and operation of pesticides that are prohibited or export-only in China.

6. Strengthen guidance on collecting pesticide packaging waste

Cooperated with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China (MEE), the Measures for the Collection and Disposal of Pesticide Packaging Waste would be formulated to clarify the collecting obligations of pesticide producers, operators and users, encourage collecting and disposing pilots according to local conditions, explore better collecting modes, and guide local governments to effectively collect pesticide packaging waste.

### 1.3 Notice on Chemical Industrial Parks & Chemical Centralised Areas

In Nov. 2019, before the entry of the supervision group of the State Council, there were 53 chemical parks (concentrated areas) listed in the rectification directory of Jiangsu Province, namely 24, 12 and 17 in southern, central and northern Jiangsu Province respectively. On 30 Oct., 2020, Jiangsu's Notice of Provincial Government on Strengthening the Standardised Management of Chemical Industrial Parks & Chemical Centralised Areas (hereinafter referred to as the Notice) was issued and promulgated. On the basis of the provincial park assessment of "one park, one policy", Jiangsu Provincial People's Government decided to implement closed management and completed 14 coastal parks along the river of municipal fire station location as the chemical industrial parks, each of which has formed the industrial chain or characteristic product concentration, border protection distance, the wastewater treatment and waste disposal meets the requirements, with regional planning eia or track evaluation, while each of 15 parks basically meets the above conditions and some items need further construction and improvement are positioned as the chemical centralised areas, thereinto, only 13 in South Jiangsu, 6 in Middle Jiangsu and 10 in north Jiangsu. After rectification, it is about 45% of the parks were cancelled. While Suzhou, an important economic city, has reduced from 9 to 6 chemical industrial parks (/chemical centralised areas), which is still the largest number. Nanjing, Zhenjiang,



Yangzhou, Huai'an and Suqian each has 1, and each the rest cities has 2-4. By the end of 2011, Jiangsu province had set up or completed 70 chemical industrial parks (chemical centralized areas), with a total planned area of 787.76 square kilometers, and 11 state-level parks according to the records. The details of this Notice are summarized as follows:

### **1. Formulate industrial planning scientifically.**

The chemical industrial parks and chemical centralized areas shall clearly define the industrial orientation and focus on developing 1-2 industrial or characteristic product chains with high industrial relevance, while the provincial chemical industry safety and environmental protection improvement leading group office shall implement its evaluation tracking accordingly. In principle, such industrial planning should be revised every five years.

### **2. Standardise project management strictly .**

- The chemical industrial parks may build, rebuild or expand a chemical project that meets the industrial planning, safety and environmental protection requirements thereof, as well as an encouraged and permitted production project, the production environment of which involves non-chemical categories.
- Encouragement of the green, safe and good-environmental enterprises and projects with strong links between upstream and downstream, high technological level, as well as implement of waste resources comprehensive utilization projects handled by the parks.
- Supports to be included in the relocation into the park of the projects encouraged by the nation and the province, and the provincial advanced manufacturing projects of photoresist, etching liquid and other electronic chemical new materials, high-end biomedical intermediates and other. These projects' new investment is not subject to the entry threshold of RMB 1 billion.
- Production capacity of restricted projects will be prohibited to be increased, while there is a list of eliminated or prohibited products, technologies, processes and equipment, items listed therein will be eliminated strictly. No new or expanded chemical enterprises or projects (except projects of safety, environmental protection, energy saving, informatization and intelligentization, and technological transformation to improve product quality) of the chemical industrial parks or chemical centralized areas shall be allowed within 1 km of the coastline of the main stream and main tributaries of the Yangtze River (hereinafter referred to as 1 km range along the Yangtze River).
- A low-end & low-efficiency enterprise or any enterprise in the chemical centralized areas, fails to meet the steady standards for safety and environmental protection, will be cleaned up, while a chemical centralized area can apply for upgrading to be a chemical industrial park. During the rectification period thereof, no new chemical projects of production capacity shall be built. Regarding the established enterprises therein should improve the essential safety level by technological improvement, update equipment, increase information and intelligent transformation. A complex enterprise (project) that do not use toxic and harmful hazardous chemicals and environmental assessment can gather and develop inside a compliant industrial park.

### **3. Promote the implementation of key remediation projects vigorously.**

- According to the comprehensive evaluation of "one park, one policy", measures for rectification will be implemented fully.
- In principle, within 1 km range along the Yangtze River, enterprises outside the district will be closed down or relocated by the end of 2020.
- Within 1 km range along the Yangtze River, the enterprise inside the district shall further improve its working standards and promote renovation and upgrading by classification.
- In case of any safety and environmental protection hidden dangers outstandingly, the enterprise, with low management level, illegal behaviors, low safety and environmental integrity, shall be urged for the closure and withdrawal;
- With small economic volume, low product level, no core technology, and little regional industrial association, the enterprise should be gradually closed and withdrawn;
- Others, in accordance with the strictest safety and environmental standards, will be upgraded and encouraged to move out of 1 km range along the Yangtze River.
- For the key project to be improved, such as the construction of infrastructure for safety and environmental protection, information such as the sources of funds thereof, the person in charge and its operator, shall be clarified, while the specific implementation plans shall be formulated.

The term shall be about one year to govern whether it meets with the requirements on the use of land, safety and environmental protection facilities.

- Development of smart factories and smart workshops in enterprises shall be accelerated. To integrate information resources in the parks, encourage the establishment of public service platforms for online trading, warehousing, logistics, inspection and testing, improve information management platforms, and improve service management therein.

#### **4. Strengthen dynamic management of tracking and evaluation.**

- Carry out tracking evaluation and dynamic management, i.e., one comprehensive tracking evaluation shall be carried out every three years. In case that the evaluation is unqualified and the rectification cannot be in place on schedule, the chemical industry-positioning shall be cancelled resolutely.

- The chemical centralised areas, not included in the list of compliant parks of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, shall be upgraded to chemical industrial parks, and will be included thereafter at the same time.

- A chemical industrial park and/or chemical centralized area, evaluated as Grade A (highest safety risk) in safety risk level assessment, shall be ordered to rectify and improve within the time limit. In principle, no new construction, reconstruction or expansion of hazardous chemical construction project (except for projects on safety and environmental protection improvement and technical transformation) shall be approved. If it remains its Grade A by the end of 2021, the chemical industry-positioning shall be cancelled.

- An enterprise, evaluated as Grade B (higher safety risk), shall be restricted from building, rebuilding and expanding hazardous chemical construction projects. By the end of 2022, if it fails to reach Grade C (general safety risk) or Grade D (low safety risk), it shall be cancelled.

- With high industrial correlation, perfect safety and environmental protection infrastructure and good comprehensive management level, the chemical industrial park can apply for expansion conditionally. New assessment of planning environment and regional safety risk shall be conducted after its approval of expansion. Combined with the planning and revision of Lianyungang Petrochemical Industrial Base, the subsequent development and management of Jiangsu Lianyungang Chemical Industrial Park (Guannan) and Guanyun County Lingang Chemical Industrial Park will be unified by Lianyungang City.

#### **5. Grasp the follow-up management in the canceling chemical industry-positioning park/centralized area.**

- The number of enterprises of chemical production shall be greatly reduced in the industrial park (centralised area) where its chemical industry-positioning is cancelled, and no new enterprise thereof or new chemical production expanded projects shall be allowed. The municipal people's government shall properly carry out the relevant follow-ups.

- To be key monitoring, the existing qualified chemical production enterprise outside the chemical industrial park and centralised area, on the condition that land supply and total pollutant discharge are not increased, its technological transformation projects can be encouraged or permitted by industrial policies may be implemented.

- Outside the chemical industrial parks and chemical centralised areas, the others are not allowed to build, rebuild or expand projects (except the projects of safety, environmental protection, energy saving, informatization and intellectualization, and technological transformation of product quality improvement).

#### **6. Strengthen construction of high-quality development service system of the park.**

Establishing advisory service mechanisms, the provincial government shall provide decision-making advisory services, encourage the park to establish industry-university-research-use cooperation, as well as encourage the communications and docking between the park, universities and research institutes, as well as encourage and lead the enterprises to build chemical vocational skills training and practical operation training base, the application of simulation simulation and other information technology, improving the training effect, by cooperating with the chemical industrial parks, industrial associations and higher vocational colleges. Jiangsu Province shall improve the evaluation mechanism of chemical technical workers' vocational skills, give full play to the role of industry associations and establish high-end development cooperation alliance of chemical parks in the province, as well as build a batch of domestic leading and internationally influential high-level chemical parks accordingly.

Table 1.3-1 List of chemical industry-positioning parks

No.	Name of Chemical Park
1	Nanjing Jiangbei New Material Science and Technology Park
2	Jiangyin Port-surrounding Chemical Industrial Park
3	Changzhou New Materials Industrial Park of Binjiang Economic Development Zone
4	Jiangsu Yangzijiang International Chemical Industrial Park
5	Jiangsu High-tech Fluorine Chemistry Industrial Park (Jiangsu Changshu New Materials Industrial Park)
6	Taicang Port Economic and Technological Development Zone Chemical Industry Park
7	Nantong Economic and Technological Development Zone Chemical Industrial Park
8	Rudong County Yangkou Chemical Industrial Park
9	Lianyungang Petrochemical Industrial Base
10	Dafeng Port Petrochemical New Materials Industrial Park
11	Jiangsu Binhai Economic Development Zone Coastal Industrial Park
12	Jiangsu Yangzhou Chemical Industrial Park
13	Zhenjiang New Area New Material Industrial Park
14	Jiangsu Taixing Economic Development Zone

Source: Jiangsu Provincial Government

Table 1.3-2 15 Chemical Industry-positioning Centralised Areas

No.	Name of Centralised Areas
1	Yixing New Material Industrial Park
2	Xishan Economic and Technological Development Zone New Materials Industrial Park
3	Xinyi Chemical Industry Cluster Zone
4	Jiangsu Pizhou Economic Development Zone Chemical Industry Cluster Zone
5	Jintan New Material Technology Industrial Park
6	Changshu Economic and Technological Development Zone Chemical Industrial Park
7	Kunshan Fine Materials Industrial Park
8	Suzhou Wuzhong Economic and Technological Development Zone Chemical New Materials Technology Industrial Park
9	Rugaogang New Chemical Materials Industrial Park
10	Jiangsu Lianyungang Chemical Industry Park (planning and adjusting to Lianyungang Petrochemical Industry Base Expansion Area)
11	Guanyun County Port-surrounding Industrial Zone Chemical Industrial Park (planning and adjusting to Lianyungang Petrochemical Industry Base Expansion Area)
12	Zhewang Port-surrounding Industrial Zone Chemical Industry Park
13	Jiangsu Huai'an Industrial Park
14	Taizhou Binjiang Industrial Park
15	Suqian Ecological Chemical Technology Industrial Park

Source: Jiangsu Provincial Government

## **2 Environmental Protection Policies**

### **2.1 Measures for the Collection and Disposal of Pesticide Packaging Waste**

On 31 July, 2020, the Measures for the Collection and Disposal of Pesticide Packaging Waste (hereinafter referred to as the Measures) was issued jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), aiming at preventing and controlling pollution by pesticide packaging wastes, and protecting public health & the ecological environment.

The Measures requires pesticide producers (including the pesticide exporters to China), operators and users to actively fulfill their obligations to recycle and dispose of pesticide packaging wastes in a timely manner. The publish of the Measures has accelerated pesticide packaging waste recycling work throughout the country, and many provinces or cities have rolled out a number of measures to strengthen recycling in local areas thereafter.

There are five chapters in the Measures, which are briefly described as follows:

- Measures for the Collection and Disposal of Pesticide Packaging Waste
- (hereinafter referred to as the Measures)
- was issued jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), aiming at preventing and controlling pollution by pesticide packaging wastes, and protecting public health & the ecological environment.

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There are five chapters in the Measures, which are briefly described as follows:

#### **Chapter 1 General Rules**

- Pesticide packaging wastes refers to abandoned packaging materials having direct contact with pesticides or contain pesticide residues, including bottles, cans, barrels, bags, etc.
- The recycling and disposal of pesticide packaging wastes is a part of agricultural production and thus should be regulated.
- Local people's governments at various levels shall take up organising, coordinating and supervising responsibilities. Departments under MARA at or above county level shall be responsible for supervising and managing the delivery of obligations by pesticide producers, operators and users within its administrative region; departments under MEE at or above the county level shall be responsible for supervising and managing the prevention and control of environmental pollution within its administrative region. Publicity & education activities should be carried out, and pesticide producers, operators and specialised service providers are encouraged to perform recycling & treatment, as well as organise publicity and trainings.
- Producers and operators have the obligation to recycle and treat the waste; trade associations shall play a role in organisation & coordination, provide technical guidance and other services, and lend a helping hand to specialised service providers.

#### **Chapter 2 Recycling of Pesticide Packaging Wastes**

- Departments under MARA at or above county level shall investigate and monitor pesticide production within its administrative region, and set up recycling stations or sites at village, township and county level.
- Follow the principle that recycling shall be done by its producer and operator. Pesticide operators shall set up recycling devices in its business premises and shall not refuse packaging wastes from pesticides sold by them; pesticide operators and recycling stations or sites shall establish a ledger (kept for over two years) to record the amount and whereabouts of the pesticide packaging wastes they collected. Meanwhile, pesticide producers should apply packaging that can be more easily cleaned and recycled.

- Packaging wastes shall be collected by pesticide users and sent them back to pesticide operators or recycling stations (sites); they can not be discarded at will. Pesticide packaging shall be cleaned to reduce pesticide residues.
- Inspection mechanism is encouraged to promote cleaning work. Pesticide producers are encouraged to phase out aluminum foil packaging by using easily recyclable & disposed packaging, water-soluble polymer packaging or environmentally degradable packaging. The use of large-volume packaging that is easy to recycle shall also be encouraged.

### **Chapter 3 Disposal of Pesticide Packaging Wastes**

- Pesticide operators and recycling stations (sites) shall strengthen the management and maintenance of relevant facilities, equipment and business premises, properly store the collected packaging wastes, and shall not dump, pile up or scatter the pesticide packaging wastes without authorisation.
- As to waste transportation, measures shall be taken to prevent possible pollution as strewing or discarding along the way. Vehicles for transportation should be rain-proof, and with anti-leakage and anti-strewing features.
- Waste recycling entities shall be designated by provincial authorities under MARA and MEE, in light of actual local needs, and made known to the public.
- Disposal and utilisation of the wastes: re-use as resources shall be encouraged. Otherwise, landfill, incineration and other harmless disposal methods shall be carried out according to laws.
- Pesticide packaging wastes shall not be used to manufacture food utensils, children's toys and other products to prevent harm to human health. The recycling entities must not resell pesticide packaging wastes.

### **Chapter 4 Legal Liability**

- Pesticide producers, operators or users who fail to fulfill obligations shall be punished by local department under MARA, following the Soil Pollution Prevention and Control Law of the People's Republic of China
- Pesticide operators or recycling stations (sites) that fail to set up a collection ledger will be ordered to correct; those who refuse to make corrections or whose circumstances are serious may be fined not less than RMB2,000 but not more than RMB20,000.
- In the process of pesticide packaging wastes recycling or disposal, any environmental pollution caused shall be punished accordingly.

### **Chapter 5 Supplementary Articles**

- Specialised service provider refers to the one engaged in the recycling and treatment of pesticide packaging wastes.
- The Measures comes into force starting from 1 October, 2020.

## **2.2 Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution Caused by Solid Waste**

On 29 April, 2020, the 17th Session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress voted to approve the newly revised Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution Caused by Solid Waste (hereinafter referred to as the new *Solid Waste Law*), which came into force on 1 September, 2020. The following is a summary of the top ten highlights of the new *Solid Waste Law*:

- Strengthen supervision of medical waste in response to Covid-19: to strengthen waste directory management, clarify regulatory responsibilities and the bodies liable, and improve the emergency support mechanism.
- Realise zero import of solid waste gradually. 2020 marks the final year of the reform to ban foreign garbage import. The new law would provide legal protection thereof.
- Reinforce the management of household garbage classification. Household garbage classification system has been promoted among the public. Local government should set up corresponding management mechanism and charging system, and push forward building a whole-process classifying system covering rubbish dumping, collection, transportation & treatment.

Besides, rural household garbage is brought under management and unified management of urban and rural household garbage should be realised.

- Limit excessive packaging and the use of disposable plastic products: to prohibit and restrict the production, sales and use of non-degradable plastic bags and other disposable plastic products according to laws.
- Promote the prevention and control of pollution by construction waste: to establish a classification and treatment system, promote application of recycled construction waste; to define responsibilities of related sanitation departments; to require construction units to prepare construction waste disposal plan and report for archiving, and during construction, dumping, scattering or stacking construction waste generated without permission will not be allowed; to stipulate protection of the land for transfer, centralized disposal and other facilities, and impose penalties for unauthorised dumping and scattering of construction waste.
- Improve supervision system for hazardous waste:
  - To establish a digitalised management system. Based on the characteristics and quantity of hazardous waste, authorities should scientifically assess its environmental risks, implement classified management, establish an information-based supervision system, and manage & share the data and information of hazardous waste in transit. Additionally, those entities discharging hazardous waste shall report to local environmental protection department about the type, amount, flow direction, storage and disposal of hazardous waste via the national hazardous waste information management system.
  - To adjust the national hazardous waste list dynamically.
  - To strengthen the construction of hazardous waste disposal facilities. Provincial governments shall rationally arrange facilities and sites for centralized disposal of hazardous wastes. Neighboring provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities can cooperate and coordinate centralized disposal facilities and sites.
  - To standardise hazardous waste storage. It is prohibited to collect, store, transport or dispose of hazardous wastes that are incompatible in nature and have not been safely treated. Protective measures shall be taken for the storage of hazardous waste, and it is forbidden to mix hazardous wastes with non-hazardous wastes. Storage of hazardous waste shall not exceed one year, and if it is indeed need to extend the period, government approval should be gained first.
  - Hazardous waste transfer management across provinces: For the transfer of hazardous waste, electronic transfer bill shall be filled. For cross-province transferring, an application shall be made to provincial department of ecology and environment where hazardous wastes are to be removed. Management of hazardous waste should be controlled throughout the transfer process and efficiency be improved; specific measures would be formulated later.
  - The new law also strengthens the management of laboratory solid and hazardous waste.
  - Cancel the solid waste prevention & control facility acceptance permit. To thoroughly implement the spirit of “streamlining administration, delegating power, combining decentralization & management and optimising services”, this administrative permission is abolished for the inspection and acceptance of solid waste pollution prevention and control facilities. Instead, independent inspection and acceptance by construction units is applied.
  - Encourage producers’ extended responsibility system. Producers of electrical and electronic products, lead-acid batteries, automotive power batteries and other products shall, in accordance with regulations, establish, either by itself or through entrustment, recycling capacity for worn-out products matching the sales volume, and make it known to the public to realise effective recycling. The government encourage producers to take an eco-friendly attitude and promote resource recycling.
- Implement all-round safeguard measures. Measures like
  - compulsory insurance, capital arrangement, policy support, financial support, tax preference, green procurement are mentioned. Prevention and control work shall be ensured in an all-round way from the following aspects: land use, construction of facilities and sites, economic and technological policies & measures, training and guidance for employees, specialisation and scale development of the industry, technological progress in pollution prevention and control, government funding arrangement, environmental pollution insurance, public participation, and tax incentives.
  - Set out the strictest legal liabilities. Types of penalties and the amount of fines have been raised to severely punish illegal acts.

The new *Solid Waste Law* is of great significance to the practice ecological civilisation thought, relevant decisions & plans of the CPC Central Committee, as well as to the construction of ecological civilisation and the battle against pollution.

### **2.3 Outline of the Ecological Protection and High-quality Development Plan of the Yellow River Basin**

On 8 Oct., 2021, the CPC Central Committee and The State Council issued Outline of the Ecological Protection and High-quality Development Plan of the Yellow River Basin (hereinafter referred to as this Outline). This Outline is a programmatic document guiding the ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin at present and for a period to come. It is an important basis for formulating and implementing relevant planning schemes, policies and measures, and constructing relevant engineering projects. The planning period will extend to 2030, the medium-term outlook to 2035, and the long-term outlook to the middle of this century.

Planning Scope: relevant county-level administrative regions of 9 provinces and regions, including Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region (Ningxia), Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (Inner Mongolia), Shanxi, Shaanxi, Henan and Shandong, where the Yellow River flows through, covering an area of about 1.3 million square kilometers and a total population of about 160 million at the end of 2019. In order to maintain the integrity of important ecosystems, the rationality of resource allocation, and the relevance of cultural protection, inheritance, and promotion, measures shall be planning and implementing in ecological, economic, and cultural fields, in light of actual conditions, extend the efforts to closely connected regions. Along the Yellow River within certain scope, high-water consumption and high-pollution enterprises shall be arranged into the industrial parks according to regulations. A mandatory cleaner production of industries, such as coal, thermal power, steel, coking, chemical industry, nonferrous industry shall be made in order to accelerate the reform for low emissions of iron and steel, coal. The volatile organic compounds from industrial furnaces and key industries shall comprehensive controlled, while the industry pollutant emissions limits shall be requested in certain ecological area. Within certain scope along the main stream and main tributaries of the Yellow River, it is strictly prohibited to build new projects of "Two high-energy-consuming and One resource-dependent" and related industrial parks. Special inspection shall be carried out to control sewage outlets flowing into the main and sub-stream of the Yellow River. The establishment of an online monitoring system covering all sewage outlets shall be accelerated, while the examination and verification thereof shall be done with standards. The production scale of energy industry shall be determined reasonably, according to the carrying capacity of water resources and ecological environment, in order to optimise the distribution of energy development.

For the development and transportation of local rich resources and energy, we have taken the following measures:

- In order to promote high-quality development of important energy bases in Ningdong of Ningxia, Longdong of Gansu Province and Northern Shaanxi, and Haixi of Qinghai Province, the energy bases of Shanxi and Ordos Basin shall be integrally used and developed in an orderly and effective manner.
- The exploitation of coal mines shall be strictly standardised by rationally controlled the intensity thereof, as well as all kinds of activities related. Coal industry will be promoted into the green and intelligent development, and the production of the coal mines will be accelerated an intelligent transformation by strengthening work safety, as well as safety supervision and law enforcement. We will promote the clean and efficient use of coal, strictly control the scale of new coal-fired power plants, and speed up the elimination of outdated coal-fired power units.
- Energy and resources shall be enhanced and used integrally, while industries of energy and chemical shall be developed toward intensive and high-end processing.
- Exploration of oil and natural gas shall be enlarged with efforts, while coal-bed methane and shale gas, as unconventional oil and gas resources, shall be steadily promote its exploitation and utilization.
- Using the hydropower stations and power grids on the upper Reaches of the Yellow River to its full capacity, the government will support to build the stations of wind, solar, or hydropower in the following provinces, namely Qinghai, Gansu and Sichuan, which are rich in such three energy.
- The constructions of the clean energy shall be built in such provinces and autonomous regions, such as Qinghai, Gansu, Inner Mongolia, etc., where have the capacity of self-usage, or even the



delivery therefrom to others. Therefore, a cross-provincial power exchange shall be cooperated integrately and step up quickly.

- Construction for energy storage projects with large-capacity and high-efficiency will be carried out, while the state-level modern energy economy zones, as well as the energy pilots of comprehensive and revolutionary reforms, etc. shall be built.

For the construction of modern industries with distinctive advantages, there are the following measures:

- Regarding the industrial bases with strong industrial background or foundations, in the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River, we should build industrial clusters with strong competitiveness.
- Supporting the state-level New Areas in Lanzhou, Xixian and other new areas, as well as Zhengzhou Airport Economic Comprehensive Experimental Zone, we will refine and strengthen the above-mentioned to be leading industries.
- Demonstration zones in Lanbai Economic Zone in Gansu Province, Yinchuan-Shizuishan in Ningxia, and Gold Triangle of Yellow River, i.e. Shanxi-Shaanxi-Henan, shall be acted fully for undertaking industrial transfer, and be improved the capacity for undertaking industrial transfer at home and abroad thereof.
- Jinan City will be supported to build as a starting area for previous industry developed into new ones.

What's more, people shall promote the traditional industries by increasing the speed for the ranges of Internet among the industries, artificial intelligence and big data, in order to promote green transformation, intelligent upgrading and digital empowerment of advantageous manufacturing industries in the Yellow River Basin. The government will vigorously support the development of the private economy and support cross-regional mergers and reorganizations of manufacturing enterprises, as well as give active support to qualified advanced manufacturing enterprises in listing financing and corporate bond issuance.

Around the implementation of this Outline, the government will also organize special plannings, such as the formulation of the ecological protection and restoration, environmental protection and pollution control, water security, cultural heritage protection to carry forward, infrastructure interconnectivity, energy transformation development, park planning and construction of the Yellow River Cultural Park, etc., in order to research on supporting policies and measures to comprehensive reform, as well as the formation of "1+N+X" planning policy system. A fund for ecological protection and high-quality development in the Yellow River basin will be studied for the establishment thereof.

### 3 Pesticide Residue Policies

#### 3.1 Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides in Food (GB 2763-2021)

In March 2021, revision to the National Standard for Food Safety—Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides in Food (GB 2763-2021) was published by the National Health Commission (NHC), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and the State Administration for Market Regulation jointly. The revised standard has a large number of new pesticides under its regulation; large amounts of adjustments are made and specific limits given to a wider range of food items, which will have great influences on supervision of the quality and safety of agricultural products, agricultural production as well as pesticide trade in China. This standard took effect on September 3, 2021.

##### Main features of GB 2763-2021

1. The number of pesticides and maximum limits given has increased significantly. The standard regulates residue limits for 564 pesticides, including 428 approved registered pesticides in China, 49 banned or restricted pesticides, 87 pesticides not approved for registration in China. Meanwhile, a list of 44 low-risk pesticides exempted from establishing residue limits was given. Compared with GB 2763-2019, the new standard expanded coverage to 81 new pesticides, such as 2,4-DB, a 16.7% increase. It added 2,985 maximum residue limits (MRL), up 42%. In general, it covers pesticides approved for use in China and major plant origin agricultural products, thus providing sufficient technical support for strengthening supervision over the quality and safety of agricultural products in China.
2. Supervision of high-risk pesticides has been strengthened. Supervision over high-risk banned and restricted pesticides are underscored—792 maximum limits for 29 banned pesticides and 345 limits for 20 restricted pesticides on applicable crops were given. The limit values of 16 banned or restricted pesticides, including ethametsulfuron-methyl, were revised, which realised the full coverage of banned pesticides on 12 kinds of plant-origin agricultural products and restricted pesticides on allowed agricultural products. Besides, 1,742 residue limits for 87 pesticides that are not yet approved for use in China were established, which provides a technical basis for stricter supervision of imported agricultural products and better protection of Chinese consumers.
3. Limits for vegetables and other specialty & minor crops have been significantly increased. At the same time, the standard provides 589 residue limits of 67 pesticides, such as abamectin, on specialty & minor crops, and 505 technological solutions to potential residue risks, to explore a working mechanism to deal with the "no recommended pesticides available, no standards to follow" problem for these crops. And thus the shortage of pesticides can be effectively alleviated for specialty crops with large-scale concentrated cultivation.
4. Supporting standards of pesticide residue detecting methods have been improved. GB 2763-2021 recommends 7 new detection methods. Meanwhile, 4 new standards of pesticide residue detection methods were issued, such as *National Food Safety Standard—Determination of 331 Pesticides and Metabolites Residue in Foods of Plant Origin—Liquid Chromatography-tandem Mass Spectrometry Method*. Such national standards can solve the problem of "short of detection method" for more than 1,000 maximum residue limits.

## 4 Others

### 4.1 List of Pesticides Banned and Restricted (as of H1 2021)

It points out in *No. 1 Central Document of 2021* that China shall promote green development of agriculture in the 14th Five-Year period. The use of fertiliser and pesticide should be reduced with the efficacy thereof increased, while the prevention and control on soil's erosion and pollution shall be done better. Human being's excessive and illegal use of pesticides will not only endanger the quality and safety of agricultural products, as well as human life and health, but also damage agriculture, forestry and ecological environment.

At present, China has banned the use of 46 pesticides mainly for the reasons like carcinogenic, teratogenic characteristics, high toxicity, long residual effect & high residue, unacceptable environmental risk, groundwater pollution. Yet 10 highly toxic pesticides are still in use in China. According to the requirements of the *Opinions on Deepening Reform and Strengthening Food Safety*, these products will be phased out in batches within five years, based on their risks and the production and application of alternatives. Besides, there are 22 pesticides (rodenticides excluded) with restricted usage.

Attention should be paid to these banned pesticides:

- Paraquat (banned from sale on 25 September, 2020)
- Lindane and endosulfan (banned from 26 March, 2019)
- Methyl bromide (banned the usage in agriculture)
- Dicofol and sulfluramid (banned from 1 January, 2020)
- 2, 4-Dutylate (will be banned from 29 January, 2023)
- Methidathion (no registration for formulations, restricted the uasge in citrus fruit and other vegetable crops from 1 Oct., 2015)

Table 4.1-1 List of 46 banned pesticides in China

No.	Name of Banned Pesticide
1	Hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH)
2	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT)
3	Toxaphene (camphechlor)
4	Aldrin
5	Dieldrin
6	1,2-Dibromoethane (EDB)
7	Nitrofen
8	Chlordimeform
9	Bis-A-DTA
10	Dibromochloropropane
11	Arsena
12	Lead
13	Mercury Compounds
14	Fluoroacetamide
15	Gliflor
16	Tetramine
17	Sodium Fluoroacetate
18	Silatrane
19	Methamidophos
20	Parathion
21	Parathion-methyl
22	Monocrotophos
23	Phosphamidon
24	Fenamiphos
25	Fonofos

No.	Name of Banned Pesticide
26	Phosfolan-methyl
27	Calcium Phosphide
28	Magnesium Phosphide
29	Zinc Phosphide
30	Cadusafos
31	Coumaphos
32	Sulfotep
33	Terbufos
34	Paraquat
35	Chlorsulfuron
36	Ethametsulfuron-methyl
37	Metsulfuron-methyl
38	Asomate
39	Urbacide
40	Sulfuramid
41	Dicofol
42	2,4-D butylate
43	Lindane
44	Endosulfan
45	Methyl Bromide
46	Methidathion

Source: MARA

Table 4.1-2 List of 22 restricted pesticides in China

No.	Name of Restricted Pesticides
1	Phorate
2	Isofenphos-methyl
3	Demeton
4	Carbofuran
5	Aldicarb
6	Ethoprophos
7	Phosfolan
8	Isazofos
9	Methomyl
10	Omethoate
11	Isocarbophos
12	Aluminium Phosphide
13	Acephate
14	Carbosulfan
15	Dimethoate
16	Fenvalerate
17	Daminozide
18	Fipronil
19	Isocarbophos
20	Chlorpyrifos
21	Triazophos
22	Chloropicrin

Source: MARA

Table 4.1-3 Ten highly-toxic pesticide still can be registered and used in China, 2021

No.	Name of Pesticide
1	Phorate
2	Isofenphos-methyl
3	Carbofuran
4	Methomyl
5	Ethoprophos
6	Aldicarb
7	Aluminium phosphide
8	Omethoate
9	Isocarbophos
10	Chloropicrin

Source: MARA

## 4.2 Announcements/Measures on the Supervision of Paraquat

On 25 September, 2020, MARA issued the *Notice on Effectively Strengthening the Special Rectification Work on Paraquat* (hereinafter referred to as the Notice), which regulated that before 1 November, 2020, provincial departments under MARA or above shall inspect the production qualifications and conditions of paraquat TK producers. Without a production licence, producers would have their export-only registration certificate revoked for paraquat TK and formulations. For years, China has placed strict supervision over domestic paraquat producers, and has issued a series of announcements/measures concerning paraquat, such as *Regulations on The Management of Pesticides, Measures for the Administration of Pesticide Production Licensing, Announcements No. 1745 and No. 2445, Announcement No. 269 and the Explanations Thereof*. As of Oct., 2021, there are 19 registration certificates of paraquat TK, 16 of paraquat AS, one paraquat GW and SL each, all of which are for export only.

### Main points of the Notice

#### I. Examine production and export qualifications of paraquat TK

- Paraquat TK can only be produced by producers with production licence and pesticide registration for export use only;
- Before 1 November, 2020, production qualifications and conditions of the producers will be verified. Those without production licences will have their export-only registration certificates revoked and be prohibited from producing paraquat TK and formulations.
- Once a producer no longer meets the prescribed conditions and has no intention to continue the production of paraquat, its production licence for paraquat TK shall not be retained. Once a producer no longer meets the prescribed conditions but wants to continue the production, rectification should be made within a time limit. If it refuses to rectify or fails to meet the conditions after rectification, the licence-issuing authority shall revoke its production licence for paraquat TK.

#### II. Strengthen monitoring through regularly reporting on the production and operation of paraquat

- 10th of each month, provincial authorities shall report to MARA about production & operation information of paraquat, which include purchasing quantity of main raw material sodium cyanide,

output of paraquat TK and formations, detailed export destinations and the volumes thereto (both by itself and through entrusted agencies). All data should be presented in an accumulated way, from Jan. of the year to the previous month before reporting day.

- Paraquat producers, who entrust export work to trade agencies, shall take on supervisory responsibilities and report the relevant export information, such as date, destination and volume to provincial departments under MARA which can exert regulatory right to the entrusted trade agencies.

### **III. Intensify supervision and random inspection, and crack down on illegal addition of paraquat**

- Check whether there is illegal sale of paraquat products.
- Intensify supervision and random inspection on sterilant herbicide products, such as diquat, glyphosate and glufosinate-ammonium, to check whether there is illegal addition of paraquat. Once a violation is found, the sources as trader and producer must be traced in a timely manner, and participants involved should be punished in accordance with related laws.

### **IV. Carry out law enforcement inspection to crack down on illegal production and business operation**

- Selling paraquat products to Chinese enterprises is prohibited.
- Provincial authorities under MARA shall strengthen supervision and inspection of the paraquat producers under their regulation. They should examine monthly reports from the producers, on sodium cyanide purchasing, ledgers of production and sales, as well as product quality. Any hint of illegal sale inside China should be especially minded.
- Provincial authorities under MARA, which have regulatory right to local entrusted trade agencies, shall check whether the export date, destination, and quantity reported by the agency are consistent with the information provided by the producer. Any hint of illegal sale inside China should be especially minded.
- Carry out random checks on production and operation in paraquat TK producers, as well as operation in export agencies. Any illegal production, operation of paraquat shall be punished. "Black workshops" involving in illicit production, operation for paraquat, shall be banned in accordance with the law. If the act constitutes a crime, person involved shall be handed over to public security organs accordingly.



Table 4.2-1 Major Announcements/Measures concerning Paraquat

Date	Policy	Regulations on/related to paraquat
8 June, 2020	Announcement No. 269	Certificates of pesticide registration will be marked with "for export only" for such products. Paraquat can be sold only to overseas purchasing enterprises, and shall not sell to domestic enterprises by paraquat TK producers. It is forbidden to sell pesticides for export only within the territory of China. Violators shall be punished in accordance with relevant provisions in Regulations on Pesticide Administration.
26 Oct., 2020	Explanations for Announcement No. 269	Regarding eight pesticides including paraquat, registrations of which were previously marked as "exclusively for export" shall be changed into "for export only" upon the renewal thereof. Registration application and approval procedures for such products: Registration procedures of pesticides for export only shall be in accordance with the relevant provisions on pesticide registration in China, and the time limit for handling thereof is 20 working days (the time limit for technical examination shall not exceed 6 months). Pesticides for export only shall be evaluated by a specialised committee. Registration certificates of pesticides for export only are valid for 5 years. If an export-only pesticide sees any change made to registered countries/regions abroad, an application for a change to the registration. It is necessary to check changes to domestic and overseas registration of an export-only pesticide when the registration is extended.
7 September, 2016	Announcement No. 2445	Application for field test and new registration of paraquat will not be accepted or approved, neither the application for renewal registration of domestic use of paraquat. Registration for export use can be retained in paraquat TK producers, and will be changed into registration for export only upon renewal of the registration.
5 April, 2012	Announcement on Restrictive Management Measures for Paraquat (No. 1745)	Since 24 April, 2012, the approval of new paraquat TK producers and paraquat formulation processing plants shall be stopped, and applications for new field trial, registration and production license (including production license and production approval documents) for paraquat TK and AS (including compound formulation) shall not be accepted. Registration and production licence of new paraquat TK and AS products shall not be approved. Since 1 July, 2014, registrations and production licenses for paraquat AS shall be revoked, and its production suspended. The paraquat AS registrations for export use held by TK producers can be retained, and production of AS products for export only is permitted. Re-approve pesticide labels, change pesticide registration certificates and pesticide production approval documents. Each producer should add enough amount of emetics, odours, colorants. Strengthen after-sales services, such as usage and first-aid instructions. Producers are encouraged to use small bottles and attach medical activated carbon, etc. along with the products.

Source: MARA

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