

Press release

Glyphosate, we are all exposed

The shocking test results : 14 pregnant women tested positive for this herbicide
What is the prime suspect? Nutrition

Launch of the Report "Poison is Served - glyphosate and other poisons from field to table", and the special issue of *Il Salvagente* "Glyphosate: nobody is safe"

Rome, 24 May 2017: There's no need to live in the countryside...the risk of being contaminated by glyphosate is real even when you live in the city centre of a big city such as Rome. Test results carried out by **Salvagente**, in partnership with the association **A Sud**, are clear: **14 women out of the 14 examined, tested positive** for traces of glyphosate in their urines.

"If we do not change direction, no one can think that they or their children, or their unborn babies are safe" said **Riccardo Quintili**, director of the monthly magazine **il Salvagente**, who presented the special magazine issue dedicated to pesticides, adding that, *"among the many things to change there is also the attitude of the ones who should institutionally defend consumers and who, instead, are found to have conflicts of interests that cloud their judgement."* The reference is to the too many scandals that have appeared in studies on safety of glyphosate, in particular to those that in recent years have declared it safe and rejected the "probable cancerogenity" declared by Iarc in 2015.

The range of glyphosate found in the test analysis is **from 0.43 nanograms per millilitre** of urine up to **3.48 nanograms**. Is this a low amount? Is this a high amount? It is not possible to make any statement in this sense, as **parameters for maximum quantities have not been set**. What is certain is that glyphosate never should be present in our body and, least of all in unborn children's bodies.

What are the risks? **Patrizia Gentilini**, oncologist and member of the Scientific Committee of **ISDE - Doctors for the Environment**, explained: *"There are several experimental data on human placental and embryonic cells that demonstrate how glyphosate provokes necrosis and favours the planned cellular death. Therefore, it is a genotoxic substance, in addition to a cancerogenic one, as Iarc established, not forgetting that this herbicide also acts as an endocrine disruptor"*.

According to the test results disclosed by the consumers' magazine and by A Sud, the prime suspect is **nutrition**: glyphosate enters into our body through the food that we put on our tables. Not only **bread, pasta, flour** and other wheat based food, as shown in the investigation carried out by **il Salvagente** last year, which gave evidence that more than 85% of **animal feed** used in breeding farms is composed of herbicide resistant **GMO corn, soya and canola**.

The report "Poison is served - glyphosate and other poisons from field to table", launched simultaneously along with the test results, prepared by Associazione A Sud, Navdanya International and CDCA, analyzes the real risks related to pesticide use in agriculture, based on extensive published scientific studies, existing regulatory frameworks, as well as well documented conflicts of interest involving the agrochemical lobbyists committed to obtaining more permissive rules. It also outlines the many bottom-up actions promoted in different countries by citizens, farmers and social movements at the fore front of the battle, to defend their health and food sovereignty.

According to **Ruchi Shroff**, of **Navdanya International**, the focal point in Italy and Europe of the Indian-based organization founded by scientist and activist Vandana Shiva: *"Worldwide, civil society is mobilizing against the use of agrototoxic agents promoted by the Cartel of poison-producing multinationals, who profit through the damages inflicted on the health of citizens and the environment at the expense of the State. A more responsible role on the part of governments is needed in protecting the health of citizens, and of small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises, and in the protection of cultural wealth and food excellence, in Italy for instance for pizza, pasta and bread, which are already polluted by Canadian glyphosate. The dossier demonstrates how a sustainable, fair and healthy food production and distribution system is possible to feed the world as opposed to a polluting and toxic industrial agriculture system."*

It also aims to change the regulation policy of toxic substances in agriculture; for **Marica Di Pierri**, A Sud: *"We need to totally change the way we produce food. A pesticide-free agriculture is possible and it is a matter of health, in addition to protecting the environment we live in. We need to review authorization procedures so that they are transparent and not conditioned by the overwhelming power of multinationals. "*

Simona Savini, association **WeMove** and coordinator in Italy for the ECI Stop Glifosato: *"Through the European Citizens' Initiative to ban glyphosate we could really lay the foundations for a pesticide-free agriculture. Hundreds of associations are engaged in this campaign and in only three months we collected 800,000 signatures on (www.stopglyphosate.org/it). We have to reach one million signature by June and also in Italy we can play our part."*

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