



Portuguese agrochemical market rises in 2009

The Portuguese agrochemical market grew by 11% to €120 million (\$163 million at the current rate) in 2009, the national crop protection association, the Anipla, says. Insecticide sales led the way, rising by over a quarter. Volume sales of all pesticides fell by 15% to 20,801 tonnes.

Fungicides remained the largest segment of the market, despite weaker growth than in other product categories. Sales were up 4% at just over €50 million. Strobilurin fungicides and mixtures boosted such sales with a 47% rise. Fungicide volumes were 25% down.

Herbicides followed as the second-largest segment. Sales increased by 13% to €44.8 million. Systemic herbicides for use on grapevines and fruit jumped by 52%, while horticultural and potato herbicide products rose even more strongly, up 72%. The fall in glyphosate prices led to a fall of 6% in value terms despite a 1% rise in volumes. Segment volumes crept 4% higher.

The strongest segment rise was in the insecticide market, which grew 27% to reach almost €20.8 million. Pyrethroid and neonicotinoid products rose by just over half, while chlorpyrifos sales rose by almost 35%. Bioinsecticide sales boomed, but the market remains minor compared with chemical products, the association says. Despite the strong segment rise in value terms, volumes lost 9%.

Sales of plant growth regulators rose by 50%, while those of all products outside the three major segments were up by a quarter. Volumes also rose quite strongly.

Portuguese agrochemical sales (€ 000)

Category	2008 ¹ (\$) ²	% change	2009 (\$) ²
Fungicides	48,489 (65,935)	+ 4	50,428 (68,572)
Herbicides	39,636 (53,897)	+13	44,789 (60,904)
Insecticides	16,359 (22,245)	+27	20,776 (28,251)
Others ³	3,242 (4,408)	+25	4,052 (5,510)
Total⁴	108,149 (147,061)	+11	120,045 (163,237)

¹ calculated from percentage change; ² at the current rate; ³ includes rodenticides, molluscicides, plant growth regulators inter alia; ⁴ may not add up due to rounding. Source: Anipla.

Portuguese agrochemical sales (tonnes)

Category	2008 ¹	% change	2009
Fungicides	15,643	-25	11,732
Herbicides	4,564	+ 4	4,747
Insecticides	2,870	- 9	2,612
Others ²	1,474	+16	1,710
Total³	18,740	+11	20,801

¹ calculated from percentage change; ² includes rodenticides, molluscicides, plant growth regulators inter alia; ³ may not add up due to rounding. Source: Anipla.

The 2008 market was last year reported as just under €100 million (Agrow No 563, p 15), but that covered sales of

fewer associates. The association has grown to include 15 members since then, with two companies having joined in early 2009 (Agrow *ibid*). Five companies joined in 2009. They were Cheminova, Epagro Servicios Agrícolas, Industrias Químicas del Valles, Makhteshim-Agan Industries, and Sipcam-Quimagro Agroquímica e Biotecnología. The above figures give a like-for-like description of the market over the last two years. Anipla associates account for 95% of the pesticide market in Portugal.

EUROPE NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Belgium commended on agchem residue controls

The pesticide residue control system in Belgium is organised in an efficient and effective manner. That is the main finding of the European Commission's Health and Consumers Directorate General's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO). It carried out a study into the control systems for residues in food of plant origin last September. There are risk-based controls, documented and transparent procedures, trained and motivated staff, accredited laboratories possessing appropriate equipment and methods, a quick turnaround time for samples and effective enforcements procedures, the office says. The FVO has made three recommendations covering sampling and greater consideration of the industry's own control systems.

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20-22 Lengkok Rishah 2, Kawasan Perindustrian Silibin, 30100 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan, Malaysia
T +603 8024 6787 F +603 8024 6595 W www.farmcochem.com E ricky.chey@farmcochem.com