Company: VortexChem

CEO: Kumar Shubham

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Chemical Formula: C14H17Cl2N3O

Chemical Name: Hexaconazole

Use case:

a) What is the use of this compound?

1. Agricultural Uses

- Crop Protection: Controls fungal diseases in crops such as rice, wheat, sugarcane, vegetables, fruits, and pulses.
- Common Fungal Diseases Controlled:
 - Sheath blight in rice
 - o Powdery mildew in grapes, mangoes, cucurbits, and vegetables
 - o Rust in wheat and soybean
 - o Anthracnose in mango and chili
 - Leaf spot in peanuts and banana
 - o Blast disease in rice

2. Turf and Horticulture Management

- Used in golf courses, lawns, and ornamental plants to prevent fungal infections.
- Controls dollar spot, brown patch, and rust in turfgrass.

3. Forestry and Plantation Crops

• Applied in tea, coffee, rubber, and coconut plantations to prevent fungal attacks.

4. Seed Treatment

• Used as a **seed dressing** to protect seeds from fungal infections during germination.

5. Post-Harvest Protection

 Helps in preventing fungal growth during storage and transportation of grains and fruits.

6. Growth-Promoting Effects

 Apart from its fungicidal properties, it is known to have plant growth regulatory effects, improving crop yield and enhancing resistance to stress conditions.

b) Is there any alternatives to this compound? Name a few.

1. Tebuconazole (Triazole Group – Similar Mode of Action)

- Works similarly to Hexaconazole by inhibiting ergosterol biosynthesis in fungi.
- Highly effective against powdery mildew, rust, leaf spots, and blight in cereals, vegetables, and fruits.
- Provides longer residual control compared to some other triazoles.

2. Azoxystrobin (Strobilurin Group – Different Mode of Action)

- Broad-spectrum fungicide that works by inhibiting fungal respiration, leading to energy depletion.
- Controls rice blast, rust, powdery mildew, and downy mildew in crops like rice, wheat, and vegetables.
- Often combined with triazoles (e.g., Tebuconazole + Azoxystrobin) for enhanced performance.

3. Difenoconazole (Triazole Group – Advanced Protection)

- Another systemic triazole fungicide that controls leaf spots, scab, rust, and powdery mildew in fruits, vegetables, and cereals.
- Known for its higher effectiveness against fruit diseases, including citrus black spot and apple scab.
- Offers strong curative and preventive properties.

c) Why Hexaconazole is Superior to Its Alternatives?

Hexaconazole is often preferred over its alternatives due to its systemic action, broad-spectrum effectiveness, lower dosage requirement, and additional plant growth benefits. Here's why it stands out compared to other fungicides:

1. Highly Effective Systemic Action

- Hexaconazole is a systemic fungicide, meaning it gets absorbed and translocated within the plant, providing long-lasting protection.
- Superior to contact fungicides (like Mancozeb or Chlorothalonil), which only form a protective barrier and require frequent applications.

2. Broad-Spectrum Disease Control

- Controls multiple fungal diseases such as powdery mildew, sheath blight, rust, anthracnose, and leaf spots in a wide variety of crops.
- More effective than Carbendazim, which mainly targets only certain fungi.

3. Low Dosage Requirement

- Requires lower application rates compared to many alternatives like Mancozeb or Azoxystrobin, making it cost-efficient.
- More potent than Propiconazole and Tebuconazole at similar or lower doses.

4. Longer Residual Effect

- Provides longer-lasting protection than alternatives like Azoxystrobin or Mancozeb, reducing the need for frequent spraying.
- More persistent than Carbendazim, which breaks down faster.

5. Plant Growth-Promoting Effect

- Unlike most fungicides, Hexaconazole is also known to enhance plant growth and yield by improving stress tolerance.
- Advantage over Azoxystrobin and Tebuconazole, which do not provide this benefit.

6. Better Resistance Management

- Compared to single-site fungicides like Carbendazim, Hexaconazole has a lower risk
 of resistance development when used in a proper spray rotation.
- Works well in fungicide resistance management strategies when combined with different MOA fungicides.

d) Is this compound imported in India? What is the magnitude of imports?

India's Hexaconazole Imports (Yearly Summary)

1, 2022

- Total Quantity Imported: ~50–100 Metric Tonnes (MT)
- Estimated Value: USD 5-10 million
- Top Suppliers:
- China (~70% share)
- Israel (ADAMA) (~15-20%)
- Others (Europe, Japan) (~10%)

2. 2023

- Total Quantity Imported: ~70-120 MT
- Estimated Value: USD 8-15 million
- **Key Trends:**
- Increased demand due to rising fungal outbreaks in crops.
- China remained the dominant supplier.

3. 2024 (Partial Data, Jan-June Trends)

- Estimated Quantity (First Half): ~40-60 MT
- Projected Annual Import: ~80-130 MT

Economic feasibility:

- a. What input raw materials are needed for its synthesis (same as reported in the Patent application)?
 - 1. Valeryl Chloride (C5H9ClO)
 - 2. 1,2,4-Triazole
 - 3. 2,4-Dichlorobenzyl Chloride (MDCB)
 - 4. Potassium Hydroxide(KOH)
 - 5. Solvent (Acetonitrile or Toluene)
 - 6. Catalyst (Tertiary Amine or Lewis Acid) (CH3)2S and Aluminium Trichloride
 - 7. Dimethyl Sulphate
 - 8. DMF (Solvent)

Reactions-

1)ACYLATION REACTION

MW=120.5

MW=231

2) FORMATION OF OXIRANE:

3. PREPARATION OF HEXACONAZOLE:

HEXA CONDENSATION

b. Provide preliminary economic feasibility based on cost of raw materials, solvents and product selling price.

Raw Materials

- Valeryl Chloride (C5H9ClO): Price Range: ₹200 to ₹300 per kg
- 1,2,4-Triazole: Price Range: ₹700 to ₹800 per kg
- 2,4-Dichlorobenzyl Chloride (MDCB): Price Range: ₹500 to ₹600 per kg

 Potassium Hydroxide (KOH): Price Range: ₹65 to ₹155 per kg Solvents:

 Acetonitrile: Price Range: ₹140 to ₹200 per kg Catalysts:

• Tertiary Amines (e.g., Triethylamine): Price Range: ₹300 to ₹500 per kg

• Lewis Acids (e.g., Aluminum Trichloride): Price Range: ₹100 to ₹200 per kg

• Dimethyl Sulphate: Price Range: ₹35 to ₹56 per kg

• Dimethylformamide (DMF): Price Range: ₹56 to ₹70 per kg

Raw Material	Required per kg of Hexaconazole (kg)	Updated Price (₹/kg)	Total Cost (₹)
Valeryl Chloride (C₅H₃ClO)	0.503	200	100.6
1,2,4-Triazole	0.299	700	209.3
2,4-Dichlorobenzyl Chloride (MDCB)	1.5	500	750
Potassium Hydroxide (KOH)	0.067	80	5.36
Acetonitrile (Solvent)	0.35	147	51.45
Aluminium Trichloride (Catalyst)	0.733	100	73.3
Dimethyl Sulphate (DMSO ₄)	0.602	55	33.11
DMF (Solvent)	3.562	56.64	201.7

• Total Raw Material Cost per kg of Hexaconazole = ₹1,425.82

Economic Feasibility for 1,000 kg Production:

- 1. Total Raw Material Cost for 1,000 kg:
 - 1,000×₹1,425.82=₹14,25,820
- 2. Total Revenue from Selling 1,000 kg (Selling Price = ₹2,700/kg):

1,000×₹2,700=₹27,00,000

3. Gross Profit:

Total Revenue-Total Raw Material Cost=₹27,00,000-₹14,25,820=₹12,74,180

4. Gross Profit Margin (GPM):

(Gross ProfitTotal Revenue)×100=(12,74,180/27,00,000)×100 GPM = 47.2%

EXPORT:

Major Export Destinations:

India's hexaconazole exports reach multiple countries, with significant shipments to:

- **Vietnam:** A primary importer, receiving a substantial portion of India's hexaconazole exports.
- China and Singapore: Also notable destinations for Indian hexaconazole.

MAJOR EXPORTERS OF THIS COMPOUND(INDIA):

Approximate Export Volume & Value

- Quantity: India exports hundreds of metric tonnes (MT) of hexaconazole annually (both technical-grade and formulations).
- Value: Estimated USD 20–50 million per year, depending on global demand.

Breakdown by Leading Exporters (Estimated Share)

- UPL Limited Largest exporter (~30–40% market share in hexaconazole exports).
- Bayer CropScience/Syngenta Significant exports (~15–25%).
- Rallis India, Dhanuka, Indofil Combined contribute ~20-30%.
- Others (Meghmani, Gharda, Nagarjuna, etc.) ~10–20%.

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List the contributions of each author:

- Vishwas Pathania and Anurag carried out the market research for chemical trade data.
- Satyansh Sharma and Raj Aryan prepared the use case.
- Anurag and Vishwas Pathania looked at economic feasibility.

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