

**OECD WORK ON**  
PESTICIDES AND  
SUSTAINABLE PEST  
MANAGEMENT

**VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

A cooperative global approach to the regulation  
of agricultural pesticides and sustainable pest  
management.



# Introduction

Pesticides are widely used in agriculture and have considerable benefits by contributing to a sustainable production of food and feed. If used improperly or in an inappropriate manner, they also can present unacceptable risks to human and animal health and to the environment. Therefore, governments set high standards for the registration of new pesticides as well as for re-evaluation of pesticides that are already on the market to ensure that they meet current health, environment and safety standards.

Since 1992, the OECD Programme on Pesticides and Sustainable Pest Management has worked to streamline the process of pesticide approval and registration by helping governments work together to evaluate the risks of individual pesticides more quickly and thoroughly. It has also developed tools and approaches to reduce risks from pesticides and to evaluate progress in risk reduction, taking into account impacts caused by climate change and threats to biodiversity.

Nowadays cooperation among OECD countries, such as joint reviews of pesticides and sharing of existing evaluations, is increasing, thus leading to more efficiency of pesticide assessment and to saving resources for regulators and industry.

Countries agree that control procedures on compliance with existing legislation, including procedures for fighting illegal international trade of pesticides, need better harmonisation to become more effective. Work to that effect has started.

Sustainable use of pesticides contributes to further risk reduction. OECD works towards a proper use of pesticides through improved training and towards better compliance with the existing regulations to ensure effective and sustainable pest management strategies, including resistance management. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies which include the use of bio-pesticides and other non-chemical methods are a means to achieve these goals and OECD has developed activities in this area, also in cooperation with other international organisations like UN-FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization).

All stakeholders benefit from the OECD Programme on Pesticides and Sustainable Pest Management: consumers and the population in general through improved protection of human health and the environment, regulatory authorities and tax payers through resource savings, farmers through effective plant protection products, industry through rapid and transparent registration decisions.

## Vision



### Enhance protection of humans, animals and environment

Co-operate globally on the evaluation and registration of agricultural pesticides resulting in benefits for human and animal health as well as for the environment and considerable resource savings for governments and industries. OECD-wide accepted data requirements, test guidelines and documentation standards for country evaluation reports should lead to mutual trust and full acceptance of evaluations based on good science.



### Integrate green growth strategies

Contribute to green growth of agriculture, horticulture and forestry by promoting resource efficient and integrated plant protection strategies that respond to the growing demand on food and feed production and to the need for sustainability. The OECD will also encourage work on modern cropping systems, precision farming and other computer-aided technologies in order to enhance sustainability and reduce risks associated with pesticides.



### Foster public confidence

Increase trust from society in the registration of agricultural pesticides and integrated pest management strategies in agriculture as basic instruments to ensure social and economic well-being and reducing risks to human health and the environment.



### Facilitate cooperation

Become a driver and the main facilitator of cooperation between countries and international organisations dealing with the safety of agricultural pesticides and pest management strategies in agriculture, horticulture and forestry.

# Strategic objectives for 2024

- 1 Protection of human health and the environment will be facilitated through harmonised science-based data requirements and methodologies for hazard and risk assessment (toxicity and exposure). A life-cycle approach will be taken in the regulation of pesticides, in a continuous feedback loop, to obtain a more efficient and well-informed decision-making process. Test guidelines and guidance documents will be reconsidered and further developed. Besides human and animal health, the focus will be on the evaluation of pesticide side effects on the environment.
- 2 Mutual recognition of pesticide reviews will become the basis for international cooperation of pesticide regulatory bodies.
- 3 Work sharing among regulatory authorities of OECD countries, and where appropriate also partner countries, will lead to resource savings and mutual trust. In particular, emerging issues will be identified, communicated and common policy responses will be developed.
- 4 Integrated pest management (IPM) will become the accepted approach in all OECD member countries. IPM will be based on OECD-wide harmonised principles, and non-chemical and biological control measures will play a greater role.
- 5 Through enhanced cooperation, the fight against illegal international trade of agricultural pesticides will be strengthened.
- 6 Non-tariff barriers to trade will be minimised.

# Vision for the future

A global approach to the regulation of agricultural pesticides: harmonised regulation and sustainable use



## CORE ELEMENTS TOWARDS MEETING THE VISION

*To meet the Vision of the OECD Programme on Pesticides and Sustainable Pest Management, the following core elements will have to be in place*

### Harmonisation

Harmonisation of the regulatory systems and work sharing to help improve the registration system

### Sustainable approach

A sustainable approach towards plant protection

### Risk reduction

Reduction of risks arising from agricultural pesticides

### Enhanced Communication

Enhanced communication on regulatory processes and decisions

### Partnerships

Partnering with non-OECD countries

# Core elements

- Harmonisation of regulatory systems and work sharing
  - Sustainable approach towards plant protection
  - Reduction of risks arising from agricultural pesticides
    - Enhanced communication on regulatory processes and decisions.
  - Partnering with non-OECD countries

## Harmonisation of the regulatory systems and work sharing to help improve the registration system

The regulatory systems for agricultural pesticides (both chemical and biological pesticides) will have been harmonised to the extent that country data reviews (hazard assessments or monographs) for new and re-evaluated existing pesticides prepared in the OECD format on a national or regional basis can be used to support independent risk assessments and - where possible - regulatory decisions made in other regions or countries; the preparation of data submissions (dossiers) for pesticide active substances will be co-ordinated globally by industry, to the extent possible, in a way that opportunities are maximised for work sharing or mutual recognition among the regulatory authorities of OECD member and partner countries.

Thanks to confidence-building and mutual understanding of assessment and review processes among regulatory authorities, mutual recognition or work sharing arrangements between regulatory authorities will take place as a matter of routine, notwithstanding the need for separate independent risk assessments and regulatory decisions in each jurisdiction.

Availability of plant protection solutions in minor uses is considered a key issue for a sustainable food production worldwide. Minor uses mean plant protection needs for minor crops and/or against minor pests. Therefore, research in OECD member and partner countries will be fostered to find both chemical and non-chemical solutions to minor use issues and facilitate minor use registration.

# Core elements

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- Sustainable approach towards plant protection
- Reduction of risks arising from agricultural pesticides
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## Sustainable approach towards plant protection

A holistic approach to plant protection will be taken and issues will be reviewed from the sustainability point of view rather than looking at one chemical at a time. This includes economic, social and environmental aspects, as well as possible impacts on biodiversity. Integrated pest management will be considered the key strategy for the sustainable use of pesticides. The specifics of organic farming will be taken into account. The contribution of organic farming to sustainable agriculture is recognised and integrated pest management will take stock of its experiences wherever possible.

Farmers will have better access to the tools necessary for plant protection, in particular integrated pest management, in agriculture, horticulture and forestry.

Research on and registration of lower risk chemicals and bio-pesticides as well as research on other non-chemical alternatives will be fostered and facilitated.

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## Reduction of risks arising from agricultural pesticides

High standards will be used for registration and placing on the market of active substances and products.

National action plans will be developed with mandatory and voluntary provisions and requirements for proper manufacturing, marketing and use of agricultural pesticides.

Progress in risk reduction will be monitored through OECD-wide accepted risk indicators which enable monitoring of the implementation of risk reduction programmes.

The effective and efficient compliance with regulatory requirements will be ensured through enforcement policies and measures, including through a global alliance against the illegal international trade of pesticides.

Integrated pest management will be promoted, leading to a broader suite of control methods and lower risks to health and the environment.



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## Enhanced communication on regulatory processes and decisions

Public confidence in pesticide regulatory processes and decisions will be improved through (i) enhanced and understandable communication in order to provide full transparency on benefits and risks, including risk assessment and risk management decisions; and (ii) through increased scientific exchange, especially on emerging science issues, among regulatory authorities leading to robust decision making and greater international convergence. Communication will also be focused on international harmonisation efforts leading to more resource efficiency and lower costs for applicants and governments. This will include communication about:

- > existing legislation and compliance.
- > data requirements, risk assessments and regulatory decisions on agricultural pesticides and the status of the registrations.
- > the results of national action plans and planned activities to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides.

## Partnering with non-OECD countries

The benefits and results derived from the work of the OECD Pesticides Programme are promoted through direct outreach and cooperation with interested partners as well as with international intergovernmental organisations involved in pesticide assessment and management, thereby supporting partner countries' efforts to efficiently establish and manage their pesticide regulatory systems.



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