

## Synthetic pesticide analysis

Many illegal pesticides are highly toxic. Others contain unknown ingredients, or ingredients that may vary over time. Some of the illegal products are also available to the public in legal, EPA-registered versions. However, consumers can buy or obtain the illegal versions without knowing it. While the illegal products may resemble their legal counterparts and make the same claims, these products have not yet been tested. And because they are not registered, their labels have not been tested to ensure that they have clear instructions and safety warnings.

Ecuador has Agriculture as the main economic activity and the area under cultivation is large. These crops are vulnerable to pests. And most farmers use pesticides to control the pests and insects that infest their crops. Most of the pesticides they use are imported, mostly from countries where they are already banned.

According to The Guardian News, on 10 September, Greenpeace UK's "Unearthed" investigation and documents obtained by the Swiss NGO Public Eye reported that Syngenta and Ineos are exporting large quantities of chemical-based pesticides from British plants whose use is illegal in the EU, and there are some. There are also pesticides for developing countries like Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, India and Indonesia. The banned substance that appears most frequently on the export list is Paragat. This pesticide is produced by Syngenta, a Swiss multinational company. Paraigat is mainly used on maize, soya and cotton and accounts for more than a third of European exports, although it is banned in 50 countries. Countries on the list of importers are Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Colombia and our country Ecuador.

Many illegal pesticides are highly toxic. Others contain unknown ingredients, or ingredients that may vary over time. Some of the illegal products are also available to the public in legal, EPA-registered versions. This is even more dangerous because these products are taken for granted, when in fact they are harmful to people's health directly or indirectly. In short, consumers can buy or obtain the illegal versions without knowing it. While the illegal products may resemble their legal counterparts and make the same claims, these products have not yet been tested and may therefore have unwanted side effects. And because they are not registered, their labels have not been tested to ensure that they have clear instructions and safety warnings for proper use and prevention of calamities.