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Agrochemical sector gets major regulatory boost as India approves new active ingredients and formulations

23 June 2026 | News

Domestic manufacturing, advanced chemistries and biological products emerge as key themes from RCâ??s 472nd meeting

India’s crop protection sector is poised for another round of technology-led expansion after the Registration Committee (RC) under the Insecticides Act, 1968 approved a wide range of new pesticide registrations, technical-grade active ingredients, combination formulations, biological products and indigenous manufacturing proposals during its 472nd meeting. The approvals are expected to strengthen domestic production capabilities, expand farmers’ access to advanced crop protection technologies and support the country's evolving pest-management needs.

The latest regulatory clearances come at a time when Indian agriculture is facing increasing challenges from pest resistance, climate variability, changing disease dynamics and rising pressure to improve productivity while reducing environmental impact. Industry stakeholders view the approvals as a reflection of the sector’s transition towards next-generation chemistries, precision formulations and biologically driven crop protection solutions.

Fungicides Receive Strong Regulatory Push

Among the most significant approvals was the registration of Fluxapyroxad Technical 98%, one of the newer-generation SDHI fungicides globally recognized for broad-spectrum disease control and resistance management. The RC approved indigenous technical manufacturing with a two-year shelf life, paving the way for domestic production of the molecule.

The committee also cleared Fluxapyroxad 9.81% + Azoxystrobin 16.36% SC, a premium fungicide combination targeting economically important diseases including grape powdery mildew, rice sheath blight, chilli powdery mildew, anthracnose, leaf spot and fruit rot. The approval strengthens disease management options across horticultural and field crops while

highlighting increasing industry focus on multi-site disease control strategies.

Environmental stewardship remained a key regulatory consideration, with the committee directing that cautionary statements regarding aquatic toxicity be incorporated into product labels and leaflets.

New Insecticide Technologies Expand Pest Control Arsenal

A substantial portion of approvals focused on insect management technologies, reflecting the growing threat posed by resistant insect populations across major crops.

The RC approved indigenous manufacturing of Cyantraniliprole Technical 95.20%, a modern diamide insecticide widely used against chewing and sucking pests. The approval strengthens local manufacturing capacity for one of the industry's key active ingredients.

In a notable formulation approval, the committee cleared Cyantraniliprole 7.20% + Tolfenpyrad 12.60% + Abamectin 1.35% SC, designed to control thrips, black thrips, fruit borers and yellow mites. The product combines three distinct modes of action, offering growers a valuable resistance-management tool amid increasing pest pressure in horticultural crops.

The RC also approved Pyrifluquinazon 6% + Buprofezin 30% SC for the control of whiteflies and jassids in cotton, two of the most economically damaging sucking pests affecting India’s cotton sector. Further approvals included Sulfoxaflor 3.7% + Bifenthrin 11.2% SE, targeting aphids, jassids and thrips in cotton and pomegranate crops. The committee mandated environmental safety advisories due to the product’s toxicity to fish, earthworms and honeybees, highlighting the increasing emphasis on pollinator protection.

Another noteworthy clearance was Dicloromezotiaz 20% SC, approved for managing green semilooper, pod borer, tobacco caterpillar, diamondback moth and fruit borers across soybean, cabbage, chilli and tomato crops. The molecule represents a newer insecticidal chemistry aimed at addressing resistance concerns in lepidopteran pest management.

Herbicide Segment Sees Continued Expansion

The committee approved Mesotrione 9.09% SC for weed management in sugarcane and maize. The herbicide demonstrated efficacy against key broadleaf and grassy weeds including Leptochloa chinensis, Digera arvensis, Amaranthus viridis, Trianthema portulacastrum and Physalis minima. Simultaneously, multiple technical herbicide manufacturing proposals received approval under Section 9(4), including Pretilachlor, Topramezone, Diclosulam, Oxyfluorfen, Ametryn and Sulfentrazone, indicating growing domestic manufacturing interest in weed-management technologies.

Plant Growth Regulator Approval Supports Yield Enhancement

Beyond traditional crop protection products, the committee approved Gibberellic Acid 20% Tablet for use as a plant growth regulator in tomato cultivation. The approval reflects increasing demand for technologies that improve crop growth, flowering, fruit setting and productivity alongside pest and disease management interventions.

Public Health and Vector Control Products Advance

The Registration Committee also approved Permethrin 0.94% Insecticidal Paint, intended for household control of major mosquito vectors including Aedes aegypti, Anopheles stephensi and Culex quinquefasciatus. The approval highlights the intersection of crop protection chemistry and public health applications in India’s regulatory ecosystem.

Biopesticides Continue Gaining Regulatory Ground

In a sign of growing support for biological crop protection, the committee approved a series of already registered biopesticide applications and related proposals under Section 9(3). The approvals reinforce the gradual expansion of biological solutions within India's crop protection landscape as growers increasingly seek residue-conscious and sustainable alternatives.

Indigenous Manufacturing Momentum Accelerates

One of the strongest themes emerging from the meeting was the continued rise of indigenous manufacturing. The RC approved technical manufacturing registrations for a broad portfolio of active ingredients, including Tebuconazole, Cyantraniliprole, Bifenthrin, Haloxyfop-R-Methyl Ester, Chlorantraniliprole, Pymetrozine, Mesotrione and several others.

The approvals align with India's broader objective of reducing import dependence, strengthening domestic agrochemical manufacturing capabilities and positioning the country as a global crop protection production hub.

Import Registrations and Regulatory Scrutiny Continue

The committee also approved new import-source registrations for technical products including Spinosad Technical 92% and Bentazone Technical 97%, subject to strict documentation, traceability and source-verification requirements.

At the same time, the RC demonstrated a stricter compliance approach by rejecting an application for Chlorothalonil Technical 98.5% after finding discrepancies relating to the manufacturing source and associated documentation.

A Broader Shift Toward Innovation and Stewardship

Taken together, the approvals highlight a broader transformation underway in India's crop protection sector. The latest regulatory decisions showcase increasing adoption of advanced chemistries, multi-mode-of-action formulations, biological products and domestically manufactured technical-grade active ingredients.

The emphasis on environmental safeguards, pollinator protection, residue management, shelf-life validation and traceability requirements further indicates that future growth in the sector will increasingly be shaped not only by innovation, but also by regulatory stewardship and sustainability considerations. As Indian agriculture seeks to balance productivity, resilience and environmental responsibility, the latest approvals provide fresh momentum for technology adoption across the country’s farming systems.