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First solo Cyflufenamid Registration highlights China's growing focus on high-value crop protection

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Shaanxi Sunger Road Bio-science secures China's first single-active cyflufenamid registration and the country's inaugural grape label, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of powdery mildew control

China has expanded its crop protection portfolio with the approval of the country's first standalone cyflufenamid fungicide, a regulatory milestone that broadens disease management options for grape and cucumber growers while underscoring the growing sophistication of China's fungicide market. The registration, granted by the Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of Agriculture (ICAMA), allows Shaanxi Sunger Road Bio-science Co., Ltd. to commercialize a 100 g/L cyflufenamid suspension concentrate (SC) for the control of powdery mildew in grapes and cucumbers.

Beyond introducing the first single-active cyflufenamid formulation in China, the approval also marks the first domestic registration of the active ingredient for use in grape cultivation, extending its application beyond existing cereal and vegetable crops.

A New Milestone in China's Cyflufenamid Portfolio

The latest approval brings the total number of valid cyflufenamid registrations in China to four. However, the newly approved product occupies a unique position in the market. Until now, all commercial formulations containing cyflufenamid in China were combination products designed to provide broader-spectrum disease control.

The existing registrations include Jiangsu Rotam Chemistry's formulation combining cyflufenamid with tebuconazole, initially approved for wheat rust before expanding to powdery mildew management in wheat and cucumbers, as well as Shanghai Yuelian Biotechnology's mixed formulation containing fluopyram and cyflufenamid for cucumber production. The Sunger Road registration breaks from this trend by introducing the country's first formulation relying solely on cyflufenamid as its active

ingredient.

Originator Continues to Dominate Technical Supply

Despite the expansion of formulated products, China's supply chain for cyflufenamid remains dependent on the original technology developer. Currently, Nippon Soda Co., Ltd. holds the country's only registered technical-grade cyflufenamid source at 98 per cent purity. While Chinese companies now possess formulation registrations, no domestic manufacturer has yet secured approval for technical production of the active ingredient.

This means local formulators continue sourcing the active ingredient from the originator, making any future approval of a China-based technical registration a closely watched development for both manufacturers and investors. A domestic technical registration could significantly reshape competition by strengthening local supply chains and reducing reliance on imported technical material.

Established Chemistry Gains New Momentum

Although the Chinese registration represents a first for grapes domestically, cyflufenamid itself is a well-established fungicide globally. Originally developed by Nippon Soda, the molecule was first commercialized in Japan in 2002 before expanding into international markets. It subsequently received conditional registration in the United States for applications across cucurbit vegetables, grapes, pome fruits, and berry crops, while remaining an approved active substance in the European Union.

Its latest Chinese approval therefore reflects regulatory expansion into new crop segments rather than the introduction of a novel chemistry.

Resistance Management Remains Central

Cyflufenamid belongs to FRAC Group U6, a classification representing fungicides with an undefined biochemical mode of action. One of its principal strengths is the absence of cross-resistance with several widely used fungicide groups, including demethylation inhibitors (DMIs), benzimidazoles, and quinone outside inhibitors (QoIs). This makes it an important resistance management tool for growers battling increasingly difficult powdery mildew populations.

However, researchers have also documented resistance to cyflufenamid itself in Podosphaera xanthii—the pathogen responsible for cucurbit powdery mildew—in countries including Japan, Italy, and the United States. These findings highlight the importance of integrating cyflufenamid into broader resistance management programs rather than relying on repeated standalone applications, particularly in intensive protected cultivation systems where spray frequencies are high.

Strategic Implications for China's Fungicide Market

The approval reflects China's continuing shift toward more specialized crop protection solutions targeting high-value horticultural crops. Grapes and protected vegetables represent premium agricultural sectors where disease pressure can significantly affect both yield and market quality. For manufacturers, the registration also signals growing opportunities in differentiated fungicide formulations rather than conventional broad-spectrum mixtures.

The next major development to monitor will be whether a Chinese manufacturer secures the country's first domestic technical cyflufenamid registration. Such a move could alter supply dynamics, intensify competition, and accelerate wider adoption of the active ingredient across China's horticultural industry.