



The Under Secretary of Agriculture
for
Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs
Washington, D.C.

OCT 17 2019

His Excellency
Prayut Chan-O-Cha
The Prime Minister of Thailand
The Kingdom of Thailand

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am concerned that Thailand's National Hazardous Substance Committee (NHSC) may take action to ban glyphosate without fully considering the scientific evidence. I encourage Thailand to base its regulatory measures on sound science, as members of the World Trade Organization are obliged to do. Should a ban be implemented, it would severely impact Thailand's imports of agricultural commodities such as soybeans and wheat. I am hopeful that Thailand will consider these concerns and maintain current glyphosate maximum residue limits.

Glyphosate is among the most widely used and rigorously studied pesticide products in the world. In December 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its draft human health risk assessment, concluding that glyphosate poses no meaningful risk to human health when used as authorized. The EPA's findings are consistent with scientific reviews conducted by others including Japan, the European Union, Australia, and the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/World Health Organization Meeting on Pesticide Residues.

I urge you to delay a decision on glyphosate until we can arrange an opportunity for U.S. technical experts to share the most relevant information to address Thailand's concerns. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) would like to invite you and your team to visit Washington, D.C., to discuss the EPA's risk assessment process, safety determination of glyphosate, and risk communication strategies. We welcome your input on the agenda for the visit as we work with the NHSC on its development.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this proposed visit, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Russ Nicely, USDA's Agricultural Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok. You may reach him via email at Russ.Nicely@usda.gov. In addition, I am available to discuss your concerns regarding glyphosate. Mr. Nicely could facilitate a telephone call or video conference if it would be helpful.

His Excellency Prayut Chan-O-Cha

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Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request to postpone action on glyphosate. I look forward to your response to the invitation to visit Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

*Sir, I do hope we can
continue our discussion absent
an unfortunate decision prematurely.
Thank you ...*

Ted A. McKinney

Ted A. McKinney
Under Secretary
Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs

cc: His Excellency
Don Pramudwinai
Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency
Jurin Laksanavisit
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce

His Excellency
Suriya Juangroongruangkit
Minister of Industry

His Excellency
Chalermchai Sri-On
Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives

His Excellency
Anutin Charnveerakul
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health

His Excellency
Varawut Silpa-archa
Minister of Natural Resources and Development

His Excellency
Sontirat Sontijirawong
Minister of Energy

His Excellency
Saksayam Chidchob
Minister of Transportation

The Honorable Apijin Chotikasathien
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Industry