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Italy Grants Agrin Legal Standing to Run Crop Protection Trials

The ministry’s decree lets the Potenza-based center conduct official field tests that generate efficacy data for regulators.

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Italy’s Health Ministry has formally recognized Agrin Soc. Cons. Arl as a qualified testing center authorized to carry out official field trials aimed at producing efficacy data for plant protection products, according to a decree published in Italy’s Official Gazette on Aug. 5.

The recognition applies to Agrin’s registered office in Potenza, in the southern region of Basilicata, at Via della Tecnica 9. Under the text of the decree, the company is considered suitable to conduct official field tests under Article 8, paragraph 2, of Legislative Decree No. 65 of March 14, 2014, and under a ministerial decree dated March 20, 2003. The measure took effect the day after publication, on Aug. 6.

The decree is narrow in scope, but it has a clear regulatory function. It does not approve a new pesticide or authorize the sale of a crop-protection product. Instead, it recognizes the center’s fitness to perform official trials that generate data on how well plant protection products work in field conditions. Those data are a key part of the technical record used in agricultural regulation and product evaluation.

In practical terms, official field trials are used to test whether a product is effective against a target problem such as a pest, a plant disease or a weed. They are carried out in agricultural settings rather than only in laboratories, which allows regulators and companies to assess performance in real growing conditions. Recognition by the ministry means the center can produce data within the Italian framework governing this type of testing.

The published measure does not specify which crops Agrin will work on, how many trial sites it may use or whether current or future projects will involve particular products. It also does not describe the center’s technical staff, equipment or testing calendar. What it establishes is the legal recognition of the center’s suitability for this category of official work.

That point matters for a broad part of Italian agriculture because efficacy data influence how farmers and advisers judge crop-protection tools. In sectors tied to beverages, the effect could be especially relevant over time. Vineyards depend on reliable information about products used to control fungal pressure, insects and other threats that can affect yields and grape quality. The same logic can extend to crops used in brewing and distilling, including grains and botanicals, where disease and pest control can shape both farm output and raw material consistency.

For wine producers, the link is indirect but important. When trial centers generate recognized efficacy data, they help support the evidence base behind decisions on which plant protection products can be relied on in the field and under what conditions. That can affect vineyard management choices, especially in areas where growers face recurring disease pressure and must balance crop protection, cost and production quality. It does not change those decisions by itself, but it adds capacity to the system that produces the underlying data.

Italy’s plant protection regime operates within both national and European rules, and efficacy is one of the core elements examined when products are assessed for agricultural use. Centers that are officially recognized therefore play a technical role in the chain between product development, regulatory review and farm practice. Their work can help determine whether a product performs as claimed when used on crops in real conditions.

Agrin’s recognition adds one more authorized center to that network. By naming the company and its legal address and by citing the legislative basis for the decision, the ministry has given it formal standing to conduct these official field trials from the date the measure entered into force.