



GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

“NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS”

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1.- BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food (MAPA) coordinates the drafting of the 'National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products' (hereinafter referred to as 'the PAN'), in agreement with the national plant protection committee, the autonomous communities and other departments of the General State Administration whose responsibilities include contributing to the plan.

In drafting the PAN, experience gained from the previous PAN 2013-2017 and PAN 2018-2022 has been taken into account, as well as the comments in the FVO's report assessing the national plans of all Member States. There has also been a process of public participation pursuant to the provisions of Article 2 of Directive 2003/35/EC.

The PAN is the action plan for compliance with the EU mandate laid down in Article 4 of Directive 2009/128/EEC of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides (hereinafter referred to as 'the Directive'); and the provisions added by Commission Directive (EU) 2019/782 of 15 May 2019 amending Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the establishment of harmonised risk indicators is to be incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

The PAN also conforms to the provisions of Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework for action to ensure the sustainable use of plant protection products (hereinafter referred to as 'the RD') incorporating the Directive into the Spanish national law, which partially implements the provisions of Article 25 of Plant Health Law 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Law').

Moreover, the PAN is unique and complete, since it brings together the actions of all of the competent bodies and authorities in the field, making it an efficient tool for improving all of the activities related to the sustainable use of plant protection products.

The PAN takes up the objectives set out in the Directive and in the RD, which are to ensure the sustainable use of plant protection products by reducing the risks and effects of the use of plant protection products on human health and the environment, and promoting the integrated management of pests and of alternative techniques or approaches, such as non-chemical alternatives to plant protection products, which include biological and biotechnical methods for controlling pests.

To that end, the national action sets quantitative objectives, goals, measures, indicators and time schedules.

Furthermore, on 20 May 2020 the European Commission published its Communication on the "Farm to Fork" Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system, which, *inter alia*, called for a 50% reduction in the use and risk of plant protection products by 2030, as well as an additional 50% reduction in the use of the most hazardous plant protection products over the same period. Those objectives are also part of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

In line with this strategy, the Commission has put forward a proposal for a Regulation on the sustainable use of plant protection products.

This PAN is being developed in parallel with the negotiation of that Regulation, which will introduce substantial changes in that field and to national action plans, harmonising the relevant legislation at EU level.

The PAN we are establishing now should provide a transition between the 2009 Directive and the new Regulation to be adopted over the coming months. The progress we achieve will enable us to deal in a simpler and easier fashion with the new rules and obligations, with no gaps or interruptions of any kind.

This PAN shall therefore be in force from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024, and it may be extended or modified if necessary. However, the PAN can be revised, partially or totally, if its annual evaluations find it to be necessary in order to update the planning with the correct identification of needs and the definition of clear objectives and ordered actions.

Pursuant to Article 7 of the RD, annual reports shall be drawn up detailing the results of application of the PAN during the previous year, including an evaluation of said results in relation to achievement of the objectives. Where relevant, the reports shall detail any need to make partial amendments to the PAN.

2.- GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The general objectives of the PAN are as follows:

- 1- To promote integrated pest management (IPM) to ensure the farming, forestry and food sector remains prosperous and to make a positive contribution to the environment through a sustainable production model that is compatible with the rational use of plant protection products.
- 2- To reduce the risks and effects related to the use of plant protection products, especially in the field of human health and the environment.

With a view to achieving the general objectives indicated, the harmonised risk indicators set out in Commission Directive (EU) 2019/782 of 15 May 2019 amending Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the establishment of harmonised risk indicators may be analysed.

The calculation of the harmonised risk indicators shall be published annually on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, no later than 20 months after the end of the reference year in question.

3.- SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Specific priority objectives, in the form of measures or groups of measures, shall be provided to ensure achievement of the general objectives set out above.

The specific objectives of the PAN are as follows:

- 1- Improve training and information on the sustainable and safe use of plant protection products,
- 2- Promote innovation and technology transfer in integrated pest management and the sustainable use of plant protection products,

- 3- Promote integrated pest management to ensure a rational use of plant protection products,
- 4- Promote the availability of plant protection products that effectively control pests, diseases and weeds, without harming health or damaging the environment,
- 5- Promote techniques that minimise the risks related to the use of plant protection products,
- 6- Step up monitoring of the marketing of plant protection products,
- 7- Improve controls on the use of plant protection products,
- 8- Reduce the risk arising from the use of plant protection products in specific areas.
- 9- Improve and extend the use of plant protection alerts for citizens and the vulnerable and sensitive population.

4.- MEASURES BY OBJECTIVE

The obligations provided for in the RD shall be used to establish the measures for each of the specific objectives set.

In addition to complying with the general and specific objectives, the PAN is intended to act as a basis for the organisation and rationalisation of the measures to be applied to ensure the sustainable use of plant protection products.

When establishing said measures, it is important to identify the competent administrative body, and for this reason the attached measure forms also identify the competent body in each case.

The measures to be applied for each of the specific objectives set are as follows:

1) Improve training and information on the sustainable and safe use of plant protection products.

1.1 Run awareness and information campaigns on the sustainable use of plant protection products by professional users.

1.2 Improve knowledge of integrated pest management for non-agricultural purposes, particularly in local administrations.

1.3 Run awareness and information campaigns for citizens and non-professional users on the risks to health and the environment arising from the improper use of plant protection products,

1.4 Maintain and update the Official register of producers and operators of plant protection means (ROPO).

1.5 Set up, review and update training systems for advisers, professional users and vendors,

1.6 Run surveys on the marketing and use of plant protection products.

1.7 On-line database containing the available technical and scientific information on IPM techniques and practices.

2) Promote innovation and technology transfer in integrated pest management and the sustainable use of plant protection products.

2.1 Promote the development of innovation projects relating to integrated pest management and the sustainable use of plant protection products via the EIP-Agri cooperation aid line for supra-autonomous operational groups included in the supra-autonomous measures in the National Strategic Plan of CAP 2023-2027.

3) Promote integrated pest management to ensure a rational use of plant protection products.

3.1 Draft nationwide harmonised guidelines on integrated pest management and promote their updating.

3.2 Strengthen plant-health monitoring networks to facilitate decision-making when applying integrated pest management.

3.3 Set up and improve information and/or support systems for applying integrated pest management.

3.4 Promote integrated pest management advisory systems.

4) Promote the availability of plant protection products that effectively control pests, diseases and weeds, without harming health or damaging the environment.

4.1 Promote the availability and registration of new plant protection products that are respectful of health and the environment.

4.2 Promote the visibility and use of alternative plant protection methods.

4.3 Improve the evaluation procedures for low-risk active substances.

5) Promote techniques that minimise the risks related to the use of plant protection products.

5.1 Establish systems for approval, monitoring, registration and information concerning aerial applications.

5.2 Develop and consolidate programmes for inspecting equipment used to apply plant protection products.

5.3 Keep the register of all equipment used to apply plant protection products updated.

5.4 Improve the usage conditions for PPE for applicators of plant protection products and workers on re-entry.

6) Step up monitoring of the marketing of plant protection products.

6.1 Promote systems for the withdrawal from use of plant protection products and remnants thereof.

6.2 Promote empty container collection systems.

6.3 Update the electronic communication systems for sales of plant protection products.

6.4 Improve monitoring of the marketing of plant protection products.

6.5 Set up programmes to monitor the presence of plant protection products in surface and ground waters.

6.6 Set up programmes to monitor the presence of plant protection products in water intended for human consumption.

6.7 Statistics on poisoning caused by exposure to and/or use of plant protection products among workers and the general public.

7) Improve controls on the use of plant protection products

7.1 Set up monitoring programmes for the use of plant protection products.

7.2 Strengthen the system of official control laboratories.

7.3 Implement electronic communication systems for the use of plant protection products.

8) Reduce the risk arising from the use of plant protection products in specific areas.

8.1. Implementation and review of the methodology for assessing the effectiveness of the recommendations defined for protection zones on integrated pest management, and consideration of possible new measures to apply.

8.2. Promote awareness and knowledge of recommendations on plant protection products in protection zones.

9) Improve and extend the use of plant protection alerts for citizens and the vulnerable and sensitive population

9.1. Publish guidelines and protocols for communicating terrestrial and aerial plant protection alerts - including those using drones - to the general population and, in particular, to the vulnerable and sensitive population.

5.- ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

The term of the National action plan for the sustainable use of plant protection products shall be from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024.

All actions shall be implemented throughout the term of the PAN.

6.- CONTENT OF ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORTS

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food shall draw up an annual report detailing the results of the application of the PAN during the previous year, including an evaluation of those results in relation to the achievement of the objectives. Where relevant, the report shall detail any need to make partial amendments to the PAN.

The designated bodies and the competent central-government bodies involved shall send the MAPA, within the first three months of the following year, the information required to prepare the report.

The MAPA shall gather information from competent bodies and draw up a draft report to be submitted to them for comments. The content of the annual report shall be in accordance with Article 7 of Royal Decree 1311/2012, and with section 7 of PAN 2013-17, in which it is set out in detail. The annual report shall be sent to the national plant protection committee (CFN) for examination, analysis and approval by 1 June of each year.

The basic objectives of the report shall be to ascertain the degree to which measures have been implemented, to identify trends through analysis of results and to make any observations deemed necessary.

The annual report shall focus its analysis on the implementation of measures and achievement of the specific objectives, including a description of the actions implemented,

the actions needed to ensure that the measure is effective, the degree of implementation of the measure and conclusions regarding the progress of the measure.

The report should offer general conclusions regarding the progress of the PAN and general compliance with it.

Where deemed appropriate, a proposal to adapt the PAN shall be submitted to the CFN, summarising the shortcomings found and setting out possible modifications, with reasoning.

ANNEX I. MEASURE FORMS

1) Improve training and information on the sustainable and safe use of plant protection products.

1.1 Run awareness and information campaigns on the sustainable use of plant protection products by professional users.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

The measure seeks to increase the level of information among professional users of plant protection products in the agricultural and non-agricultural fields on the basis of information publications drawn up and distributed by competent bodies. Those publications may be distributed in paper form from official centres, such as district offices or distributors of plant protection products, or via the websites of competent bodies (MAPA, autonomous communities, provincial councils, town councils, farming organisations, associations of environmental health companies etc.).

Information for professional users shall cover subjects such as: the potential risks arising from the use of plant protection products, with emphasis placed on labelling and safety instructions in order to avoid risks to human health and the environment (including but not limited to good environmental practices relating to the preservation of natural resources, biodiversity, flora and fauna), and the risks of using illegal plant protection products; integrated pest management (IPM); the use of non-chemical alternatives; or the disposal of plant protection products and packaging management.

3. Competent bodies

The Directorate General for Farming Health (DGSPA) of the MAPA and the competent services of each autonomous region shall be responsible for producing publications and running information campaigns. The national plant protection committee may be consulted as an advisory body.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of information and/or awareness campaigns launched by competent bodies on the sustainable use of plant protection products. A campaign shall mean an information measure such as the publication of a leaflet, irrespective of the number of intended recipients of the measure.

5. Quantitative objectives

Carry out at least 50 annual information campaigns aimed at the greatest number of people.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

1.2 Improve knowledge of integrated pest management for non-agricultural purposes, particularly in local administrations.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Royal Decree 1311/2012 applies to all plant-health protection activities, both in the agricultural field and in other professional fields. It also allocates responsibility to the MAPA, the autonomous communities and local authorities.

However, experience during the term of previous PANs suggests that local bodies had little awareness of their responsibilities. That situation jeopardises compliance with the objectives of the Royal Decree and the Directive, both in the actions implemented by the local administrations themselves and in their duty to supervise the activities of other actors.

In order to alleviate that situation, it is intended to increase the number of training days and discussion fora on the application of the Royal Decree in non-agricultural fields, particularly in local administrations, and to enhance the obligation to inform the population of plant protection treatments in advance. Furthermore, the possibility of extending this measure to other relevant areas beyond local administrations will be considered.

In that way it is intended to increase the level of knowledge and awareness of the obligations for local administrations arising from the legislation. This is the only way to improve the implementation of IPM and the promotion of alternative techniques to chemical control that reduce the risks and effects arising from the use of plant protection products in terms of health and the environment (including but not limited to good environmental practices relating to the preservation of natural resources, biodiversity, flora and fauna).

3. Competent bodies

The competent bodies of each autonomous region shall be responsible for implementing this measure.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of open days held and number of people informed or made aware.

Number of local authorities designating a focal point.

5. Quantitative objectives

Holding at least three annual campaigns or open days.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

1.3 Run awareness and information campaigns for citizens and non-professional users on the risks to health and the environment arising from the improper use of plant protection products.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

The information aimed at the general public is intended to provide neutral information on the usefulness of and need for plant protection products and the risks associated with them, as well as the obligations of users.

The measure seeks to increase the level of information among citizens and non-professional users of plant protection products on the basis of information publications drawn up and distributed by competent bodies. Those publications may be distributed in paper form from official centres, such as district offices, distributors of plant protection products or retailers, or via the websites of competent bodies (MAPA, autonomous communities, provincial councils, town councils, farming organisations, health centres, hospitals, local authorities, associations of people affected by exposure to chemical and plant protection products etc.), or by any other means deemed appropriate.

The information to be disseminated shall cover topics such as the possible risks arising from the use of plant protection products, with emphasis placed on safety instructions for preventing risks to human health and the environment (including but not limited to good environmental practices relating to the preservation of natural resources, biodiversity, flora and fauna), the optimum conditions and situations for their use (temperature, wind speed, proximity of rain etc...), protective clothing and equipment, areas where private individuals cannot take action (roads, pavements etc.), the recommendation of good practices involving informing neighbouring populations before treatments, integrated pest management (IPM) the use of non-chemical alternatives and the disposal of plant protection products and packaging management.

3. Competent bodies

The Directorate General for Farming Health (DGSPA) of the MAPA, the Ministry of Health and each autonomous regions' competent services in the field of agriculture, health and the environment shall be responsible for producing publications and running information campaigns.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of information and/or awareness campaigns launched by competent bodies on the sustainable use of plant protection products. A campaign shall mean an information measure such as the publication of a leaflet or guidelines; the number of copies and intended recipients of the measure shall be specified. Training and awareness-raising measures regarding passersby and residents shall also be considered campaigns.

5. Quantitative objectives

Carry out at least five annual information campaigns or open days aimed at the greatest number of people.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

1.4 Maintain and update the Official register of producers and operators of plant protection means (ROPO).

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.

Royal Decree 3349/1983 of 30 November adopting the Technical sanitary regulations for the manufacture, marketing and use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

Royal Decree 285/2021 of 20 April 2021 laying down the conditions for storage, marketing, import or export, official control and authorisation of tests on plant protection products and amending Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Since its creation, the ROPO has been an essential surveying tool for optimising statistical data, as well as planning and performing official checks.

This tool, which is managed by the autonomous communities and whose information can be consulted nationally via the tool on the MAPA's website, provides information in four sections: suppliers, plant protection treatments, advisory and professional users. The main objective of this measure is for the competent authorities of the autonomous communities to update the IT application developed for their management, which is crucially important in terms of the management of the ROPO and control of the marketing and use of plant protection products, so that all agents with links to plant protection products are registered.

The usefulness of this tool depends directly on its content being up to date. Work is therefore needed to maintain the ROPO.

3. Competent bodies

The competent bodies of each autonomous region shall be responsible for maintaining the ROPO.

The Directorate General for Farming Health (DGSPA) of the MAPA shall be responsible for maintaining the IT application for the ROPO.

4. Compliance indicators

The indicators will be the number of suppliers of plant protection products, treatment companies, integrated pest management advisers and professional users registered in the ROPO.

5. Quantitative objectives

It is impossible to set a quantitative objective for this measure. Its objective is for all suppliers of plant protection products, treatment companies, integrated pest management advisers and

professional users to be registered in the ROPO, but there is no way of knowing beforehand how many registrations are needed.

6. Action schedule

The ROPO must be maintained, with constant updating of the data on suppliers, treatments and professional users, throughout the term of the PAN.

1.5 Set up, review and update training systems for advisers, professional users and vendors.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Law No 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 on Plant Health.

Royal Decree 3349/1983 of 30 November adopting the Technical sanitary regulations for the manufacture, marketing and use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

All professional users, advisers and sellers of plant protection products must hold a card attesting to the level of training they have received in the sustainable use of plant protection products, integrated pest management (IPM) and the use of non-chemical alternatives.

The objective is to ensure that all professional users, distributors and advisers have access to suitable training provided by designated entities approved by the competent authorities. This shall consist of both initial and additional training to acquire and update knowledge as appropriate.

For that purpose, the competent bodies shall create and maintain a list of qualifications for basic and qualified cards. The training programmes, topics and different levels of course shall be stipulated, as well as the training bodies where the training is provided.

These training programmes will be reviewed, *inter alia*, in the light of legislative changes or revisions to the PAN itself.

3. Competent bodies

The national plant protection committee (CFN) shall be responsible for approving and amending the content of training programmes for advisers, professional users and vendors, and the list of qualifications containing training equivalent to the different cards.

The services of the autonomous regions shall be responsible for implementing the measures aimed at ensuring professional users and vendors of plant protection products can access training leading to the qualifications required.

Autonomous communities are also responsible for the updating and registration of training bodies, checking that the terms agreed in the CFN are applied.

The MAPA will publish the list of authorised bodies via its website.

MITECO will be involved, particularly on issues related to impacts on biodiversity and pollinators.

4. Compliance indicators

The indicators shall be the number of advisers, professional users and vendors who have been trained.

The number of new and renewed cards issued per year.

The number of inspections and the number of failed inspections of training bodies shall also be counted.

Finally, the updating of the register of training bodies shall be used as an indicator.

5. Quantitative objectives

Carry out at least 750 annual inspections of training bodies.

Update the list of training bodies at once every six months.

Review qualifications with equivalent training at least once during the term of the PAN.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

1.6 Run surveys on the marketing and use of plant protection products.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Regulation (EC) 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 concerning statistics on pesticides.

Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.

Commission Regulation (EU) 408/2011 of 27 April 2011 concerning statistics on pesticides, as regards transmission format.

Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/2010 of 17 November 2021 amending Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning statistics on pesticides, as regards the list of active substances.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

The objective is to provide harmonised, comparable statistics on the marketing and use of plant protection products required to develop policy in the context of thematic strategy on the sustainable use of plant protection products.

Authorised holders of plant protection products shall be surveyed every year regarding the quantities of plant protection products registered to the company that are placed on the market (sold). Information broken down by active substance shall be obtained, in accordance with the harmonised classification of substances in the Annex to Regulation (EU) 2021/2010.

A list shall be drawn up of priority crops in terms of the use of plant protection products, after which five-year surveys shall be carried out on the use of plant protection products for each of the crops systems selected in a sample of farms selected.

To prepare the survey, the number of farms to be surveyed shall be determined on the ground (for example by consulting operating books) for each of these crops and systems. The number of surveys to be carried out for each crop shall be calculated using statistics. The data obtained from the surveys will make it possible to extrapolate the use and quantities of plant protection products used per crop or crop group nationwide, as well as the total area of each crop treated using different active substances.

All quantities used, both of substances which are candidates for replacement and of low-risk substances, shall be monitored.

3. Competent bodies

Within central government, the MAPA shall be responsible for implementing the measure, and the Subdirectorate General for Analysis, Coordination and Statistics, in cooperation with the Subdirectorate General for Plant and Forest Health and Hygiene, shall be responsible for drawing up statistics on marketing and on use. Drawing up the list of priority crops in terms of the use of plant protection products, the design of surveys and the determination of sampling intensity (by crop at national level), shall be agreed between each sub-directorate.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of farms surveyed on-site.

Quality of the annual survey of the marketing of plant protection products.

Quality of the five-yearly survey on the use of plant protection products.

Number of crops identified as priorities.

Trends in consumption of active substances identified as candidates for replacement.

Trends in the use of active substances identified as of low risk.

Trends in the use (ha) of systems of sexual confusion using pheromones

Trends in the use (ha) of mass capture systems

5. Quantitative objectives

Carry out an annual survey of holders of plant protection products and a five-yearly survey on the use of plant protection products.

Draw up a list of substances which are candidates for replacement and another list of low-risk substances in order to be able to examine trends in the use of those substances.

The objective is to bring about a year-on-year reduction in the consumption of substances which are candidates for replacement and increase the consumption of low-risk substances.

6. Action schedule

Surveys of holders of plant protection products shall be carried out throughout the term of the PAN. The data shall be available within 12 months of the end of the year in question.

The survey on use has been carried out every five years since 2013. The data shall be published approximately 18 months after the survey data has been collected.

1.7 On-line database containing the available technical and scientific information on IPM techniques and practices.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

The Directive and the Royal Decree note the need for training and information for people involved in the handling and use of plant protection products. That information must not only concern the application of the plant protection product, but it must also be seen in a broader sense and include all aspects of integrated pest management, precision farming and digitalisation.

The MAPA and the competent bodies have made significant progress in terms of knowledge of the sustainable use of plant protection products, and particularly of integrated pest management. The IPM guidelines published are one good example of this.

In this regard, the MAPA must facilitate the establishment of communication channels to disseminate the conclusions of the work carried out, ensuring that everybody has first-hand knowledge of the means available to correctly manage all of the tools for combating pathogens.

3. Competent bodies

Within central government, the MAPA shall be responsible for implementing the measure, via the Subdirectorate General for Plant and Forest Health and Hygiene in cooperation with the national plant protection committee.

4. Compliance indicators

Development of a website for content relating to the sustainable use of plant protection products and integrated pest management.

5. Quantitative objectives

The main objective is the creation of the website itself.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

2) Promote innovation and technology transfer in integrated pest management and the sustainable use of plant protection products.

2.1 Promote the development of innovation projects relating to integrated pest management and the sustainable use of plant protection products via the EIP-Agri cooperation aid line for supra-autonomous operational groups included in the supra-autonomous measures in the National Strategic Plan of CAP 2023-2027.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

Regulatory bases (yet to be defined for the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027) establishing regulatory bases for the award of grants for the implementation of innovation projects of general interest by operational groups of the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability, and which for the period 2014-2020 are provided for in the consolidated text of Royal Decree 169/2018.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

The European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (abbreviated as AEI-Agri in Spanish or as EIP-Agri in English) aims to accelerate innovation in the agricultural sector, with a view to creating a competitive sector produces more, using fewer resources and with less impact on the environment.

Operational groups are EIP-Agri's main tool for turning innovative ideas into real solutions for the sector. These are groupings of at least two members with an interest in finding practical and innovative solutions for specific problems in the agri-food or forestry sectors. They are set up by stakeholders, including farmers, livestock farmers and foresters (who must be actively involved throughout the project), together with other actors such as researchers, advisors and businesses in the agri-food sector. They shall be set up around topics of interest and shall run innovation projects aimed at testing and applying innovative practices, processes, products, services and technologies.

The objective of EIP-Agri is to achieve a more competitive, efficient and environmentally-friendly agriculture, helping to ensure a stable supply of food, feed and biomaterials. There is therefore room within this objective for operational groups with innovations concerning various agri-food themes and sectors, including integrated pest control and biological pest control, as they are plant health aspects that enable agricultural productivity to be increased in an environmentally friendly way and where innovation is crucial if we are to pre-empt possible threats to agriculture.

EIP-Agri was implemented over the period 2014-2020 via the CAP's rural development policy, by means of the cooperation measure of the Rural Development Programmes (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 [*Translator's note: the Article and Regulation cited in the ES original appear to be an error*]), co-financed by the EAFRD. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food included this aid in the National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, particularly support for the establishment of supra-autonomous operational groups (sub-measure 16.1) and support for the implementation of innovative projects of general interest by those operational groups (sub-measure 16.2).

Over the period 2023-2027 innovation has become a cross-cutting objective of the CAP, with a view to helping modernise the agricultural sector, and support for innovation by operational groups continues by means of the cooperation measure (Article 77(1)(a) and Article 127 of

Regulation (EU) 2021/2115). In the CAP National Strategic Plan 2023-2027, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food maintains and strengthens this EIP-Agri aid for innovation via an EIP-Agri cooperation measure at supra-autonomous level with a view to granting aid for the preparation and implementation of general-interest innovation projects by supra-autonomous EIP-Agri operational groups.

For all of these reasons, these calls for aid applications will continue to be implemented over the period 2023-2027 and operational groups working in a variety of fields will be able to apply, which may include those implementing innovation projects in the field of integrated pest management, precision farming and digitalisation, and the sustainable use of plant protection products, as that will make it possible to develop innovative solutions that respond to existing problems and challenges and can be replicated throughout the sector.

3. Competent bodies

MAPA's Directorate-General for Rural Development, Agri-Food Innovation and Training, via the Subdirectorate-General for Innovation and Digitalisation, is the investigating body for this EIP-Agri cooperation aid at supra-autonomous level, and the FEAGA is the Paying Agency.

4. Compliance indicators

The number of supra-autonomous operational groups in the field of integrated pest management and sustainable use of plant protection products that have received EIP-Agri cooperation-innovation aid for which calls are issued and resolved during the period 2023-2025.

5. Quantitative objectives

Two operational groups receiving EIP-Agri cooperation-innovation aid that implement innovation projects in the field of integrated pest management and sustainable use of plant protection products.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

3) Promote integrated pest management to ensure a rational use of plant protection products.

3.1 Draft nationwide harmonised guidelines on integrated pest management and promote their updating.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Article 14 of Directive 2009/128/EC requires Member States to implement integrated pest management (IPM) for crops and woodland systems deemed to meet the necessary conditions. To do so, harmonised guidelines need to be drawn up for crops, types of woodland and other areas for IPM nationwide.

The Guidelines are the basic tool used by agricultural and forestry farmers, technicians and advisers to implement the principles of integrated pest management in Spanish agriculture.

In the process of their approval, the IPM guidelines must be subject to public consultation with the main stakeholders in the sector.

3. Competent bodies

The Spanish national plant protection committee (CFN) shall be responsible for preparing and updating the guidelines and shall delegate the work to the corresponding plant-protection working groups, which are made up of groups of experts in the main crops and woodland systems in our country, with the participation of the autonomous regions, which have extensive experience in integrated pest management.

The committee may also call upon groups of professional users, organisations or entities representing them or technical and scientific institutions.

MITECO will be involved, particularly on issues related to impacts on biodiversity and pollinators.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of guidelines drawn up and area covered by crops, types of woodland and other areas for IPM in the guidelines.

5. Quantitative objectives

On expiry of the PAN, guidelines covering at least 92 % of cultivated agricultural land must have been drawn up.

Develop guidelines for the remaining areas of IPM.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

3.2 Strengthen plant-health monitoring networks to facilitate decision-making when applying integrated pest management.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

The application of integrated pest management necessarily requires a profound and rigorous knowledge of the current pest situation in crops and woodland systems. Furthermore, Directive 2009/128/EC requires Member States to ensure 'that professional users have at their disposal information and tools for pest monitoring and decision making'.

The competent bodies of each autonomous region shall establish priorities for monitoring pests in their autonomous region, as a function of the main crops or woodland systems and the main plant-protection problems in their area. Government monitoring points could be used to set up these plant-protection monitoring networks, as could (subject to agreement) monitoring points of other entities, such as integrated treatment farming groups (ATRIA), plant protection groups (ADV), integrated production farming groups (APRIA), cooperatives etc.

Furthermore, the competent bodies of each autonomous region shall ensure that the information obtained is available to agricultural and forestry farmers, technicians and advisers.

3. Competent bodies

Given their local nature, these bodies shall be the competent bodies of each autonomous region.

4. Compliance indicators

The following monitoring indicators are proposed:

- Number of alert stations. These alert stations are places where the data collected at sampling points are collected and interpreted and plant protection alerts are issued to farmers.
- Number of information-gathering points for plant-health monitoring networks. These are sampling data collection points which will be located on plots, holdings, gardens, forests etc.
- Number of crops for which plant protection alerts are issued.
- Number of pests controlled.
- Number of alerts issued.

5. Quantitative objectives

At least three pests shall be monitored in each autonomous region.

6. Action schedule

This network shall be set up progressively throughout the entire term of the PAN.

3.3 Set up and improve information and/or support systems for applying integrated pest management.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Once the guidelines for applying integrated pest management have been drawn up and the data obtained from the plant-health monitoring network is available, the next step shall involve passing on this information to advisers and professional users in general so that they can put it into practice.

The intention is to develop a system of demonstration farms on which the integrated pest management techniques included in the crop guidelines are applied.

The aim is to show the relevant producers and advisers the results of production obtained on the basis of a IPM techniques, to examine alternative techniques and to assess the effectiveness of those techniques in situ. A further proposal is for information on IPM to include aspects relating to the reduction of risk through the use of plant protection products and examples of good plant protection practices.

On the demonstration farms, a record of techniques used and the yields achieved will be kept in order to assess suitability and any relationship between them.

The techniques used will come from the whole range of possibilities available to producers, who may also make use of biological control organisms (BCO), plant protection products of biological origin and low-risk products.

Demonstration farms will be able to include the various existing effluent management tools, in order to assess their usefulness and promote their use in agricultural holdings.

Information can be communicated by means of demonstration days on farms, information alerts, digital media, alert networks or any other medium deemed effective for the purpose.

3. Competent bodies

Given their local nature, these bodies shall be the competent bodies of each autonomous region.

4. Compliance indicators

The main indicator will be the number of pilot farms created.

Once demonstration farms are operational, their potential for dissemination of information shall be judged on the basis of the number of people attending open days and the number of alerts or communications issued.

5. Quantitative objectives

The quantitative objective will be the creation and/or maintenance of at least eight pilot farms.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH IN AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION

3.4 Promoting integrated pest management advisory systems.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Advisory bodies play a crucial role in the implementation of integrated pest management and their experts have served as a reference when providing recommendations on these techniques in many crops and woodland systems in many areas.

It is essential that this advisory model be maintained and further developed, and that it be used as a reference to help achieve the objectives of integrated pest management.

3. Competent bodies

In central government, the MAPA shall be responsible for implementing the measure, and the Directorate General for Rural Development, Innovation and Agri-Food Training (via the Subdirectorate-General for Programming and Coordination) and the Directorate-General for Farming Health (via the Subdirectorate-General for Plant and Forest Health and Hygiene) shall be the two directorates-general involved.

The competent bodies of each autonomous region shall be responsible for supervising and setting up the advisory systems within their own region.

4. Compliance indicators

The indicator used to determine the success of this measure shall be the number of advisory entities in operation (e.g. ATRIAS, ADV etc.), the number of farms advised, and the total area of farmland or woodland for which advice is provided by these entities, compared to other types of advice.

5. Quantitative objectives

The objective is for the total area advised to be increased each year.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

4) Promote the availability of plant protection products that effectively control pests, diseases and weeds, without harming health or damaging the environment.

4.1 Promote the availability and registration of new plant protection products that are respectful of health and the environment.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.

Law No 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 on Plant Health.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

IPM covers the correct use, ultimately, of plant protection products as a means for controlling pathogens that threaten the viability and profitability of the crop.

However, the availability of plant protection products does not always meet the needs of producers. Furthermore, the appearance of new pests sometimes means that solutions are out of the sector's reach.

Effective and sufficient tools must also be made available to prevent resistance issues in the various pests, facilitating the quick removal of active substances which candidates for replacement.

In this regard, the following measures are proposed:

- 1) Compiling information on plant protection issues in small crops, in conjunction with the autonomous regions, cooperative and inter-trade associations, and other institutions.
- 2) Seeking solutions in order to increase the number of solutions entered in the register, on the basis of mutual recognition protocols or minor uses.
- 3) Promoting the authorisation of plant protection products in minor uses/crops.
- 4) Promoting the availability of plant protection products for professional use in non-agricultural areas.
- 5) Promote the availability, in agriculture, of plant protection products that are respectful of health and the environment.
- 6) Parallel Imports.
- 7) In order to reduce the risk to users of plant protection products for non-professional use, the number of files affected by the application of the conditions laid down in Article 48 and Annex VIII of Royal Decree 1311/2012 will be quantified, both those accepted and those rejected.

The increase in the number of products registered must be accompanied by better accessibility of information for potential users. The database for the consultation of plant protection products must be reviewed with a view to creating a more efficient consultation tool providing the greatest possible amount of available information on the website.

3. Competent bodies

The Directorate General for Farming Health (DGSPA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food (MAPA) and the Ministry of Health shall be the competent bodies for matters relating

to the authorisation of plant protection products, the updating of the database and improving access to its contents.

The Directorate General for Farming Health (DGSPA) shall coordinate directly with other central government bodies, in accordance with procedure, and it shall coordinate with the autonomous regions via the Spanish national plant protection committee (CFN) and expert groups.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of mutual recognitions.

Number of exceptional authorisations.

Number of parallel imports.

Number of authorisations for minor uses.

5. Quantitative objectives

Review of the registration tool at least once during the two years of the PAN and appropriate improvements where areas for improvement are found.

6. Action schedule

This measure is intended to be implemented in full during the term of the Plan.

4.2 Promote the visibility and use of alternative plant protection methods.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.

Law No 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 on Plant Health.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

Royal Decree 951/2014 of 14 November 2014 regulating the marketing of certain plant protection means.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

IPM covers the correct use of all available means for controlling pathogens that threaten the viability and profitability of the crop.

The scope of RD 951/2014 exclusively covers biological control organisms, traps and other monitoring means or devices which are not directly linked to the control of pests (PPM).

The final result of the registration process will be the provision of a computerised system to facilitate public consultation, except for possible personal data or industrial or commercial secrets.

The aim of the measure is to update the existing IT tool to allow for searches by pest to be controlled and crop, on the basis of information provided by the company in authorisation requests or communications.

In addition, the use of alternative means will be encouraged through the development of training, awareness-raising and dissemination measures, and to that end this subject will be included in the various training measures set out in paragraph 1 of this Annex.

3. Competent bodies

The Directorate-General for Farming Health (DGSPA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) shall be the competent body for matters relating to the updating of the database and improving access to its contents.

4. Compliance indicators

Keeping the list of alternative solutions to plant protection products, laid down in RD 951/2014, available to interested parties.

For training tasks, the same indicators as those corresponding to the different training measures will be used.

5. Quantitative objectives

To update the registration tool at least once per year over the two-year term of the PAN.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the Plan.

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH IN AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION

4.3 Improve the evaluation procedures for low-risk active substances.

1. Legislation

Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.

Law No 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 on Plant Health.

Royal Decree No 971/2014 of 21 November 2014 regulating the procedure for evaluating plant protection products.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

In order to meet the objectives of reducing risks in the use of plant protection products, it is considered important to incentivise evaluation procedures for low-risk active substances, in particular active substances based on microorganisms that have proven to be low-risk.

Royal Decree 971/2014 provides that the evaluation procedure for active substances shall be carried out by the Independent Evaluation Body (OIE) appointed by the Directorate-General for Farming Health of MAPA in the case of matters that do not fall within the competence of the Ministry of Health via the Directorate-General for Public Health, and by the Ministry of Health in matters relating to the protection of human health, in relation to the risk assessment of plant protection products and, in particular, as regards toxicological evaluation and classification and safety assessment.

The currently designated OIE, in accordance with Royal Decree 971/2014, is the National Institute of Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA).

The purpose of this measure would be to establish a management delegation agreement between the Directorate-General for Farming Health of MAPA and INIA for the creation of a unit for the evaluation of low-risk active substances, and in particular for the evaluation of microorganisms that have proven to be of low risk.

3. Competent bodies

The Directorate-General for Farming Health (DGSPA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) is the competent body for matters relating to the authorisation and evaluation of active plant protection substances.

The Subdirectorate-General for Environmental and Occupational Health of the Ministry of Health is the competent body for the creation and management of the unit for the evaluation of low-risk active substances within the Ministry of Health.

4. Compliance indicators

Establishment of a management delegation agreement with INIA.

Creation of a unit for the evaluation of low-risk active substances within the Ministry of Health, in the Plant Protection Products Department of the Subdirectorate-General for Environmental and Occupational Health.

5. Quantitative objectives

Signature of the management delegation agreement with INIA.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the Plan.

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH IN AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION

5) Promote techniques that minimise the risks involved in the use of plant protection products.

5.1 Establish systems for approving, monitoring, registering and notifying aerial applications.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Law No 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 on Plant Health.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products [hereinafter RD1311/2012].

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Chapter VI of Royal Decree 1311/2012 lays down specific requirements to be met when applying plant-protection products by air. Given that the criteria laid down are very stringent this may only be done only by prior authorisation. Any company or institution intending to apply such products must draw up an application plan, the minimum content of which is detailed in Annex VII of the Royal Decree on the sustainable use of plant protection Products.

The purpose of this measure will be to verify compliance with the strict requirements laid down in Royal Decree 1311/2012. Under the Royal Decree only aerial applications authorised by the competent body of the Autonomous Community or those facilitated by the administration itself may be carried out for controlling pests deemed to be of public benefit and other pests in case of emergency. It is a prerequisite that either there must be no technically or economically feasible alternative option or that the existing options are detrimental to human health or the environment.

3. Competent bodies

The competent department of each Autonomous Community must guarantee compliance with the requirements laid down in the Royal Decree prior to the authorisation of aerial applications in their territory, including those using drones. They are also the competent bodies for the monitoring of authorised applications. Special attention must be paid to the grounds for declaring a situation 'exceptional'.

The competent departments of each Autonomous Community, plant and forest associations must ensure that the public is kept informed of aerial applications - be they by helicopter, plane, drone or similar - with information on the date, place, pest to be combated, type and number of the product used, registration number, contact telephone number for emergencies or accidental exposure to plant protection products, re-entry time, recommendations to the public, measures taken to prevent product drift and how to detect deviations from the original plan in the case of unforeseen events.

4. Compliance indicators

The indicators used to check the success of this measure shall be as follows:

- number of applications with authorised drones
- total number of authorised aerial applications, including those of drones
- number of plant-health issues addressed (crop/forest - pest combination)
- total area treated per crop or woodland per year (hectares)
- number of checks carried out into compliance with the requirements

- Number of unfavourable checks into compliance with the requirements

5. Quantitative objectives

Compliance with the requirements for authorisation of all air treatments undertaken.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

5.2 Develop and consolidate programmes for inspecting equipment used to apply plant protection products.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Law No 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 on Plant Health.

Royal Decree 1702/2011 of 18 November on periodic inspections of plant protection product application equipment.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

Order AAA/1053/2012 of 16 May 2012 designating the national reference laboratory for inspections of equipment used to apply plant protection products.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Carry out a programme of periodic inspections to be performed on equipment used for applying plant protection product treatments; specifically, mobile equipment for use in agriculture and for other non-agricultural uses, with a view to increasing efficiency and minimising the risks relating to application of plant protection products.

Royal Decree 1702/2011, which transposes Article 8 and Annex II of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides, sets out measures for carrying out official periodic inspections of the equipment used to apply plant protection products and for checking compliance with the requirements governing the maintenance and adjustment of the equipment used to apply plant protection products.

The inspections of equipment used to apply plant protection products that took place before 26 November 2016, as laid down in the Sustainable Use Directive, fulfilled the requirement of five years between inspections, apart from equipment owned by service undertakings or farming associations. Accordingly, it is used for more hours when the second inspection will be three years after the first one.

All new equipment purchased after the entry into force of the above Royal Decree have been inspected and must be inspected at least once within five years.

As of 2020, inspections of all equipment shall be carried out every three years, except for new equipment, which shall still be inspected every five years.

Under Articles 8 and 9 of Royal Decree 1702/2011, authorised technical inspection stations for PPP application equipment (ITEAFs) must also be checked and the level of staff training at such stations verified. To this end, an objective shall be included whereby ITEAFs must be checked and all authorised ITEAFs must be inspected by the end of 2024.

Pursuant to Article 3 'Scope of application' of Royal Decree No 1702/2011 of 18 November 2011, there is no obligation to inspect back-packs and manual equipment in Spain. Also excluded are manual pull sprayers (carts) depositing up to 100 litres.

3. Competent bodies

Pursuant to Article 6 of Royal Decree 1702/2011, the MAPA, through the Subdirector General for Means of Agricultural Production (SGMPA) and the Spanish Office of Plant Varieties (OEVV), shall be responsible for coordinating the actions to be undertaken as part of this measure.

The competent body of each Autonomous Community shall be responsible for checking and implementing the inspection programmes undertaken within their geographical area.

The inspection bodies of each Autonomous Community shall check that the ITEAFs are correctly following the procedure set out for inspections and the protocol provided in the Inspection Manual.

The MITECO will also be involved, especially on issues relating to the impact on biodiversity and pollinators.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of mobile devices with valid favourable inspection/register of mobile equipment.

Number of mobile devices on board aircraft with valid favourable inspection/register of equipment mounted on board aircraft.

Number of fixed devices in greenhouses and other closed premises with valid favourable inspection/register of fixed equipment in greenhouses and other closed premises.

Number of devices failing the inspection, shortcomings not rectified/equipment register.

ITEAFs inspected/total ITEAFs authorised

5. Quantitative objectives

The first inspection of all new equipment shall take place within five years of its acquisition.

Except in the case of the new acquisition of machinery and the first service, as of 1 January 2020, all inspections shall take place every three years.

Inspect at least 50% of the ITEAFs authorised in each Autonomous Community every year, with a view to reaching 100% by 2024.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

5.3 Keep updated the register of all equipment used to apply plant protection products.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Directive 2009/127/EC amending Directive 2006/42/EC with regard to machinery for pesticide application

Law No 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 on Plant Health.

Royal Decree 1702/2011 of 18 November on periodic inspections of plant protection product application equipment.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

Royal Decree 448/2020, of 10 March, on the classification and registration of agricultural machinery.

Royal Decree 494/2012 of 9 March amending Royal Decree 1644/2008 of 20 October setting out the standards for the marketing and commissioning of machines to incorporate the risk of pesticide applications.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Article 4 of Royal Decree 1702/2011 requires the competent bodies of the Autonomous Communities to draw up a register of equipment to be inspected within their geographical area, covering all of the equipment to be inspected, as set out in Article 3, including:

- Self-propelled, towed and suspended mobile equipment entered in the ROMA.
- Application devices carried on board aircraft.
- Equipment installed inside greenhouses or other closed premises.

Given the situation of the fleet of farming machinery in Spain, for which there was no complete register, except for mobile equipment used in farming activity, creating the register of the remainder of the equipment was very difficult until the initial inertia was overcome, although it is currently estimated that we have covered more than 80% of the existing equipment.

We intend to continue to update the register of existing application equipment by province and Autonomous Community, based on the ROMA and the register of air-treatment application equipment and fixed equipment inside greenhouses and other closed premises, using the REGANIP (*Registro de Aeronaves y Instalaciones Permanentes de Aplicación de Productos Fitosanitarios* - Register of aircraft and permanent installations for applying plant protection products).

When entering it in the register, the bodies in charge of the ROMA must check that mobile equipment has the documentation indicated in Article 18 of Royal Decree 448/2020 of 10 March 2020.

Article 17(3) of Royal Decree 448/2020 of 10 March refers to ex officio removals: The Autonomous Communities may, on condition of prior notification to the interested party, automatically withdraw plant protection product application equipment if they have not demonstrated that it has been inspected pursuant to Royal Decree 1702/2011 of 18 November 2011. They may also, after informing the holder, automatically remove it if, after the expiry of

the validity period of the inspection, no further favourable inspection has been recorded within six months. This process will serve to update the register of equipment and to remove any equipment that is not in use.

To bring the register into line with reality, the MAPA will take the necessary steps to develop and update the IT applications (REGMAQ and REGANIP).

3. Competent bodies

Pursuant to Article 6 of Royal Decree 1702/2011, the MAPA, through the Subdirector General for Means of Agricultural Production (SGMPA) and the Spanish Office of Plant Varieties (OEVV), shall be responsible for coordinating the actions to be undertaken as part of this measure.

Pursuant to Article 4 of Royal Decree 1702/2011, the competent bodies of each Autonomous Community shall be responsible for running and updating registers of equipment to be inspected in their geographical area.

4. Compliance indicators

Total number of mobile plant-protection product application devices entered in the ROMA per year.

Total number of application devices carried on board aircraft per year.

Total number of fixed devices installed in greenhouses or other closed premises per year.

5. Quantitative objectives

Inspect all application equipment on board aircraft by 2024.

Inspect all equipment installed inside greenhouses and other closed premises by 31 December 2024.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

Improve the usage conditions for PPE for applicers of plant protection products and workers on re-entry.

1. Legislation

Commission Regulation (EU) No 546/2011 of 10 June 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards uniform principles for evaluation and authorisation of plant protection products.

Commission Regulation (EU) No 284/2013 of 1 March 2013 setting out the data requirements for plant protection products, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.

Law 31/1995 of 8 November 1995, on the prevention of workplace risks.

Royal Decree No 773/1997 of 30 May 1997 on the minimum health and safety requirements for workers using personal protective equipment.

Royal Decree 542/2020 of 26 May 2020 amending and repealing various provisions on industrial quality and safety.

Regulation (EU) 2016/425 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on personal protective equipment and repealing Council Directive 89/686/EEC.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

During the process of authorising plant protection products, it may be necessary to use certain personal protection equipment. The accessibility, effectiveness, convenience and comfort of that equipment must be examined taking account of the physical work involved and the possible weather conditions.

The technical rules developed for specifying the protection requirements based on data obtained under laboratory and field conditions now make it possible to lay down minimum protection requirements for workers when using plant protection products. In standard UNE EN ISO 27065: 2017 (amended in 2019) Protective clothing. Performance requirements for protective clothing for operators applying liquid pesticides and for workers exposed to these pesticides; three levels of protection for protective clothing, which must be chosen according to the conditions of use of PPPs.

The risk to workers, passers-by and residents due to exposure to plant protection products will be assessed on the basis of the EFSA Guidelines (EFSA Journal 2014;12(10):3874, as amended by EFSA Journal 2022;20(1):7032). These Guidelines set out the clothing classifications that may be taken into account during the assessment: namely, work clothes and protective clothing. In Spain, the criteria for assessing exposure to plant protection products published by the Ministry of Health include a minimum amount of PPE required for processing with liquid and solid formulations, with C1 protective clothing (in accordance with standard UNE EN ISO 27065) being the minimum requirement for the protection of operators and workers. Initiatives are under way at European level to harmonise the minimum requirements and to establish the individual protection measures to be considered during the authorisation process.

However, such clothes are still not widely available on the market and operators and workers tend not to know of their existence. Furthermore, the above-mentioned EFSA Guide refers to ISO 18889: 2019 Protective gloves for pesticide operators and re-entry workers — Performance requirements, given the interest in some countries in encouraging the use of such gloves, in

compliance with Standard UNE-EN ISO 374-1:2020 Protective gloves against dangerous chemicals and micro-organisms.

The purpose of this measure is to raise awareness among users of plant protection products of the need for effective protection in line with the working conditions and to inform them of various protective garments that may be better suited to those conditions and that may be certified in accordance with UNE EN ISO 27065:2017/A1:2019. This standard is being used in the process of assessing risk due to exposure to plant protection products and is referred to in decisions authorising plant protection products.

It is therefore proposed to continue cooperation between the interested parties in order to:

- establish recommendations for the use of PPE by default at each stage of the use of the plant protection product;
- improve the marking of the PPE required on the labelling of plant protection products in the reports required by the Ministry of Health and issued for MAPA registration;
- raise awareness and increase the availability of protective clothing certified in accordance with standard UNE EN ISO 27065 on the Spanish market.
- carry out awareness-raising activities to inform users of the need for protection and the solutions best suited to their working conditions.
- facilitate discussion on standardisation in relation to the rules on clothing and gloves for protection against plant protection products in order to take account of the sector's characteristics when standards are being developed or revised.
- maintain specific accredited protective clothing tests in the CNMP (National Centre for Protective Equipment) laboratory to assess its protective capability.

3. Competent bodies

Given the possible repercussions that the work done in the standardisation of protective clothing may have in terms of authorising plant protection products and the sustainable use thereof, the proposal is to achieve quantitative objectives by the interested parties setting up a working group to undertake joint activities. The group will comprise representatives of the Instituto Nacional de Seguridad, Salud y Bienestar en el Trabajo (INSST) (National Association of Health, Safety and Wellbeing at Work), the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality (MSSSI), manufacturers of plant protection products and manufacturers of protective clothing.

4. Compliance indicators

Studies carried out into the effectiveness and comfort of protective garments

Provision of information, training courses and awareness-raising activities carried out

Laboratory activity.

5. Quantitative objectives

One day's training on the new standard UNE EN ISO 27065 will be held.

A chart must be drawn up showing mitigation measures for operators and workers in order to help the users of such products to understand the information they are given.

Requests for tests shall be accommodated.

6. Action schedule

Activities planned as part of this measure shall take place during the term of the PAN.

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH IN AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION

6) step up monitoring of the marketing of plant protection products.

6.1 Promote systems for the withdrawal from use of plant protection products and remnants thereof.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products.

Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives.

Law 7/2022 of 8 April 2003 on waste and contaminated soil for a circular economy.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Plant protection products already acquired that are not being used or cannot be used for various reasons (change of crop, change of calendar-based processing system to an integrated or biological control system, changes to the rules prohibiting the substance for the planned cultivation, elimination of the problem that led to its purchase, etc.) constitute waste that is mostly dangerous that must be managed appropriately. Abandoning these plant protection products has a major direct impact on the soil, surface water and ground water, thereby bringing about a loss of biodiversity and posing risks to human health.

In some cases plant protection products are returned unopened at the point of sale (assuming the registration of the plant protection product is still valid). When the product is not returned or if the packaging is open containing residues, farmers must pass it on to handlers authorised to treat it.

What is needed is a mechanism that will make it easier for farmers to deliver product residues to managers; since the packaging is not empty, the specific rules on packaging do not apply, and packaging containing product residues cannot be deposited at collection points for packaging waste from plant protection products. There may therefore be a situation where the rest of the product is released into the environment in order to ensure that packaging is empty when delivered.

In order to optimise management, we are also planning pilot schemes for the establishment of 'agricultural clean points' and systems for the separate collection of waste from plant protection products; we are drafting guidelines on good practice in the management of agricultural waste and developing awareness-raising campaigns to provide information to farmers.

3. Competent bodies

The competent body will be the DG for Environmental Quality and Assessment, through the Subdirectorate-General for Circular Economy of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITECO), in conjunction with the MAPA's Directorate-General for Health in Agricultural Production.

The Autonomous Communities will also be responsible for implementing the measure in their respective territories.

4. Compliance indicators

Prevention campaigns on the suitable purchase of plant protection products

Number of collection points for waste from plant protection products

Amount of waste from plant protection products collected

5. Quantitative objectives

Improve the collection of agricultural waste, by developing the availability and suitability of gathering points.

Carry out pilot experiments with 'agricultural collection centres'

Draft good practice guidelines in relation to the management of agricultural waste and develop awareness-raising and information-provision campaigns for farmers, professional farmers' associations and other economic operators.

Carry out pilot experiments of systems for the separate collection of waste from plant protection products, for example via mobile collection systems.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

6.2 Promote empty container collection systems.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products.

Regulations specific to containers:

European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste.

Directive 2004/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2004 amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste.

Directive (EU) 2018/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste.

Law 7/2022 of 8 April 2003 on waste and contaminated soil for a circular economy.

Law 11/97 of 24 April 1997 on packaging and packaging waste (Regulatory Act)¹.

Law 50/98 of 30 December 1998 on fiscal, administrative and social measures. Accompanying budget law, providing for invoice breakdowns

Law 9/2006 of 28 April 2006 on the evaluation of the effects of specific plans and programmes on the environment, the fifth final provision of which amends the definition of container.

Royal Decree 782/1998 of 30 April 1998 adopting the Regulations for the implementation of Law 11/97 of 24 April 1997 on packaging and packaging waste.

Royal Decree 1416/2001 of 14 December 2001 on plant protection product packaging.

Order MAM 27/04/98 of 27 April 1998 establishing the individual sums to be paid as deposits and the identifying symbols on containers placed on the market using the deposit & return system provided for in Law 11/1997 of 24 April 1997 on packaging and packaging waste. This Order governs the related quantities and the deposit & return (SDDR) logo.

Commission Regulation (EU) No 1357/2014 of 18 December 2014 replacing Annex III to the Waste Framework Directive.

Commission Decision 2014/955/EU of 18 December 2014 amending Decision 200/532/EC on the list of wastes.

Resolution concerning the application of VAT to specific integrated management system (SIG) operations.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

After farmers have used the products, packaging - mostly plastic, though they may be made from other materials - may be contaminated with residue from dangerous active substances and are classified as either dangerous or not dangerous pursuant to Decision 2014/955/EU.

Manufacturers are broadly responsible for this type of packaging (Royal Decree No 1416/2001 of 14 December 2001 on plant protection product packaging). Most packaging of these products meet the obligations arising from integrated management systems.

Collection points are located mainly in agricultural cooperatives and distributors whereas the remaining packaging is handled in conjunction with local authorities.

The purpose of the measure is to increase the collection of waste from packaging at fixed collection points by systems for handling the empty packaging of plant protection products. To this end, information campaigns shall be set up to encourage the collection and management of empty packaging, and the training of agricultural and forestry farmers and points of sale.

3. Competent bodies

In central government, the Directorate-General for Environmental Quality and Assessment of MITECO, through the Subdirectorate-General for Circular Economy, is the competent body responsible for drawing up and reviewing regulations on packaging and packaging waste, and for coordinating with the Autonomous Communities; all of which in conjunction with various units in different ministries.

In turn, the competent bodies of each Autonomous Community shall be responsible for implementing this measure and for monitoring compliance with extended producer responsibility.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of points of sale entered in the ROPO that are authorised to collect empty containers

Number of points of sale entered in the ROPO

Number of points of sale entered in the ROPO that are authorised to collect empty containers of plant protection products

Proportion of points that collect out of the total number of sales points

Amount of packaging generated (kg)

Amount of packaging collected (kg)

Percentage of plant protection product containers handled.

Number of farmers

Number of farmers handling their own packaging

Number of users registered in the ROPO

Percentage of farmers using the container collection system

Number of information campaigns undertaken

Number of campaigns per user (number of information campaigns/millions of users registered in the ROPO)

5. Quantitative objectives

The proportion of points that collect out of the total number of sales points to reach 70 to 90%

The percentage of packaging handled to reach 60% of the packaging placed on the market.

The proportion of farmers handling their own packaging to exceed 60%.

The indicator of the number of campaigns per million users to be between 50 and 100.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

¹ A new Royal Decree on packaging and packaging waste is to be adopted by the end of 2022, which will repeal Law 11/1997, Royal Decree 782/1998, Royal Decree 1416/2001 and Order MAM 27/04/98.

6.3 Implement electronic communication systems for product sales.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC, Article 68 of which makes provision for Member States to carry out the necessary checks to ensure compliance, and Article 55 refers to the appropriate use of plant protection products, providing continuity for the monitoring programmes.

Regulation (EC) 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 concerning statistics on pesticides.

Law No 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 on Plant Health.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products.

Royal Decree 285/2021 of 20 April 2021 laying down the conditions for storage, marketing, import or export, official controls and authorisation of tests on plant protection products, amending Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

To obtain objective information on the sustainable use of plant protection products, real-time information channels are required on the marketing of plant protection products, focusing particularly on active substances deemed to be of particular concern.

Pursuant to Article 25.1 of Royal Decree No 1311/2012 operators registered on the supply section of the ROPO must keep a record of all sales to third parties of plant protection products.

Article 15 of Royal Decree 285/2021 establishes the Electronic Register of Transactions and Operations with Plant Protection Products (RETO), to be used by all operators in the supply and treatment sectors of the ROPO.

The RETO computer application must be used by undertakings or representative associations when placing plant protection products on the market.

3. Competent bodies

In central government, the MAPA shall be responsible for coordinating the actions proposed in this measure, specifically the Directorate General for Farming Health (DGSPA), via the Subdirector General for Plant and Forest Health and Hygiene.

4. Compliance indicators

Number and percentage of operators using the RETO application.

Number and percentage of transactions recorded in the RETO each year.

5. Quantitative objectives

Check that absolutely all undertakings or representative associations placing plant protection products on the market are registered in the ROPO by the end of the period of validity of the 2023-2024 PAN, and that the operations and exchanges of products are recorded in the RETO.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the Plan.

6.4 Improve monitoring of the marketing of plant protection products.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC, Article 68 of which makes provision for Member States to carry out the necessary checks to ensure compliance, and Article 55 refers to the appropriate use of plant protection products, providing continuity for the monitoring programmes.

Law No 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 on Plant Health.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products.

Royal Decree 971/2014 of 21 November 2014 regulating the evaluation of plant protection products.

Royal Decree 285/2021 of 20 April 2021 laying down the conditions for storage, marketing, import or export, official controls and authorisation of tests on plant protection products, amending Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

The objective is to enhance monitoring in the marketing of plant protection products and to prevent the marketing and use of illegal plant protection products. This measure includes monitoring and inspection of manufacturing, marketing, distribution and logistics establishments and companies authorised for parallel importation; the following issues are examined:

- Documentation requirements for premises.
- Checking of the labelling and of stocks of the authorised products, based on special authorisation (with parallel trade permits), that are unexpired or under a grace period following withdrawal for sale/storage and/or destruction of the stocks of stored product.
- In the case of parallel importation, verify that the imported quantity is the same as the marketed quantity.
- Verification of the quality of marketed plant protection products, and, in so doing, taking samples of plant protection products packed in the storage facilities of the operators of the supply section of the ROPO; checking that the conditions thereof are the same as those recorded.
- Training for staff providing advice on and selling such products.
- Presence or availability of trained staff when the product is sold.
- Traceability of sales by checking records of transactions with properly trained professional agricultural and forestry farmers.

3. Competent bodies

Within central government, the MAPA shall be responsible for coordinating the actions proposed in this measure, specifically the Directorate General for Farming Health (Subdirectorato General for Plant and Forest Health and Hygiene).

The competent bodies of each autonomous region shall be responsible for implementing this measure.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of supply establishments (manufacturers, marketing, distribution and logistics of plant protection products).

Number of supplier establishments checked per year.

Percentage of supplier establishments checked each year of the total number.

Number of supplier establishments with serious shortcomings.

Percentage of supplier establishments with serious shortcomings of the total number checked.

Number of establishments found to be selling illegal plant protection products.

Percentage of establishments found to be selling illegal plant protection products.

Number of reports of the marketing and use of illegal plant protection products received.

Number of reports of the marketing and use of illegal plant protection products handled.

Percentage of reports of the marketing and use of illegal plant protection products handled.

5. Quantitative objectives

The initial proposal is that 20% of the supplier establishments registered in the ROPO will be checked annually.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the Plan.

6.5 Set up programmes to monitor the presence of plant protection products in surface and ground waters.

1. Legislation

Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.

Royal Legislative Decree 1/2001, of 20 July 2001 approving the Consolidated Text of the Water Act, or TRLA.

Royal Decree 817/2015 of 11 September 2015 establishing the criteria for monitoring and assessing the state of surface water and environmental quality rules.

Royal Decree 1514/2009, of 2 October 2009, regulating the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

The MITECO, through the Directorate-General for Water, exercises the department's powers arising from the application of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, including the monitoring and inspection of the state of surface and ground water.

In order to ensure that all water bodies are in good condition there must be appropriate monitoring; the rules must include an obligation to set up a series of programmes to monitor the condition of surface and ground water. As such, the information obtained by the monitoring programmes will provide a link between the state of water and management needs; a study must be carried out into the effectiveness of the measures adopted by the management and the level of compliance with the objectives set.

The parameters to be measured in the surface water monitoring programmes shall include priority substances and other specific basin contaminants corresponding to plant protection products. In the case of surface water bodies at risk of significant pressure from various sources such as drift and outflow, the operative control programme shall include the obligation to identify monitoring stations of pesticides of agricultural origin.

Accordingly, plant protection products on the list of priority substances and specific basin contaminants will be monitored via monthly and quarterly samples for surface water.

Regarding ground water, the rules govern the measuring of active substances of pesticides including metabolites and any reaction products present in order to monitor its chemical state. In this case the pesticides are measured with sufficient frequency to detect the repercussions of the relevant pressure factors, at least once a year.

3. Competent bodies

monitoring and inspection programmes concerning the state of surface and ground water shall be carried out by the competent authorities, namely the basin water authorities and the local water authorities.

The MITECO shall be the government authority for coordinating and compiling information on the state and quality of mainland water, requesting relevant information from the competent authorities.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of stations sampled

Number of analyses carried out

Number of stations sampled with active substances of plant protection products present

Number of analyses carried out with plant protection products present

Number of active substances of plant protection products on the list of priority substances

5. Quantitative objectives

To compile and update information on the monitoring of the state of surface and underground water by MITECO at least once a year.

monitoring of plant protection products included on the list of priority substances and specific basin contaminants will take place via monthly and quarterly samples for surface water (depending on whether the substance is priority or preferential).

For ground water, the pesticides are measured at least once a year or with sufficient frequency to detect the repercussions of the relevant pressure factors.

Assessment of the state of surface and underground water in the basin management plans during the term of the PAN.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

6.6 Set up programmes to monitor the presence of plant protection products in water intended for human consumption.

1. Legislation

Law 33/2011 of 4 October 2011, the General Health Act.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing the framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products.

Royal Decree 140/2003 of 7 February establishing sanitary criteria relating to the quality of water for human consumption. The new Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast), is currently being transposed, a process due to be completed by the end of 2022.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Set up a system for monitoring the presence of plant protection products in water intended for human consumption at levels that could pose a risk to human health, so that:

- Corrective actions and/or preventive measures can be taken, if necessary.
- An overview of the current situation and prevailing trends can be established.

The Spanish national information system on drinking water (SINAC) provides information on individual levels of plant protection products, total pesticides and more than 300 substances checked individually. The scope of action includes all supply areas in Spain and relates to treatments, deposits, distribution networks and taps, which are the four critical stages in the supply of water intended for human consumption.

Total pesticides is an aggregate parameter for pesticide concentrations, and includes all insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, nematocides, acaricides, algicides, rodenticides, metabolites, organic anti-mould products, and products related to growth regulators suspected to be present in the water. The parameter value is 0.5 µg/L. The SINAC automatically notifies the healthcare authorities of any water-related alerts if this value exceeds certain thresholds.

The individual pesticides are a group of more than 300 substances checked individually. Their presence in the water is the result of diffuse pollution of aquifers or runoff of surface water and farming practices. The generic parameter value is 0.10 µg/L, except for aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor and heptachlor-epoxide, for which this value is 0.03 µg/L. The SINAC automatically notifies the healthcare authorities of any water-related alerts if this value exceeds certain thresholds.

3. Competent bodies

Local entities, directly or indirectly through water supply companies, as the body responsible for supply, self-regulation and entering data in the SINAC.

The healthcare bodies of the Autonomous Communities, as the body responsible for sanitary monitoring of water intended for human consumption.

The Directorate General For Public Health of the Ministry of Health, as management body of the SINAC and body responsible for publishing the Annual technical report on the quality of water intended for human consumption.

4. Compliance indicators

There are five indicators grouped into two main classes:

1. Compliance indicators
 - a) Percentage of checks compliant with parameter values
 - b) Percentage of supply areas compliant with parameter values
2. Non-compliance indicators
 - a) Percentage of supply areas that have failed to meet parameter values on one occasion
 - b) Percentage of supply areas that have failed to meet parameter values on more than one occasion
 - c) Number of incidents per pesticide

The incidents will be analysed in order to determine what caused them.

5. Quantitative objectives

Year-on-year reduction of indicators of non-compliance with parameter values set.

Year-on-year increase of indicators of compliance with parameter values set.

6. Action schedule

The measure shall be implemented immediately and the results, provided by the Spanish national information system on drinking water (SINAC), shall be based on the results of the 'Technical report on the quality of water intended for human consumption in Spain', which shall be produced every year.

6.7 Statistics on poisoning caused by exposure to and/or use of plant protection products among workers and the general public.

1. Legislation

Law 33/2011 of 4 October 2011, the General Health Act.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing the framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products.

Regulation (EC) 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) 1907/2006.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Improve risk management relating to plant protection products by identifying, studying and assessing the harmful effects on health resulting from exposure and/or use thereof among workers and the general public, with a view to adopting appropriate measures to limit said exposure and to eliminate or reduce the related effects.

Set up a health information system making it possible to determine the number of cases related to health risks arising from exposure to or contact with plant protection products, based on three subsystems:

- Information handled using the Rapid chemical information exchange system (SIRIPQ) of the National chemical monitoring, inspection and control network.
- Information provided by the Spanish national institute of toxicology and forensic science (INTyCF) on call-centre queries related to the use of pesticides.
- Information on cases treated in accident & emergency departments and intensive care wards related to exposure to or contact with plant protection products.

3. Competent bodies

Health authorities of Autonomous Communities, Spanish national institute of toxicology, Ministry of Health.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of queries related to the use of plant protection products dealt with by the toxicology information services of the Spanish national institute of toxicology and forensic science (INTyCF).

Number of individuals treated in accident & emergency departments and intensive care wards in relation to the use of plant protection products.

Number of incidents notified to the Rapid chemical information exchange system (SIRIPQ) in relation to plant protection products.

5. Quantitative objectives

Identifying substances causing poisoning in workers or the general public.

Identify risks related to poisoning in the general public and the circumstances of the groups affected.

Awareness of the harmful effects to health of plant protection products, in domestic, farming, forestry, urban and industrial environments or in road and rail networks.

Discover potential changes in the incidence of poisonings.

Monitor the effectiveness of preventive measures and treatments.

6. Action schedule

The actions shall begin when the Plan is started up and information on indicators shall be collected annually.

7) Improve controls on the use of plant protection products

7.1 Set up monitoring programmes for the use of plant protection products.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC, Article 68 of which makes provision for Member States to carry out the necessary checks to ensure compliance, and Article 55 refers to the appropriate use of plant protection products, providing continuity for the monitoring programmes.

Law No 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 on Plant Health.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products.

Royal Decree No 9/2015 of 16 January 2015 governing the conditions for applying Community legislation on hygiene in primary agricultural production.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

The purpose of the measure is to check the correct use of plant protection products by means of a programme promoting and building on the existing plan for monitoring the use of plant protection products in both agricultural and non-agricultural contexts.

This measure, which must take into account the provisions of the National Pollinator Conservation Strategy, shall be pursued by the implementation of a National Programme for the Official Control of Hygiene in Primary Agricultural Production and the Use of Plant Protection Products, which, in relation to plant protection use, includes controls on treatment firms and agricultural holdings to verify, by analysing samples taken from plants, the following:

- Storage conditions and verifying the existence of authorised products
- Traceability of plant protection product treatments (farm logbooks).
- Use of plant protection products, checking authorised best practice in agriculture.
- Training operatives involved in applying treatments.

3. Competent bodies

Within central government, the MAPA shall be responsible for coordinating the actions proposed in this measure, specifically the Directorate General for Farming Health (Subdirectorato General for Plant and Forest Health and Hygiene).

The competent bodies of each autonomous region shall be responsible for implementing this measure.

The MITECO will also be involved, especially on issues relating to the impact on biodiversity and pollinators.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of farm logbooks supervised.

Number of farm logbooks supervised in which incidents were found to have taken place.

Percentage of farm logbooks inspected with incidents in relation to the total number of logbooks inspected.

Percentage of incidents in plant protection treatment records.

Number of producers inspected.

Number of incidents in staff training.

Percentage of incidents in staff training.

Number of samples taken.

Number of times when cases of samples with products not entered in the farm logbook have been detected.

Percentage of samples with products not entered in the farm logbook.

Percentage of checks revealing infringements related to the use of plant protection products.

Number of times when samples of unauthorised products have been found in crops, green areas, soils, service networks or forests, urban areas, walkways, roads and similar, railways and other inspected areas.

Percentage of samples with unauthorised products in crops, green areas, soils, service networks or forests, urban areas, walkways, roads and similar, railways and other inspected areas.

5. Quantitative objectives

The following shall be performed every year:

- 4 000 inspections of farms
- 500 inspections of plant protection product treatment companies
- 750 plant samples

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

7.2 Strengthen the system of official control laboratories.

1. Regulations and other key documents

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products.

Royal Decree No 9/2015 of 16 January 2015 governing the conditions for applying Community legislation on hygiene in primary agricultural production.

General procedure for appointing laboratories carrying out official checks by MAPA as laid down in the National Plan for the Official Control of the Food Chain.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

The purpose of the measure is to establish a sound system of participating laboratories carrying out official checks of the use of plant protection products by designating laboratories (or, where applicable, withdrawing that designation), with the competent authorities reporting to the MAPA.

3. Competent bodies

The Autonomous Communities shall be responsible for designating official inspection laboratories and for notifying this to the MAPA.

As competent body for coordinating the programme at national level, the MAPA shall be responsible for designating the appropriate national reference laboratories for using plant protection products and for keeping a register of official inspection laboratories designated by the Autonomous Communities' authorities.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of laboratories designated.

Number of withdrawals of designations or incidents notified by the competent authorities regarding their official inspection laboratories.

5. Quantitative objectives

Designation of at least one official inspection laboratory per Autonomous Community.

As regards incidents in laboratories no specific objective can be set. It would be ideal to find that no incidents had occurred, which would seem to indicate that the laboratories are complying with all of the requirements concerning their designation.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

7.3 Implement electronic communication systems for the use of plant protection products.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC, Article 68 of which makes provision for Member States to carry out the necessary checks to ensure compliance, and Article 55 refers to the appropriate use of plant protection products, providing continuity for the monitoring programmes.

Regulation (EC) 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 concerning statistics on pesticides.

Law No 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 on Plant Health.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

To obtain objective information on the sustainable use of plant protection products, real-time information channels are required on the marketing of plant protection products, focusing particularly on active substances deemed to be of particular concern.

Pursuant to Article 16 of Royal Decree 1311/2012, a register must be kept of all applications of plant protection products on holdings, in accordance with the provisions laid down in Annex III to the said Royal Decree.

To ensure the sustainable use of plant protection products, we propose to ensure that all plant protection products used on farms are entered in an electronic register.

Initially an IT application will be developed nationwide that will help with the registration of applications with plant protection products. This IT application shall be open to all agricultural holdings.

3. Competent bodies

In central government, the MAPA shall be responsible for coordinating the actions proposed in this measure, specifically the Directorate General for Farming Health (DGSPA), via the Subdirectorate General for Plant and Forest Health and Hygiene.

4. Compliance indicators

Development of an IT application for the electronic farm logbook.

Holdings registered in the electronic logbook.

5. Quantitative objectives

Ensure that at least 70% of agricultural holdings registered in the General Register of Agricultural Production (REGPEA) are using the electronic farm logbook at the end of the PAN period.

6. Action schedule

The creation of the IT tool must be completed by the end of 2023.

Monitoring of the measure and promotion of the use of the application throughout the term of the PAN.

8) Reduce the risk arising from the use of plant protection products in specific areas.

8.1 Implementation and review of the guidelines for assessing Implementation and review of the methodology for assessing the effectiveness of the recommendations defined for protection zones on integrated pest management, and consideration of possible new measures to apply.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products.

Law No 42/2007 of 13 December 2007 on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.

Royal Decree 139/2011, of 4 February 2011 for the development of the List of Specially Protected Wild Species and the Spanish Catalogue of Endangered Species.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

The purpose of this measure is to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the recommendations in the protection zones defined in Article 34(1)(b) of Royal Decree 1311/2012, as soon as knowledge of the state of the protection zones identified in the previous Plan is available. That will enable us to assess the effectiveness of the conservation of endangered species and of biodiversity in general.

The measure is being put forward as a continuation of Measure No 7.4 of the National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products 2013-2017 and Measure 8.1 of the National Action Plan 2018-2022.

Having identified and published the protection zones identified in Royal Decree 139/2011 of 4 February 2011 for the development of the List of Specially Protected Wild Species and the Spanish Catalogue of Endangered Species, a series of recommended measures were defined that were to be implemented by producers in vulnerable areas and natural areas subject to special protection for the use of plant protection products. Given that it was not possible to carry out strict checks of the application of the proposed measures, a more workable idea was to assess their potential effect on wildlife.

To assess their effectiveness in achieving their ultimate objectives, i.e. to ensure that the conservation of endangered species and biodiversity in general is not compromised by the use of plant protection products, a number of bio-indicators are used.

For five years, comparative field sampling was carried out between protection zones and other areas comparable in agronomic, geographical and landscape terms, following the guidelines put forward and implemented in the previous PAN 2018 - 2022, taking account of control species, sampling areas and expected results. The preliminary conclusion of this work, available in technical reports and awaiting scientific dissemination, is that there is no difference in biodiversity between the protection zones and other areas. This suggests that the proposed measures may not go far enough or may not have been implemented in accordance with Royal Decree 1311/2012 and the Guidelines for Integrated Pest Management in vulnerable areas.

In the new PAN it would therefore be advisable to take the necessary steps to verify the implementation level and the effectiveness of the recommendations featured in the guidelines for integrated pest management on the conservation of biodiversity. It is also necessary to review the measures to be brought in or amended, both in terms of possible updates of the

specific basic legislation (Royal Decree 1311/2012) and in the guidelines and recommendations for the implementation of Integrated Pest Management.

In order to be able to compare the information on population trends in bio-indicators with regard to the implementation and effectiveness of the recommendations in the protection zones, the use of plant protection products must be verified by consulting the farm logbooks of holdings located in the identified protection zones.

In measure D.1.2. of the Pollinator Conservation Strategy ('Assessing the implementation of recommendations in protection zones and increasing farmers' knowledge in order to minimise the risk of the use of plant protection') reference is made to the need to analyse the results of the assessment of the implementation of the recommendations in protection zones and to facilitate the dissemination of these recommendations. The ultimate aim is to look into the possibility of making the current recommendations mandatory for the protection zones or offering incentives for them to be followed.

In the light of the results of these assessments, the recommendations for the protection zones should be revised or amended and we should look into the possibility of making them mandatory or offering incentives for them to be followed. Furthermore, the specific basic regulations (Royal Decree 1311/2012) and the guidelines and recommendations for the implementation of integrated pest management may need to be updated.

The recommended measures in these areas will be reviewed with a view to becoming more ambitious in restricting the use of plant protection products in these vulnerable areas and to ensure that they are properly enforced. The measures that fall under the principles of integrated pest management, beyond the legal obligations laid down in Royal Decree 1311/2012, include:

- a. crop rotation,
- b. use of adequate cultivation techniques (e.g. stale seedbed technique, sowing dates and densities, adequate seed dose, conservation tillage, pruning and direct sowing),
- c. use, where appropriate, of resistant/tolerant cultivars and standard/certified seed and planting material,
- d. use of balanced fertilisation, liming and irrigation/drainage practices,
- e. preventing the spreading of harmful organisms by hygiene measures (e.g. by regular cleansing of machinery and equipment),
- f. protection and enhancement of important beneficial organisms, e.g. by adequate plant protection measures or the use of ecological infrastructures inside and outside production sites and companion planting,
- g. biological control techniques,
- h. restricted use of plant protection products, in particular those not considered low impact.

3. Competent bodies

The Directorate-General for Biodiversity, Forests and Desertification of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO) is the competent body for the coordination and monitoring of compliance with Royal Decree 139/2011 of 4 February 2011 for

the development of the List of Wild Species under the Special Protection Regime and the Spanish Catalogue of Endangered Species.

Given that the integrated pest management guidelines lay down recommendations for the use of plant protection products all of the information collected will be presented to the Spanish national plant protection committee (CFN), in conjunction with the Wild flora and fauna committee (CFFS), as the body responsible for drafting and approving the integrated pest management guidelines.

4. Compliance indicators

Implementation and, where necessary, review and update of the guidelines for monitoring and selecting monitoring areas.

Submission of reports of bio-indicator results of samples in order to make a comparison between the protection zones and other areas outside them in terms of the state of biodiversity.

Continuation of monitoring campaigns in the field inside and outside protection zones following the guidelines established in the previous PAN 2018-2022, or revised guidelines, as appropriate.

Several new measures proposed to foster biodiversity in the published protection zones, as agreed between the competent administrative units (primarily the MAPA and the MITECO).

5. Quantitative objectives

Implementation and, where necessary, revision and update of the guidelines for assessing the effectiveness of the recommendations made in the integrated pest management guidelines for protection zones concerning the use of plant protection products.

Reduction in the amount of plant protection products applied in the protection zones, compared between different reference years and until the end of the implementation of this Plan.

Carry out an inspection in the same monitoring plots during the last sampling campaign to verify the data from the farm logbooks.

Draw up a final report with the monitoring data, including an analysis of the implementation and effectiveness of the recommendations.

Draw up a proposal for measures or recommended practices to promote biodiversity in protected areas for incorporation into legislation.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

8.2 Raise awareness and knowledge of the recommendations on plant protection products in the protection zones

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products.

Law No 42/2007 of 13 December 2007 on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.

Royal Decree 139/2011, of 4 February 2011 for the development of the List of Specially Protected Wild Species and the Spanish Catalogue of Endangered Species.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Measure 7.4 of the PAN 2013-2017 identified and published the protection zones declared pursuant to Royal Decree 139/2011 of 4 February 2011 implementing the 'List of wild species subject to special protection and the Spanish catalogue of endangered species'.

In addition to this measure, a range of recommendations was adopted for the phytosanitary management of crops; these recommendations are set out in section 4 of all the integrated pest management guides approved by the MAPA.

In order to make further progress on the protection of these vulnerable areas, awareness must be raised among the managers and owners of these sites so that these recommendations can be implemented. We are therefore proposing the launch of training days on this matter for each Autonomous Community.

This need to increase farmers' knowledge of the recommendations is referred to in the Pollinator Conservation Strategy.

3. Competent bodies

In central government, the MAPA shall be responsible for coordinating the actions proposed in this measure, specifically the Directorate General for Farming Health (Subdirectorato General for Plant and Forest Health and Hygiene).

The competent bodies of each autonomous region shall be responsible for implementing this measure.

The MITECO may also produce any materials that would need to be passed on to the managers of the Autonomous Communities responsible for holding these seminars.

4. Compliance indicators

Number of awareness-raising and training days on the protection zones and the recommendations.

5. Quantitative objectives

To hold at least one training day per year per Autonomous Community.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.

9) Improve and extend the use of plant protection alerts for citizens and the vulnerable and sensitive population

9.1 Publish guidelines and protocols for communicating terrestrial and aerial plant protection alerts - including those using drones - to the general population and, in particular, to the vulnerable and sensitive population.

1. Legislation

Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Law No 43/2002 of 20 November 2002 on Plant Health.

Royal Decree 1311/2012 of 14 September 2012 establishing a framework of action for achieving sustainable use of plant protection products

Law 27/2006 of 18 July regulates the rights to access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.

Royal Decree 485/1997 of 14 April 1997 on the minimum requirements for the provision of safety and/or health signs at work.

2. Description and specific objective of the measure

Publish protocols or guidelines for the Autonomous Communities' competent authorities, plant and forest protection agencies and bodies responsible for maintaining public vegetation with a view to informing the public appropriately, effectively and with as much notice as possible of plant protection treatments and aerial applications including those using drones in particular vulnerable groups, so that precautionary protection measures can be taken.

The main objective is to protect the general public and in particular more vulnerable sections of society (in particular sufferers of multiple chemical sensitivity, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, asthma, cancer and other health conditions) from accidental exposure to plant protection treatments and/or aerial applications including those using drones by **publishing effective plant protection alert protocols** by means of different media (electronic, mobile devices and on-site) and to recommend good practices concerning the information to be notified (place, date and time of application, type of pest; type and name of product, plant protection registration number, method of application, number of the company and people responsible for applying the product, company/ies or bodies responsible for authorising treatment, self-protection recommendations and for protecting pets, waiting time for approaching the treated area, telephone number to call in case of emergencies or accidental exposure and how to find out about any unplanned changes to the treatment programme).

The protocols shall lay down the requirements and procedures for plant protection alerts for land and/or aerial treatment by those responsible or the competent bodies.

3. Competent bodies

The MAPA and the relevant departments of each Autonomous Community.

4. Compliance indicators

The indicators used to check the success of this measure shall be as follows:

- Number of protocols/guidelines published concerning the notification of plant health alerts to the public.
- Number of protocols published on the notification of plant protection alerts and aerial applications - including those using drones - to vulnerable people.

5. Quantitative objectives

Implementation of at least one effective protocol of plant protection alerts to the public in all Autonomous Communities referring to the plant health treatment.

Implementation of at least one effective protocol of plant protection alerts to vulnerable people (including people and associations of those suffering from multiple chemical sensitivity, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, asthma, cancer and other health conditions) in all Autonomous Communities.

6. Action schedule

Throughout the term of the PAN.