

2 October 2026

Ref: OIA 26173

Claire Bleakley
President, GE Free New Zealand
claire@gefrees.org.nz

Tēnā koe Claire

I refer to your request for official information received on 6 September 2026 for information about Corteva Agriscience New Zealand Limited (APP205221) and Syngenta Crop Protection Limited (APP205201) recent applications decided by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

We have responded to your questions below:

1. How many of the 102 experimental pesticide approvals contain dsRNA /RNAi technologies?

None of the technologies are dsRNA or RNAi based.

2. Are any of the range of experimental pesticides obtained from synthetic biology?

We have no information to suggest any were obtained from synthetic biology.

3. Where are the locations that these trials will be carried out?

The approval holders must notify the EPA in writing within three working days after the first application of any trial substance under the approval(s). This includes the physical address of the field trial site and the area of land or property that is designated as the field trial site.

At the time of the request, no field trials have been notified to the EPA under APP205221 or APP205201.

A full list of controls for which the approval holders must comply with can be found in the respective approval documents for the applications.

4. If there are AI or RNAi compounds in the pesticides, were members of the organic industry notified about the Field trials?

No substances contain these technologies.

5. As they are field trials were the public notified so they could submit comment?

The approval holders of APP205221 and APP205201 are required to notify the EPA of field trials under these approvals, however, they are not required to notify the public of their containment field trials.

I hope this information is helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz

We may publish your request and our response on our website, www.epa.govt.nz. We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Nāku noa nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fernando Torres-Velez', with a horizontal line underneath.

Fernando Torres-Velez

General Manager, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms