



ZERYA® Commitments to the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices

ZERYA®, is a **Spanish initiative** with a solid expansion at European and global level that responds to a technical reality in the horticultural production, **sustainable and free from pesticide residues**, providing a **differentiating feature** important to these products versus those that generate other agricultural models existing and emerging at this time. It's a production system based on **research and development** in ongoing improvement, and where the implementation phase is carried out through the company's technical department, assisted, if necessary, by specialists trained in these techniques. It is therefore staff who have a **multidisciplinary, knowledge** geared towards production of **different fruit and vegetable products** with special concern for the consumer's **health** and at the same time for **sustainability**, care for the **environment**, and with **guarantee of supply and continuity**. Businesswise, ZERYA is a small business working since 2009 whose workforce is based in Valencia, Spain.

As a voluntary standard and certification mark with a clear mission to develop more sustainable agricultural systems, **ZERYA embraces the purpose and philosophy of the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices**, and commits to drive its users and certified companies to achieve the objectives whose content can be met with the use of the ZERYA Standard whilst contributing to its dissemination and increasing the awareness about the efforts of the food supply chain to reach them.

In particular, ZERYA will engage in the achievement of the following objectives:



Aspirational Objective 1	Healthy, balanced and sustainable diets for all European consumers, thereby contributing to:	2) Reducing the environmental footprint of food consumption by 2030	ZERYA proactively encourages farmers to adopt agricultural practices with lesser chemical inputs, that preserve biodiversity and soil, likewise with a more rational use of water and energy.
CROSS-CUTTING Aspirational Objective 2	Prevention and reduction of food loss and waste (Set in line with SDG 12.3)	b) Minimising waste and reducing losses in operations and across value chains	ZERYA engages with farmers to adopt or develop plant nutrition and plant protection strategies intended to extend the shelf life of produce, also catering for quality and yield to avoid discarded product.
Aspirational Objective 3	A climate neutral food chain in Europe by 2050 Aspirational target: Reducing net emissions from own operations, contributing to a 55% GHG emission reduction target in the EU food chain by 2030	Reducing net emission from own operations Reduce energy use and improve energy efficiency for production through the use of less energy-intensive and low-carbon technologies	ZERYA conveys to farmers an accurate measure of their GHG emissions and to identify the process where energy efficiency can be improved
Aspirational Objective 5	Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all	Aspirational targets: a) Improving business resilience and competitiveness and b) Supporting skilled workforce and providing safe and inclusive workplaces for all	ZERYA has a permanent policy on engaging in R+D programmes across the supply chain to facilitate farmers the adoption of advanced technologies ZERYA includes the constant training and upskilling of the workers, likewise the reduction of chemical inputs achieved with the ZERYA standard improves the safety of rural workplaces



Sustainable value creation in the European food supply chain through partnership.

Two aspirational targets:

a) Improved resilience and competitiveness of companies at any point along the food value chain by 2030

- ✓ Promoting technology and knowledge transfer
- ✓ Engaging in joint pre-competitive research & innovation

ZERYA is often an instrument for knowledge transfer between industry or academia and farmers, as it engages in projects and demonstration plots so farmers can learn and uptake the latest innovations

Aspirational Objective 6

b) Continued progress towards sustainable production, contributing to sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources by 2030 and improved animal welfare

- ✓ Improving biodiversity
- ✓ Climate adaptation while contributing to improvement of farmers' livelihoods
- ✓ Sustainable management of natural resources

Part of ZERYA's core business is to assess farmers on mitigation of their environmental footprint at all levels: reduction of chemical input, protection of biodiversity, compensation of environmental services, recovery of nature's balance in the farms surroundings, etc. always caring for the affordability and profitability of farmers.

Support sustainable use of pesticides and fertilizers whilst contributing to maintaining food security and resilience

The other aspect of ZERYA's core business is a thorough assessment of the chemical inputs, particularly pesticides and ways to lessen farmers' dependence on them in favour of technologies that are more reliable and less pollutant.



Sustainable sourcing in food supply chains.

Aspirational Objective 7

Two aspirational targets:

a) Transformed commodity supply chains which do not contribute to deforestation, forest degradation and destruction of natural habitat and which preserve and protect high value ecosystems and biodiversity.

a) Improved social performance in (global) food supply chains

- ✓ Promote sustainable sourcing of materials in relation with (direct) suppliers, inside or outside of the EU
- ✓ Encourage the uptake of scientifically-robust sustainability certification schemes for food
- ✓ Identify and contribute to appropriate solutions and strategies towards:
 - Supporting, conserving or protecting natural habitats and biodiversity
 - Preventing, reducing or remedying negative impacts of operations on air, land, soil, water, forests
 - Deforestation-/conversion-free food supply chains
 - Afforestation
 - Sustainable land use
- ✓ Encourage the uptake of scientifically-robust sustainability certification/audit schemes for food in relation to social performance

ZERYA is a sustainability certification scheme whose main goal is for farmers to achieve pesticide-residue free fruits and vegetables in conventional agriculture management. To pursue that purpose, it requires to transfer as much scientific knowledge as applicable to farmers, which include decision making tools and monitoring systems so farmers can preserve the phytosanitary conditions of their land in optimal conditions with the minimum use of chemicals and an optimal environmental service compensation ratio. So, all the strategies contemplated in this AO can be approached by ZERYA and conduct farmers towards its achievement.

All the goals of the ZERYA standard cover a social component such as rural workers health, protection of rural clusters, etc. Scientific approach is key.



ZERYA® Quality Assurance

- The cooperation between each technical committee of ZERYA® and farmers is an agricultural network focused on knowledge development and dissemination in practice.
- Every farmer has to meet general requirements (Global Gap, etc.) and specific requirements (ZERYA® guidelines on training, crop protection, multi-residue testing, monitoring, fertilizing, etc.) to participate.
- Usually new members have to participate in a 12-month conversion period, before having the possibility to get their crops ZERYA® certified.
- ZERYA® offers the option to farmers to suspend a crop certification (in real time on the website) when necessary.
- Residue reduction scheme directives and drawing unannounced samples allow a reliable control of the types of active ingredients in crop protection. All residue test results can be consulted online per traceability code.
- Local laboratories near the production regions allow to keep up with the high frequency of sampling required by the ZERYA® standard.

With all hereby stated, we would like to become signatories of the EU Code of Conduct for Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices as we are fully aligned with its principles and ambitions and we look forward to cooperating with the rest of the signatories and establish partnerships that can reach farmers and operators that are in the orbit of SME's and that sometimes cannot be reached by larger operators, nonetheless they are just as important.

As a voluntary standard operator, our KPI's are pretty much those of our operators, in that sense, our commitment with the farmers that use our standard is to reduce by 50% their dependance on the use of pesticides and by 30% their gross consumption of

chemical fertilizers yet keeping their productivity and quality. As a Small Business, we will produce simplified reports of our activities on three-year basis for the reporting purposes of this Code of Conduct.

We look forward to participating in this initiative.

With my kindest salutations,

Javier Arizmendi Ruiz – C.O.O.