

**ESA Position**  
**on the importance of**  
**THIRAM for seed treatment**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2003

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The European Seed Association (ESA) is the organisation that represents the interests of the Seed Industry in the EU with both, individual companies and national seed associations, being ESA Members. As such, we are concerned with the seed treatments used by the industry as an important part of quality seed production.

We note with interest that the registration of Thiram is due to be reviewed by the Working Group Efficacy at the end of January, and we would like to take this opportunity to explain our support for the continuing availability of this product as a seed treatment. Thiram is an important product for the European seed industry and is still widely used by them to protect seed of a large number of plant species. It is relatively low-cost, and has a proven track record as a seed treatment for a number of sound technical reasons.

Thiram is a broad-spectrum fungicide, able to protect seeds against a wide variety of seed- and soil-borne diseases, and in addition has the ability to repel birds and other animals that damage early crop establishment.

It has a different mode of action compared to newer fungicides, and therefore is a very useful tool for managing resistance onset in pathogens. Thiram is a contact fungicide, making it well suited to protecting seed whilst at the same time leaving no residues in the final crops.

Thiram has very good seed safety and compatibility with other chemicals used on seed, properties which are in great demand by modern seed companies who are producing high-quality seed.

Thiram is registered throughout the world as a seed treatment fungicide, which means that it is also a very convenient product for use by the European seed industry on their export seed.

These are some of the reasons why the European seed industry uses and would like to continue using Thiram to protect European seed, and we would ask you to take these industry and end-user views into consideration when reviewing the re-registration of the product.