
STAKEHOLDER EVENT ON THE EVALUATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES

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“Take home” messages



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Framework

Towards further implementation of the SUD

- PPPs still play an important role in food production so the goal of the SUD should also be consumer demands and a sustainable income for farmers;
- Farmers should be involved in education and extension activities and must have access to constant and updated training and robust advisory support systems that should play a role in the integration of innovative technologies and methods such as precision technologies, new plant breeding, alternative pest control methods (inc. biopesticides, basic substances and biocontrol agents) in line with the IPM principles;
- The adoption and use of innovative technologies towards reducing exposure and or risks from use of pesticides should be part of the Risk assessment procedure and decision making but lack proper framing (legal, standardisation, certification) for consideration in a harmonised and uniform way;
- Industry is committed to the overall goal of further investing on precision and digital technologies that may contribute to increased reduction of environmental and human exposure to pesticides, the general adoption by all MS of systems for the management of residues from PPP packaging and also further training of advisors and farmers.

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How can the SUD implementation be further strengthened

- Need to increase levels of protection of the environment and biodiversity; protection of pollinators and ecosystem services they provide should be achieved by setting default Risk Mitigation Measures and better enforcement of the SUD and adoption of exposure reducing technologies and landscape management;
- Recognising the contribution of alternative methods and technologies and promoting their general adoption as an integral part of the process in reducing human and environmental exposure and risks should be given the proper attention and be incorporated in policy making and the decision making process;
- Monitoring of real exposure of the EU population to pesticides and understanding the main sources would enable the establishment of baseline exposure levels allowing proper assessment of the effectiveness of measures taken to reduce exposure and improve the Risk Assessment;
- The polluter –pays principle should be horizontally applied to all activities that may result in environmental contaminations;

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Indicators of success

- Indicators must encourage, reward and document the implementation and use of alternative systems and tools;
- Additional Harmonised Risk Indicators for measuring risk reduction that cover agronomic conditions consumer, operator , water protection and environmental safety are needed;
- To assess the success of measures implemented and or effects from exposure to pesticides, monitoring should be systematically used and results would serve for fine-tuning measures taken *vis-a-vis* targets and timeframes set;
- Expectations must be fulfilled by strict monitoring, controls and audits in relation to the use of alternatives to chemical pesticides and organic farming implementation and integration of new technologies;

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Expectations

- Consumers need simple information and stricter provisions and implementation of the SUD and relevant legislation;
- Non-agricultural areas are potentially able to contribute to the overall reduction of PPP use if proper management practices and implemented;
- Active dissemination of workable best practices needs to be supported;
- Role of national advisory systems to advise and support farmers to consider alternative ways of plant protection other than PPP treatment should be considered;
- Favor a systematic approach with a strong commitment and coordinated simultaneous action of all actors concerned.

Framework

Sustainable Food Systems

- European food as global standard for sustainability. But the Food System as we know it faces the enormous challenge of producing 'more with less';
- Food should be safe and affordable for consumers, economically viable for producers and comply with human and environmental standards;
- Safe and healthy food with a more efficient use of available resources is needed;
- Production needs to ensure that activities are enhancing & protecting the land and the environment;
- Achieving ambitious goals requires synergies between sectors and players in the value chains;
- A comprehensive approach to all EU policies related to the food chain is needed to achieve the goals;

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

