



# AGRINFO QUARTERLY DIGEST

Quarterly overview of new  
EU Regulations and Policies  
affecting agri-food exports from  
Malawi

JULY–DECEMBER 2025



Funded by  
the European Union



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*AGRINFO keeps you up-to-date on evolving EU policies, regulations and standards impacting agri-food trade. It provides clear summaries for trade partners in low- and middle-income countries about the “what, why, and when” of recent and upcoming changes, and actions needed to adjust to new rules.*

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This first AGRINFO Digest for Malawi summarises recent and upcoming changes to European Union (EU) Regulations and Policies announced in the period July–December 2025, focusing on those that could affect major agri-food export sectors in Malawi.

The report is produced by the EU-funded [AGRINFO Programme](#) to inform stakeholders about upcoming changes to EU Regulations, their practical implications, and the actions needed by producers, operators, and authorities to align with any new requirements. The aim is to make sure that information reaches the people who need it in time for them to take any necessary action and avoid potential trade disruption.

The sectors included in this analysis for Malawi are **beans / peas, guavas, mangoes, milk / cream, nuts, sesame seeds, sugar and tea**. These were selected as they are the most significant agri-food products exported from Malawi to the EU today. This list of products can be adapted at the request of stakeholders.

Links in the text take you to the AGRINFO website, with more detailed information on each topic. This is an open access resource which, along with the [AGRINFO Update](#) email newsletter, is free for anyone to use and share.

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## Recommended actions for stakeholders in Malawi

### *Immediate action required:*

- **Proposed simplification of EU rules on organic production:** Malawian stakeholders have the opportunity to submit comments on this proposal through their competent authorities until **22 March 2026** (p. 10).

**EUDR:** The EU has postponed the application of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) until **30 December 2026** due to concerns about the potential burden on companies, as well as technical concerns about the [EUDR information system](#).

### Upcoming action required:

- **Mangoes and papayas:** Suppliers to the EU should evaluate the use of [carbendazim](#) ahead of the MRL reduction to the LOD.
- **Cashew nuts and coconuts:** Suppliers to the EU should evaluate use of [ethephon](#) ahead of the MRL reduction to the limit of determination (LOD).
- **Pineapples:** Suppliers to the EU should ensure that their current use of [ethephon](#) complies with the new maximum residue level (MRL) of 1.5 mg/kg.
- **Mineral Oil Hydrocarbons (MOH):** Suppliers of food in all sectors should identify any presence of [MOH](#) in their products, and, if identified, develop measures to avoid further contamination of their production ahead of maximum levels at limit of quantification (LOQ) from 2027.



**Table 1. Recent and upcoming pesticide MRL reductions to LOD relevant to exports from Malawi<sup>1</sup>**

Pesticide (click name for details)	Affected products (MRL reduced to LOD*)	New MRLs apply from:
<a href="#">Thiacloprid</a>	All products	12 May 2025
<a href="#">Acetamiprid</a>	Bananas	19 August 2025
<a href="#">Ethephon</a>	Blueberries, cashew nuts, coconuts	approx. January 2026
<a href="#">Carbendazim</a>	Oranges, grapefruits, mangoes	Under discussion
<a href="#">Dithiocarbamates</a>	Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, coconuts, macadamias	Under discussion

\* LOD: limit of determination, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods, typically 0.01–0.05 mg/kg.

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<sup>1</sup> Maximum residue levels (MRLs) reduced to the limit of determination (LOD) are the ones most likely to cause trade disruptions. Operators should pay attention to MRL changes that may require adaptations to good agricultural practices. A full list of changes to MRLs can be found by clicking the relevant pesticide name in Table 1. This table includes MRL changes adopted in 2025.



## A. Food safety and plant health

### 1. Pesticides

The following are new and upcoming changes to pesticide MRLs reported by AGRINFO in July–December 2025.<sup>2</sup> For a full list of MRL changes related to a specific product, please use the [AGRINFO Search](#) webpage: type your product (e.g. “mango”) in the **Full text search** box and **Select topic:** “Pesticide MRLs”.

#### *MRL reductions*

##### **Methoxyfenozide**

The European Commission has reduced the MRLs for methoxyfenozide on **aubergines/eggplants** from 0.6 to 0.3 mg/kg. The new MRLs will apply from **6 January 2026**.

See [Maximum residue levels for methoxyfenozide](#).

#### *MRL reductions on hold*

The European Commission had proposed changes to MRLs in relation to the following pesticides. However, discussions on these specific pesticides are on hold as the EU is currently considering its general policy towards MRLs on imported products (“import tolerances”) for substances that are no longer authorised in the EU.

##### **Carbendazim**

The European Commission had proposed to reduce the MRLs for carbendazim to the LOD on oranges, grapefruit, mangoes, and papayas. Adoption of this proposal was originally foreseen for 2025. Carbendazim is no longer authorised in the EU.

See [Maximum residue levels for carbendazim](#).

##### **Dithiocarbamates**

The European Commission had proposed to reduce the MRLs for dithiocarbamates on Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, coconuts and macadamias to the LOD. Adoption of this proposal was originally foreseen for 2025.

See [Maximum residue levels for dithiocarbamates](#).

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<sup>2</sup> Information is provided on substances authorised in Malawi, regardless of whether these substances have been authorised for use on the specific food products covered by this report.



## MRL increases

**Table 2. MRL increases**

Pesticide (with link)	Products affected	Old MRL (mg/kg)	New MRL (mg/kg)	Applies from
<a href="#">Acetamiprid</a>	Plums	0.03	0.04	20 August 2025
	Linseeds, gold of pleasure seeds	0.01*	0.06	
	Poppy seeds	0.01*	0.3	
	Mustard seeds	0.01*	0.15	
	Soyabeans	0.01*	0.01	
	Honey	0.05*	0.3	
<a href="#">Azoxystrobin</a>	Melons and watermelons	1	6	23 July 2025
<a href="#">Deltamethrin</a>	Papayas	0.1	0.2	06 July 2025
<a href="#">Mepiquat</a>	Grapes	0.02*	5	06 July 2025
* Limit of determination (LOD, the lowest level that can be detected using the most modern and reliable analytical methods).				

## Copper

The EU will raise the MRLs for copper compounds on a wide range of products. The European Commission initially proposed to reduce the MRLs on certain other products. However, this has been postponed to allow more opportunity to collect and review data for those products.

See [Maximum residue levels for copper compounds](#)

## MRLs under discussion

### Alpha-cypermethrin

The current MRLs for cypermethrin cover the group of isomers: cypermethrin, alpha-cypermethrin, beta-cypermethrin, and zeta-cypermethrin. The European Food Safety Authority has identified potential risks related to the current cypermethrin MRLs for certain products, with particular concerns regarding alpha-cypermethrin, which is more toxic. The EU is therefore discussing setting specific MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin, in addition to the general MRL covering all forms of cypermethrin.

See [Maximum residue levels for alpha-cypermethrin](#)

In parallel, the EU is also reviewing the cypermethrin MRLs (see [Maximum residue levels for cypermethrins](#)).

### Chlorfenapyr

The EU will reduce the MRL for chlorfenapyr on **tea** from 50 mg/kg to the LOD of 0.01 mg/kg. Minor reductions in current LODs are also proposed for certain other products.

See [Maximum residue levels for chlorfenapyr](#)



### Diazinon

The EU is discussing reducing the MRLs for diazinon on certain products to the LOD of 0.01 mg/kg. There will be particular impacts on **cranberries, pineapples, radishes, kohlrabies, hops, spices, sugar beet roots, and animal products**. A reduction in current LODs on some other products is also proposed.

See [Maximum residue levels for diazinon](#)

### Difenoconazole

The EU is discussing its review of the MRLs for difenoconazole. This includes lowering the MRLs to the LOD on products for which information from the European Food Safety Authority was not sufficient to rule out consumer risks.

Import tolerances (higher MRLs) are being discussed for **citrus fruits, tree nuts, mangoes, papayas, dry peas, and soybeans**, because proposed MRLs on these products are not considered to be a concern for consumer safety.

See [Maximum residue level for difenoconazole](#)

### Metribuzin

The EU is discussing the reduction of MRLs for metribuzin to the limit of determination (LOD) on **cassava roots/manioc, land cresses, and olives for oil production**. It also discusses lowering existing LODs on other products.

See [Maximum residue levels for metribuzin and metribuzin-DADK](#).

### Triclopyr

The EU is proposing to amend the MRLs for triclopyr on **citrus fruits, apricots, rice, and animal products**.

See [Maximum residue levels for triclopyr](#)

### *Latest pesticide approvals, renewals, and extensions 2025*

In November 2025, the EU renewed the approval of gibberelins and gibberellic acid as low-risk active substances.

In October 2025, the EU renewed the approval of milbemectin.

A comprehensive list of active substances, their legal status, and expiry dates can be found in the European Commission's [Active substances, safeners and synergists](#) database.

For details, see [Latest pesticide approvals, renewals, and extensions 2025](#)

### *Review of safeners and synergists*

The European Commission has adopted a work programme for the gradual review of safeners and synergists used in pesticides currently on the EU market:

- safeners – to eliminate or reduce phytotoxic effects
- synergists – to enhance the activity of active substances.

The review of these substances is due to be completed by 2030.

See [Safeners and synergists in pesticides: substances for review](#)



### *2025 non-renewals, withdrawals, restrictions, and non-approvals*

The EU must re-evaluate pesticides every 10 years. Keeping track of these renewals provides a broad indication of which pesticides can be used long-term on products destined for the EU market.

For details, see [Latest pesticide non-renewals, withdrawals, restrictions, and non-approvals \(2025\)](#)

The specific maximum residue limit (MRL) for each pesticide and product can be found in the [EU Pesticides Database](#).

## 2. Other food safety regulations

### *Novel food: tiger nut oil now permitted on the EU market*

The EU has authorised *Cyperus esculentus* (tiger nut) oil as a novel food, to be used as oil for cooking or as seasoning, and as an ingredient in several foods.

*Cyperus esculentus* (tiger nut) oil can be marketed in the EU as a novel food from **19 August 2025**.

For further details, see [Novel food: Cyperus esculentus \(tiger nut\) oil](#).

### *Genetically modified maize DP51291*

The EU has authorised DP51291 as a genetically modified (GM) maize. The authorisation concerns the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food, food ingredients, feed, and products for any other uses except for cultivation.

This authorisation is valid until **22 September 2035**.

For details, see [Authorisation of genetically modified maize DP51291](#)

## 3. Plant health

### *Changes to plant health import requirements*

The EU proposes stricter import rules for ginger and turmeric from all non-EU countries due to the bacterium *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum*.

In addition, the Combined Nomenclature (CN) custom codes will be updated to align with recent changes, and mangosteen is explicitly added to the list of regulated fruits from non-EU countries.

For details, see [Changes to plant health import requirements](#)

#### Recommended action:

Competent authorities of countries that are members of the WTO can submit comments on the EU's proposal by emailing the [EU SPS Enquiry Point](#) until **6 February 2026**.



## 4. Non-compliant products

### *EUROPHYT and RASFF interceptions*

[EUROPHYT](#) is the European Union Notification System for Plant Health Interceptions. During July–November 2025, there were no plant health interceptions due to harmful organisms or due to other non-conformities on consignments from Malawi to the EU.

[RASFF](#) is the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed. During July–December 2025, there was one RASFF interception for *Salmonella* in **macadamia nuts** entering the European Union from Malawi.

### *Temporary increase of official controls – An introductory guide*

Where products from one country are repeatedly found to be non-compliant in relation to pesticide residues and contaminants, as reported through RASFF, the EU can put in place stricter controls according to the risk to consumer health (under Regulation [2019/1793](#)). This is currently not the case for any exports from Malawi.

A new AGRINFO [Guide](#) describes why and how increased official controls are established, the implications they have for operators and competent authorities, and their short- and long-term impacts on trade.

## B. Organic production

### Review of EU organic production rules

The European Commission proposes a series of amendments to the Organic Regulation [2018/848](#) to clarify and simplify the European Union’s organic rules.

The proposal includes important changes to the criteria concerning the size of farms eligible to join a group of operators. Criteria based on turnover associated with their farms’ organic sales through the group are removed, and eligible farm sizes are increased. Requirements concerning the legal personality of a group are also amended.

For more details, see [Simplification of organic rules](#).

#### Recommended action:

This proposal has been notified to the WTO. Kenyan stakeholders have the opportunity to submit comments through their competent authorities to the [EU TBT Enquiry Point](#) until **22 March 2026**.

### Permitted substances for use in organic production

The EU has authorised the use of protein from peas and potatoes for the clarification of organic fruit juices, fruit wines, and mead.

The European Commission’s Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) has started an evaluation of substances to be authorised for cleaning and disinfection in organic production. This evaluation is taking longer than anticipated. The current list of authorised substances, limited to the cleaning and disinfection of buildings and installations for animal production, will continue to apply until **31 December 2027**.

For more details, see [Revision of permitted substances for use in organic production \(2025\)](#).



## Recognition of control bodies

In October 2025, the EU added AfriCert Limited to the list of control bodies approved for certifying Kenyan organic production.

Since **1 January 2025**, only control authorities and control bodies that are officially recognised by the EU to conduct compliance audits are able to issue organic certificates in non-EU countries.

For more details, see [Organic products: Recognition of control bodies](#).

### Recommended action:

Operators must ensure they use the most up-to-date version of the list of control authorities and control bodies. Visit Regulation [2021/1378](#) and click on “Current consolidated version”.

## Lists of high-risk countries and products

The EU is establishing a list of organic products, and the countries in which they are produced, which pose a high risk of non-compliance with EU organic rules. These products will be subject to more frequent controls (identity and physical checks) by control authorities/bodies.

The criteria for high-risk listing are currently based on established (proven) cases of non-compliance. However, in many cases there is a high level of suspicion of non-compliance, but it is difficult for control bodies to prove. The European Commission has drafted a Regulation changing the current criteria to allow products to be placed on the high-risk products list where there is *suspected* non-compliance.

The Regulation applies from **26 December 2025**.

For further details, see [Organic products: Lists of high risk countries and products](#).

## C. Customs and trade

### ELAN: Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities

The EU has established a new Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities (ELAN) that allows authorities in EU and non-EU countries to process and store documents relating to agri-food trade. These include documents issued by non-EU authorities to secure tariff rate quota licences.

The Commission has also published details of the data model and certificate format for use by non-EU authorities to issue certificates that are compatible with ELAN.

From **17 January 2028**, all certificates issued by non-EU authorities will have to be notified to ELAN using the new format. From July 2025, an ELAN testing environment (“acceptance environment”) is open which allows ELAN users to test the system. ELAN will be part of the EU’s Trade Control and Expert System ([TRACES](#)). This new system aims to streamline cooperation between authorities.

For further details, see [ELAN: Electronic system for Agricultural Non-customs formalities](#).



## Safeguard import duties for certain agri-food products

The European Commission proposes to amend the rules on additional safeguard import duties. These can only be imposed either where prices drop below a certain level, or where the volume of imports exceeds a certain level. Currently, safeguard duties cannot be imposed if imports are unlikely to disturb the EU market. The Commission proposes to remove this condition.

This change will align EU rules with obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) [Agreement on Agriculture](#).

The proposed rules will be adopted by late **2026**/early **2027**.

For further details, see [Safeguard import duties for certain agri-food products](#).

## Molasses import tariffs

The EU has set cost, insurance, and freight (CIF) representative prices and import duties for cane and beet molasses until **30 September 2026** (2025 marketing year)

- €19.57 per 100 kg for molasses from sugar cane (CN code 1703 10 00)
- €16.19 per 100 kg for molasses from sugar beet (CN code 1703 90 00).

The import duty for these products for the 2025 marketing year is zero

For details see [Molasses import tariffs](#)

## Unfair Trading Practices

The Unfair Trading Practices (UTP) Directive aims to protect agri-food suppliers who sell directly to buyers in the European Union (EU) against UTPs. Non-EU agri-food suppliers are also protected by these rules.

The European Commission is collecting feedback and evidence from stakeholders on the functioning of the UTP Directive in preparation for a revision of the Directive. EU and non-EU stakeholders – including farmers and suppliers of agricultural and food products, as well as associations – are invited to share experiences, challenges faced, and any recommendations that could reinforce protection against UTPs.

For more details, see [Review of Unfair Trading Practices \(UTP\) Directive](#).

### Recommended action:

Feedback can be given through the European Commission's [Have Your Say](#) webpage until **27 February 2026**. Stakeholders wishing to respond must be registered. Those who do not already have an account will first need to [Create an EU login account](#), then register their organisation on the [Transparency register](#).

## D. Sustainability

### EU Deforestation Regulation

The European Union (EU) has postponed the application of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) until **30 December 2026** due to concerns about the burden on companies created by the EUDR, as well as technical concerns about the [EUDR information system](#).



In December 2025, EU law makers agreed on the following simplifications to the EUDR:

- Only operators *first* placing relevant agri-food products (cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, soya) on the EU market will have to assess the compliance of products with the EUDR, and submit due diligence statements to the EUDR information system.
- “Downstream operators” – companies that subsequently sell or process these products within the EU, but are not the first to place them on the EU market – will no longer have to submit their own due diligence statements.
- “Micro and small primary operators” who put their own products on the EU market will be required to make a one-time simplified declaration of EUDR conformity.

For more details, see [Review of EU Deforestation Regulation: simplification](#)

## E. Policy outlook

### Simplification of EU food and feed safety rules

The European Commission proposes to simplify a large number of existing rules aiming to reduce the burdens and costs of EU food and feed safety rules for operators and competent authorities.

#### *Authorisation and renewal of pesticides and biocidal products*

The EU aims to encourage the transition from chemical pesticides to more sustainable solutions. Removal of the current 10-year limit for approvals and renewals of conventional pesticides would allow authorities to focus on the approval of new biopesticides. The Commission also proposes to clarify the definition of biopesticides as “biocontrol substances”.

#### *Terminology and transitional measures for pesticide maximum residue levels*

These measures aim to align the rules that apply to imported products with the rules that apply to production within the EU. MRLs for pesticides that are particularly hazardous for public health or the environment, and therefore are not allowed within the EU, would be reduced to 0.01 mg/kg (LOD). Products that were compliant with EU MRLs at the time of production, or when placed on the EU market, would be allowed to be sold until the end of their shelf-life.

#### *Biocidal products*

It is proposed that active substances used in biocides (including those already approved) should be approved for an unlimited duration, unless there is a specific need to limit the duration to protect human and animal health or the environment.

#### *Official checks of plant consignments at border control posts*

Proposed changes allowing more flexibility in clearance of consignments at border control posts, allowing border control posts to release compliant plant products while awaiting controls of other batches of the same consignment requiring different checks.

#### *Fermentation products from genetically modified micro-organisms*

The aim is to clarify that genetically modified micro-organisms (GMMs) used in fermentation of food or feed are not considered by the EU as genetically modified organisms (GMOs). These products do not require authorisation under the GMO Regulation provided certain conditions are met.

For more information, see [Simplification of EU food and feed safety rules](#)



## Upcoming EU regulatory changes and opportunities for feedback

For some new policies and laws, the EU gives the opportunity to all stakeholders (including from non-EU countries) to provide their input and feedback.

For live consultations, see AGRINFO's [Ongoing Consultations](#) webpage.

Upcoming (expected) consultations so far announced for 2026 are listed here: [Upcoming EU regulatory changes and opportunities for feedback: Quarterly report](#).

For more information on the EU consultation process, see [How to provide feedback on upcoming EU policies and regulations – explained](#).



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