

In the global crop protection market, generics rule the roost !



Share of generic pesticides in the global market (2022).

Generic pesticides have a lion's share of **93%** in the world market.

Total agrochemical market: **\$75.5 bn.**

Sale of generics: **\$70.2 bn (93%).**

Sale of patented: **\$5.3 bn (7%).**

Top 20 selling pesticides in the world are all generics (off-patent).

Rank	Active Ingredient	Sales (\$ mn)	Remarks
1	Glyphosate	7,898	Generic Herbicide
2	Chlorantraniliprole	1,933	Generic Insecticide
3	Glufosinate	1,533	Generic Herbicide
4	Atrazine	1,414	Generic Herbicide
5	Azoxystrobin	1,404	Generic Fungicide
6	Thiamethoxam	1,161	Generic Insecticide
7	Prothioconazole	1,151	Generic Fungicide
8	Metolachlor	1,099	Generic Herbicide
9	Pyraclostrobin	1,002	Generic Fungicide
10	2,4-D	984	Generic Herbicide
11	Imidacloprid	959	Generic Insecticide
12	Mancozeb	955	Generic Fungicide
13	Paraquat	895	Generic Herbicide
14	Tebuconazole	874	Generic Fungicide
15	Dicamba	849	Generic Herbicide
16	Acetochlor	811	Generic Herbicide
17	Lambda-Cyhalothrin	736	Generic Insecticide
18	Trifloxystrobin	687	Generic Fungicide
19	Abamectin	682	Generic Insecticide
20	Acephate	667	Generic Insecticide

Source: Agribusiness by S&P Global (Accessed on 3rd July 2024)

India is a leading producer and exporter of generic pesticides.

The generic pesticides produced in India are known for quality, consistency, competitiveness and sold in over 150 countries including USA, Brazil, EU, Australia, Japan, China, etc.

What is a Generic Pesticide?



A generic pesticide is mostly an off patent one that contains the same active ingredient that was originally invented and protected by patent.

A generic pesticide is identical to its first introduced patented counterpart as regards quality, safety and performance characteristics. Functionally there would be no difference between the two.

The difference between the two is on the price front. The generic pesticide costs up to 80% less than the patented counterpart. Generic pesticides, therefore, offer cost-effective plant protection.

Why do generic pesticides cost less?



Monopoly is the most important reason for the high price of patented pesticides, mostly produced and supplied by the inventor companies in the western countries.

On the contrary, the generic pesticides are domestically produced in India by many companies. The non-exclusivity, mass production and market competition make a significant difference on the cost and price.

Generic pesticides result from socially responsible and commercially valuable innovation using the local manpower and resources.

Key Message

India is a global leader in the export of generic pesticides (similar to generic drugs). This sector fetches valuable trade surplus.

Many of the newly launched active ingredient (patented) struggle to establish in the marketplace. Farmers around the world prefer to use generic pesticides as they give cost effective pest control.

Indian Government must introduce policies that facilitate manufacture and export of generic pesticides.

Granting data exclusivity to post patented and old pesticides is detrimental to India's interests. It will delay launch of new generics by Indian companies and erode their global competitiveness. It will only end up repatriating revenues from India to western countries.

