

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: use of vaccines containing Pepino mosaic virus  
**Date:** vrijdag 18 augustus 2017 11:10:46  
**Attachments:** [Scientific note on PepMV vaccination at nursery site.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Dear [REDACTED],

Please note that an error occurred when sending this message.  
Below the correct version.

My apologies,

Best Regards,  
[REDACTED]

Van: [REDACTED]  
Verzonden: vrijdag 18 augustus 2017 11:04  
Aan: [REDACTED]@ctgb.nl>  
CC: [REDACTED]@dcm-info.com>  
Onderwerp: use of vaccines containing Pepino mosaic virus  
Urgentie: Hoog

Dear [REDACTED],

As point A.25 on the Agenda of the Standing Committee of July 19-20, 2017 ([https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/standing\\_committees/sc\\_phytopharmaceuticals\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/standing_committees/sc_phytopharmaceuticals_en)), the possible use of vaccines containing Pepino mosaic virus at tomato plant propagator level was discussed. This came on the agenda in connection with the current approval of the active substances VX1 and VC1 (two mild isolates of Pepino mosaic virus approved for use at both tomato grower level and tomato plant propagator level).

As registration holder of the plant protection product PMV-01 in the Netherlands with registration number 15121 N, a vaccine containing as active substance another mild isolate of Pepino mosaic virus (isolate 1906 from the CH2 strain of Pepino mosaic virus) and approved for use at tomato grower level only, the above agenda point got our attention.

In the meantime we have been informed that the Standing Committee decided not to change the current approval of the active substances VX1 and VC1, however to let the decision for use at propagator level to the individual member states approving end use products containing VX1, VC1 or both. In case of an approval of an end use product at tomato plant propagator level, these member states will also have to inform the tomato growers and tomato plant propagators in their own country of the possible risks related to the use at the propagator level.

As said, our vaccine PMV-01 is only approved for use at tomato grower level. The decision to only apply for approval of this Pepino mosaic virus vaccine at tomato grower level was based on the following well-substantiated scientific reasons.

- Risk of unwanted and unintended spread of PepMV to neighbouring crops and plants
- Risk of spreading viral mutants to many different tomato growers from one single mutation event
- Risk of spreading viral recombinants to many different tomato growers from one single recombination event
- Risk of spreading non-prevalent strains to regions with low infection pressure
- Risk of cross-contamination between different vaccines

More details on this argumentation can be found in the recent scientific opinion drawn up by 4 well-known European Pepino mosaic virus experts (see attachment).

Because of the above reasons and knowing that most tomato plant propagators do not only distribute their tomato plants to tomato growers in their own country but all over the European Union, it would be a huge risk for the whole European tomato sector if an end use product containing one or more mild isolates of Pepino mosaic virus would be approved for use at tomato plant propagator level.

We are convinced that vaccination at propagator level is not a good thing for the future and continued existence of tomato production in the European Union. Vaccination presents a lot of risks, independently of the vaccine used. That's also the reason why in the European Union, we, De Ceuster Meststoffen (DCM), never applied for approval for use at plant propagator level of both our active substance Pepino mosaic virus, strain CH2, isolate 1906 and the finished end use product PMV-01.

We know that a lot of people active in the tomato sector share our concern.

The conclusion of the discussions at the Standing Committee on the possible use of Pepino mosaic virus vaccines at tomato plant propagator level, allow the different Member States to react by September 15 at the latest, on the decision of the Committee to let the responsibility for use of Pepino mosaic virus vaccines at tomato plant propagator level, to the individual member states.

In case you might need more info on the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We hereby thank you for taking due heed of ours and the tomato sector's concern.

Best Regards,

p.o.

[REDACTED]

[DCM]<<http://www.dcm-info.com/>>

[REDACTED]

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