UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON D.C., 20460

VIA E-Mail

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

March 31, 2016

Mr. Charles Levey
Team Lead – Insecticides and Fungicides
Syngenta Crop Protection

Subject: Thiamethoxam: Colony Feeding Study

Dear Mr. Levey:

EFED is currently reviewing the colony feeding study (MRID 49757201) submitted by Syngenta in response to the registration review Data Call In (DCI) for thiamethoxam. Although the final review has not yet been completed, EFED has concluded that this study is not sufficient to meet the scientific needs of OPP, specifically, understanding the potential impacts of thiamethoxam on the overwintering success of exposed honey bee colonies. As a consequence, this study will not be considered acceptable for fulfilling the data requirement because of poor (21%) overwintering survival in control hives, which prevents examination of impacts of thiamethoxam on overwintering success in the tested hives. Additionally, overwintering survival was very low across all treatments (0, 25, 12.5, 25, and 0% overwintering survival in the 12.5, 25, 37.5, 50, and 100 ppb treatment groups) and did not appear to be related to exposure concentrations. EFED is currently reviewing the feeding study data reflecting pre-wintering observations to determine if these parts of the study are scientifically valid and whether they can provide useful information for the upcoming registration review pollinator risk assessment. The Data Evaluation Record (DER) for this study will be completed at a later time and will reflect this as well.

Regardless of the outcome of this review, EPA recommends a new colony feeding study be completed with thiamethoxam in order to fulfill the DCI. Syngenta should discuss this study with the Agency and submit a protocol for review prior to study initiation. Modifications to the protocol for MRID 49757201 may be made, such as feeding hives to prepare for overwintering and treatment of varroa mites.

If you have any questions, please contact Christina Motilall of my staff at motilall.christina@epa.gov or 703-603-0522.

Sincerely,

Neil Anderson, Branch Chief
Risk Management and Implementation Branch I
Pesticide Re-evaluation Division