

Dr Alison Connolly



IMAGE: Ireland's bioMonitoring Assessment of Glyphosate Exposures

The IMAGE project is an environmental assessment of exposures to glyphosate among the Irish population. Glyphosate is the world's most commonly used herbicide and marketed for use under several products, including Roundup®. In 2015, glyphosate was classed as "Group 2A – probably carcinogenic to humans" by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Many international agencies and government bodies differ in their classifications to that of IARC, including the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Glyphosate is widely used in agriculture, horticulture, and for amateur gardening. In the IMAGE project, we will measure environmental exposures to glyphosate and its main metabolite (breakdown product), Aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA), among Irish farm and non-farm families.

The IMAGE project will use a human biomonitoring strategy as a first step to measure exposures to glyphosate among families, including farm and non-farm families. The information collected in this project will generate data on environmental exposure to chemicals – information which can be used to support policy-making and examine methods to reduce exposure. Studies such as IMAGE are important to evaluate the level of exposure of contaminants in the general population.

Project website: www.nuigalway.ie/image. See social media tab for an RTÉ Brainstorm piece and a press release about the project.

See also the IMAGE project page on the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's Pesticide Control Division website: <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/news/imageproject.html>.

@aliconnolly18

@IMAGEIRE