

**Government Gazette, Annex 111(1)**  
**Regulatory Administrative Act 266/2023**  
**No 5818, 25.8.2023**

**No 266**

THE 2011 AND 2021 LAWS ON PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

Decree pursuant to Article 23

Government Gazette, Annex III (I): 01/06/2012. With a view to implementing Regulation No 4 of the Regulations on the sustainable use of pesticides in relation to the National Action Plans aimed at setting quantitative and other targets, measures and timetables to reduce risks and the impact of pesticide use on human health and the environment and at encouraging the development and introduction of integrated pest management and of alternative approaches or techniques in order to reduce dependency on pesticide use,

The Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment exercising the powers

141(I) of 2011 and 71(I) of 2021. conferred upon him by Article 23 of the 2011 and 2021 Laws on Plant Protection Products hereby issues the following Decree:

Short title. 1. This Decree shall be referred to as the Plant Protection Products (National Action Plan) Amending Decree of 2023

Definitions. 2. (1) For the purposes of this Decree -

Regulatory Administrative Act (RAA) 193/2012 'Regulations' means the 2012 Regulations on the sustainable use of pesticides, as amended and replaced.

141(1) of 2011 and 71(1) of 2021 (2) Any other terms used in this Decree and which are not otherwise defined therein shall have the meaning given to them by the 2011 and 2021 Laws on Plant Protection Products, as amended and replaced, and the Regulations.

Annex 3. The National Action Plan for the five-year period 2023-2027, which sets quantitative and other targets, measures and timetables to reduce the risks and impacts of the use of plant production products on human and animal health and on the environment, and to develop and introduce integrated pest management and alternative approaches and techniques in order to reduce dependency on the use of plant protection products, is described in the Annex to this Decree.

Done on 21 August 2023

Mr Petros Xenophontos,  
Minister for Agriculture,  
Rural Development and the Environment

ANNEX  
(Paragraph 3)

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2023-2027

PART I: TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONAL USERS, DISTRIBUTORS AND CONSULTANTS

Objective

The objective is for professional users, distributors and consultants to gain or update their knowledge. Adequate training is expected to lead to a reduction in the risks to and the impact on human health and the environment resulting from the use of plant protection products.

Measures to implement the Objective

The implementation of a certification system demonstrating the gaining or updating of knowledge at least with regard to the subjects listed in Annex II to the Regulations, by professional users, distributors and consultants, taking into account their various roles and responsibilities.

Application of measures and timetables

**1) PROFESSIONAL USERS**

Professional users must hold a valid training certificate as a professional user showing that they possess sufficient knowledge in the fields listed in Annex II to the Regulations.

a) Requirements for the issue of the user refresher training certificate:

The issue of the user refresher training certificate shall be contingent on:

i) the submission of an application to the Department of Agriculture for the issue of the training certificate in electronic format, using a form approved by the competent authority. The competent authority may, where appropriate, decide that the application must be submitted in hard copy, in a format approved by it,

ii) participation in training organised by the Department of Agriculture or by other bodies that is approved by the competent authority in accordance with criteria it lays down by decision. The training shall cover at least all the subjects listed in Annex II to the Regulations, taking into account the role and responsibilities of professional users

or

iii) the passing of examinations organised by the Department of Agriculture in paper or electronic form based on material which includes at least all the subjects listed in Annex II to the Regulations.

From 1 July 2024 onwards, participation in training AND passing examinations will be the prerequisite for obtaining the professional user training certificate.

With a view to proving the professional user's professional activity, the competent authority decides which admissible supporting documents or other data must be submitted, where appropriate, in the application for the professional user training certificate (farmer, gardener, phosphine user, etc.).

The training certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture shall be valid for 5 years and may be renewed.

Persons holding a training certificate as a consultant may immediately acquire the professional user training certificate upon submission of the above-mentioned application.

#### b) Renewal of the professional user training certificate

To renew the professional user training certificate, an application must be submitted to the Department of Agriculture electronically, in a format approved by the competent authority. The competent authority may, where deemed appropriate, decide that submission of the application should be in hard copy, in a format it approves.

When applying for renewal of the professional user training certificate, the accepted supporting documents or other information required, as appropriate, must be submitted in accordance with the competent authority's decision, in order to prove the professional user's professional activity (farmer, gardener, phosphine user, etc.).

From 1 January 2026, additional training will be a prerequisite for the renewal of the professional user training certificate. Renewal of the professional user training certificate shall be subject to submission of confirmation of completion of the additional training, provided by the Department of Agriculture or by the body approved by the competent authority.

The additional training topics and bodies shall be determined by decision of the competent authority.

Persons holding a training certificate as a plant protection product consultant may immediately renew the professional user training certificate upon submission of the above-mentioned application.

#### c) Withdrawal of the professional user training certificate

The Director may revoke the professional user training certificate as an administrative penalty pursuant to Article 19 of the 2011 and 2021 Laws on Plant Protection Products, where they find that the holder does not comply with the provisions of the Laws, Regulations or this Decree, or written instructions from the Department of Agriculture. To this end, the competent authority may determine, by means of a decision, the grounds for withdrawing the training certificate.

## **2) DISTRIBUTORS**

Distributors must hold a valid training certificate as a distributor showing that they possess sufficient knowledge in the fields listed in Annex II to the Regulations. Distributors include sellers of plant protection products (retail sale), owners or operators of shops selling plant

protection products, and at least one employee of natural or legal persons supplying plant protection products in Cyprus.

a) Requirements for the issue of a training certificate as a distributor

The issue of a training certificate as a distributor requires:

i) the submission of an application to the Department of Agriculture for the issue of a training certificate electronically, in a format approved by the competent authority; The competent authority may, where it deems appropriate, decide that submission of the application should be in hard copy, in a format it approves.

ii) participation in training organised by the Department of Agriculture or by bodies approved by the competent authority in accordance with criteria it lays down by decision. The training shall cover at least all the subjects listed in Annex II to the Regulations, taking into account distributors' role and responsibilities

and

iii) the passing of examinations, on paper or in electronic format, organised by the Department of Agriculture based on material including at least all the subjects listed in Annex II to the Regulations.

The distributor training certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture shall be valid for 5 years and may be renewed.

Persons holding a training certificate as a plant protection product consultant may immediately acquire the distributor training certificate upon submission of the relevant application.

b) Renewal of the distributor training certificate

To renew the distributor training certificate, an application must be submitted to the Department of Agriculture electronically, in a format approved by the competent authority. The competent authority may, where deemed appropriate, decide that submission of the application should be in hard copy, in a format it approves.

From 1 January 2026, additional training will be a prerequisite for the renewal of the distributor training certificate. Renewal of the distributor training certificate shall be subject to submitting confirmation of completion of the additional training, provided by the Department of Agriculture or by the body approved by the competent authority.

The additional training topics and bodies shall be determined by decision of the competent authority.

Persons holding a consultant training certificate may immediately acquire the training certificate as a distributor upon submission of the relevant application.

c) Withdrawal of the distributor training certificate

The Director may revoke the distributor training certificate by way of an administrative penalty pursuant to Article 19 of the 2011 and 2021 Laws on Plant Protection Products, where they find that the holder does not comply with the provisions of the Law, Regulations or this Decree, or with written instructions from the Department of Agriculture. To this end, the competent authority may determine, by means of a decision, the grounds for withdrawing the training certificate.

### **3) CONSULTANTS**

Advisors must hold a valid training certificate as a consultant showing that they possess sufficient knowledge in the fields listed in Annex II to the Regulations.

a) Requirements for the issue of a training certificate as a consultant

The issue of a training certificate as a consultant shall be contingent on:

i) the submission of an application to the Department of Agriculture for the issue of a consultant training certificate electronically, in a format approved by the competent authority; The competent authority may, where deemed appropriate, decide that submission of the application should be in hard copy, in a format it approves,

ii) certificate of registration in the Register of Agronomists, and also renewal of the professional licence, in a sector authorised by the Council of Agronomists, in accordance with Article 4 of the 1987 to 2015 Laws on the registration of agronomists (Law 32/1987), as amended and replaced. Pursuit of an agricultural occupation as consultant agronomist is open only to agronomists who meet the above criterion and are entered as such in the Register of Agronomists (no specified sector) or as agronomists in the plant production or plant protection sectors or, at the discretion of the Council of Agronomists, in other related sectors. To this end, the Council of Agronomists shall send lists of consultant agronomists who meet the criteria to the Department of Agriculture at regular intervals, in electronic or other format.

Persons involved in the preparation and implementation of plant protection programmes for forest species must hold a valid training certificate as a consultant which relates exclusively to this field, and the training certificate as a consultant shall indicate that it concerns only forest species. In this case the applicant may, instead of the certificate of registration as an agronomist, submit a copy of a university diploma or qualification in the field of forestry, and

iii) participation in training courses organised by the Department of Agriculture or by bodies approved by the competent authority in accordance with criteria defined by decision of the latter in order to provide the requisite training, due account being taken of the subjects included in Annex II to the Regulations and of the role and responsibilities of consultants.

The training certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture shall be valid for 5 years and may be renewed.

b) Renewal of the training certificate as a consultant

To renew the training certificate as a consultant, an application must be submitted to the Department of Agriculture electronically, in a format approved by the competent authority. The competent authority may, where deemed appropriate, decide that submission of the application should be in hard copy, in a format approved by it.

From 1 January 2026, additional training will be a prerequisite for the renewal of the training certificate as a consultant. Renewal of the training certificate as a consultant shall be subject to submission of confirmation of completion of the additional training, provided by the Department of Agriculture or by the body approved by the competent authority.

The additional training topics and bodies shall be determined by decision of the competent authority.

c) Withdrawal of the training certificate as a consultant

The Director may revoke the training certificate as a consultant by way of an administrative penalty pursuant to Article 19 of the 2011 and 2021 Laws on Plant Protection Products, where they find that the holder does not comply with the provisions of the Law, Regulations or this Decree, or with written instructions from the Department of Agriculture. To this end, the competent authority may determine, by means of a decision, the grounds for withdrawing the training certificate.

#### **4) Limitations**

a) Only professional users with a valid training certificate as a professional user may employ plant protection products for professional use.

b) Only persons with a valid training certificate as a distributor may place plant protection products for professional use on the market.

c) Only persons with a valid training certificate as a consultant may provide advice on plant protection, pest management and the use of plant protection products.

Only persons with a training certificate as a consultant may give oral or written instructions on the professional use for pest control and the use of plant protection products, in accordance with their terms of licence. The competent authority may, where considered necessary, by means of a relevant decision, authorise the use of a plant protection product solely on the basis of written advice from a consultant.

## **PART II: REQUIREMENTS FOR SALE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS**

### Objective

The objective is to reduce the risks to human and animal health and to the environment

associated with the use of plant protection products. In this context, only persons with a training certificate as a distributor may sell plant protection products for professional use.

### Implementation

These measures shall be applied in conjunction with those provided for in the 2003 Regulations on pesticides (sale, manufacture and storage), as amended and replaced.

- 1) All distributors must hold a training certificate as a distributor.
- 2) The competent authority shall make available an on-line inventory of plant protection products for professional use that shall also include plant protection products classified as toxic, highly toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction pursuant to the 2020 Law on chemical substances (Law 119(I)/2020), as amended and replaced. The inventory may be broken down by group of professional users who may have occasion to use the plant protection products in question in the course of their professional activity.
- 3) All holders of a licence to sell pesticides in accordance with the 2003 Regulations on pesticides (sale, manufacture and storage) must also hold a valid training certificate as a distributor.
- 4) Sellers or distributors of pesticides must be available at the time of sale to provide customers with the information referred to on the labels of the plant protection products for professional use, concerning their use, information on the risks to health and to the environment, and safety instructions on the management of those risks in relation to the specific products.
- 5) Only professional users who hold a valid training certificate may distribute plant protection products included in the List of Plant Protection Products for professional use. The registration number of the professional user shall be recorded on the copy of the invoice, which shall be filed in the store archive and kept in an electronic register (where this is operational) in which the distribution of plant protection products for professional use is recorded by customers/distributors.
- 6) Information on distribution is recorded in electronic format, including at least the invoice number, the registration number of the professional user, the licence number, the commercial name, the pack size and the total quantity of the plant protection product sold.

- 7) Micro distributors selling only products that are for non-professional use shall be excluded from the obligation to hold a training certificate as a distributor set out in Part A of this Decree, on the condition that they are exempt from the licensing requirement for sellers in accordance with the 2003 Regulations on pesticides (sale, manufacture and storage), as amended and replaced. Micro distributors selling only products for non-professional use have the obligation to provide general information regarding the risks to human health and the environment of pesticide use, in particular on hazards, exposure, proper storage, handling, application and safe disposal in accordance with Community legislation on waste, as well as regarding low-risk alternatives.
- 8) Each person responsible for placing plant protection products on the market that are intended for non-professional use must provide each distributor or micro distributor of the product with general information regarding the risks of those products to human health and the environment, in particular regarding hazards, exposure, proper storage, handling, application and safe disposal in accordance with Community legislation on waste, as well as regarding low-risk alternatives.
- 9) Shop owners must hold a valid training certificate as a consultant or have entered into a contract with a person who holds a training certificate as a consultant which states that person's responsibility for:

(a) the supervision of the establishment and of the sales person or persons employed by it as regards the application of the 2003 Regulations on pesticides (sale, manufacture and storage), as amended and replaced,

(b) taking measures to minimise the risks from the handling of plant protection products within the establishment (e.g. during transport, storage, etc.),

(c) the protocol to be followed in the event of an accident,

(d) the provision to customers, in writing or verbally, of appropriate information on the use of plant protection products, the risks to health and the environment and the safety guidelines for managing these risks in relation to the products in question,

(e) the provision to customers of written or oral advice on pest management and the safe use of plant protection products. In order to ensure that the holder of a training certificate as a consultant is available at the time of sale, they may not sign a contract for the supervision of more than one retail establishment selling pesticides.

### PART III: PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS

Under the National Action Plan, the following measures must be taken:

i) measures to inform the general public and promote and facilitate information and awareness-raising programmes and the availability of clear and unambiguous information on plant protection products, in particular regarding the risks and potential acute and chronic effects for human health, non-target organisms and the environment, and the use of non-chemical alternatives, and

ii) operation of a system for gathering information, where available, on acute pesticide



poisoning incidents, as well as chronic poisoning developments, among groups that may be exposed regularly to plant protection products.

### Objective

The objective of the National Action Plan is to minimise the risk and impact of the use of plant protection products on human and animal health and on the environment, by taking measures to inform the general public and raise awareness.

### Application of measures and timetables

1) The Department of Agriculture shall issue/renew information material in electronic and/or paper format to inform and raise public awareness of the risks posed by plant protection products :

- the risks to humans posed by the use of plant protection products and the protective measures to be taken, particularly for vulnerable groups as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.
- the risks to the environment, non-target organisms, flora and fauna posed by the use of plant protection products and the measures that must be taken to protect them,
- the risks to animals,
- the symptoms of poisoning following exposure to plant production products and first aid measures, and
- the availability of non-chemical alternatives.

This information shall also be made available via the Department of Agriculture's website and social media, via radio and/or TV broadcasts and via articles published in daily newspapers and in the periodical 'Agrotis'. All the information will be available to all bodies wishing to use it as part of their public information campaigns.

2) The Medical services and Public Health Services shall be responsible for collecting information on acute poisoning incidents and chronic poisoning developments in groups that may be regularly exposed to plant protection products such as operators, agricultural workers or persons living close to areas in which plant protection products are applied.

These data shall be forwarded each year to the competent authority. The competent authority, together with the Medical Services and the Public Health Services, shall assess the incidents in order to take appropriate measures to inform the public, authorisation holders and vendors of pesticides, and amend or withdraw plant protection product authorisations.

## PART IV: INSPECTION OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCT APPLICATION EQUIPMENT

Under the National Action Plan, the following measures must be taken:

- i) implementation and monitoring of the inspection procedure and the certification system for plant production product application equipment, the use of which may pose a risk to human health and to the environment,
- ii) ensuring that professional users conduct regular calibrations and technical checks of the plant protection products application equipment in accordance with the appropriate training received in line with Part I of the Annex to this Decree.

### Objective

The purpose of the National Action Plan is to minimise the risks and impacts of the application of plant protection products on human and animal health and on the environment, by ensuring that plant protection product application equipment is suitable and that operators are sufficiently knowledgeable on how to use them.

### Application of measures and timetables

- 1) The inspection and certification system for PPP equipment
  - a) The inspection and certification system shall apply to plant protection product application equipment. By decision of the competent authority, certain categories of equipment may be exempt from the obligation to be inspected (knapsack sprayers, shoulder sprayers, with a capacity of less than 10 litres).
  - b) Owners of plant protection application equipment shall be required to enter their equipment in the Register of Plant Protection Products Application Equipment. Application equipment that is not being used shall be declared by the holder as out of use. Any change to the registration by the equipment owner shall be made by solemn declaration of using a form from the Department of Agriculture.
  - c) Inspections of plant protection product application equipment shall be carried out by Inspection Cooperatives for plant protection product application equipment, hereinafter referred to as 'cooperatives', which are granted a licence by the competent authority in accordance with criteria laid down by its decision. The competent authority shall, following its decision, review or amend the procedure granting the renewal of the cooperatives' licences. The competent authority shall issue an Inspection Handbook for plant protection product application equipment, which the cooperatives must follow when issuing certificates of conformity.
  - d) It shall be prohibited to use plant protection product application equipment referred to in point (a) above that does not have a certificate of conformity.

2) Checks on professional users

As part of the checks carried out to implement the 2011 and 2021 Laws on Plant Protection Products, it shall be checked whether plant protection product application equipment in use has been entered in the Register of Plant Protection Products Application Equipment and whether it has a certificate of conformity.

3) Points (a) to (d) of paragraph 1 shall apply until the adoption of regulations or of an ordinance that will regulate in detail the issues underlying the operation of the system for inspecting plant protection products application equipment.

## PART V AERIAL SPRAYING

Under the National Action Plan, the requisite measures must be taken to determine the procedure for only licensing aerial spraying in special cases, in accordance with Regulation No 9.

### Objective

The objective of the National Action Plan is to determine the procedure for only licensing aerial spraying in special cases and under conditions that minimise the risks to human and animal health and to the environment.

### Application of measures and timetables

#### Procedure for granting aerial spraying approval in special cases

- 1) The applicant shall submit an Implementation Plan to the Director for approval, in accordance with Regulation 9 [4(a)] of the Regulations, accompanied by the necessary information, describing how compliance with the conditions laid down in Regulation 9 of the Regulations will be ensured.
- 2) The aerial spraying application must be in line with the criteria drawn up by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to Regulation 9(3) above;
- 3) The applicant shall submit to the Director an aerial spraying request using the form drawn up by the Department of Agricultural and showing:
  - a) the implementation plan approved by the Department of Agriculture on the basis of which aerial spraying is to be carried out, b) the exact area(s) in which aerial spraying will be carried out, c) the planned aerial spraying period, d) the plant protection products to be used, and e) the quantities of plant protection products that will be used.
- 4) The Director shall communicate the details of the aerial spraying request to the Department of the Environment, the Department of Water Development, the Department of Forestry, the Hunting and Wildlife Service, the Department of Medical Services and Public Health Services and to any other Department or Service as appropriate, for consultation, with a view to safeguarding the protection of public health and the environment, particularly protected species of flora and fauna.
- 5) The evaluation of the aerial spraying request shall be carried out by the National Action Plan - NAP Monitoring and Implementation Committee, established under Part L, taking into account the results of the above-mentioned consultation. The Committee shall submit an explanatory proposal for approval to the Director.

#### Procedure for granting aerial spraying approval under special conditions in particular

circumstances.

In particular circumstances such as emergency or specific difficult situations, an aerial spraying request may be submitted without an application plan having to be submitted. The Director shall convene a meeting with representatives of the Department of the Environment, the Department of Water Development, the Department of Forestry, the Hunting and Wildlife Service, the Veterinary Services, the Department of Medical Services and Public Health Services and any other Department or Service deemed necessary, for consultation, with a view to safeguarding the protection of public health, animals, the environment and in particular protected species of flora and fauna. During the meeting, an assessment shall be made of compliance with the conditions set out paragraphs 2 and 3 of Regulation No 9. Depending on the conclusions of the meeting, the Director shall approve or reject the request.

## PART VI: INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC

The National Action Plan must include measures to inform persons who might be exposed to spray drift.

### Objective

The objective of the National Action Plan is to protect the health of persons who might be exposed to spray drift from plant protection products.

### Application of measures and timetables

1 Professional users must inform all persons who might be exposed to spray drift.

Where those passing through an area or the residents of an area where plant protection products are being sprayed might be exposed to spray drift, or where they might be affected by spray drift from the activities of other professionals (e.g. farmers, beekeepers, stockbreeders, snail farmers, etc.), the professional user, prior to the commencement of spraying, must inform those potentially affected and affix notices around the application area (e.g. on posts, perimeter fencing, etc.) stating the plant protection products that will be used.

2 The competent authority may decide to require additional measures to be taken to inform persons who might be exposed to spray drift, where it deems it appropriate to do so.

## PART VII PROTECTION OF THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT AND DRINKING WATER

Under the National Action Plan, the following measures must be taken:

- i) giving preference to plant protection products that are not classified as dangerous for the aquatic environment (GHS09) pursuant to the 2020 Law on Chemical Substances (Law 119(I)/2020), as amended and replaced, and do not contain priority hazardous substances as defined in the 2023 Law on the protection and management of water, (Law 13(I)/2004), as amended and replaced,
- ii) giving preference to the most efficient application techniques such as the use of low-drift PPP application equipment especially in vertical crops such as orchards and vineyards;
- iii) use of mitigation measures to minimise the risk of off-site pollution caused by spray drift, drain-flow and run-off;
- iv) reducing as far as possible or eliminating applications of plant protection products on or along roads, railway lines, very permeable surfaces or other infrastructure close to surface water or groundwater or on sealed surfaces with a high risk of run-off into surface water or sewage systems.

### Objective

The objective of the National Action Plan is to ensure that measures are taken to protect the aquatic environment and drinking water from the effects of plant protection products.

### Application of measures and timetables

1) Users of plant protection products must comply strictly with any restrictions regarding the use and storage of plant protection products in the following protection/buffer zones:

a) in buffer zones as they may be required for the issue of a licence to use an individual plant protection product, as detailed on the product label,

b) in protection zones as defined in Regulatory Administrative Acts issued pursuant to the 2023 Law on the protection and management of waters (N.13(I)/2004), as amended and replaced, for bodies of water used as sources of drinking water, and

c) in water boring protection zones as defined in the 1996 Law on the control of water pollution (groundwater protection measures), as amended and replaced.

2) The Department of Agriculture shall ensure, as part of the checks carried out at the level of the farmer and pursuant to the 2011 and 2021 Laws on plant protection products, that there is strict compliance with the instructions provided on the label in relation to measures to limit the risks to the aquatic environment.

Furthermore, during these checks, the Department of Agriculture shall identify, at the level of the farmer, any empty packaging or expired plant protection products that must be collected and safely disposed of/managed as they constitute potentially significant sources of contamination of the aquatic environment. Empty packaging and expired plant protection products shall be identified and entered in a national register.



3) As part of the training referred to in Part A of the Annex to this Decree and of the information and advisory services provided in accordance with Part I of the Annex to this Decree, special care shall be taken to:

a) give preference to the use of plant protection products that are not classified as dangerous for the aquatic environment pursuant to the 2020 Law on chemical substances (N. 119(I)/2020), as amended and replaced, and do not contain priority hazardous substances as defined in the 2003 Law on the protection and management of water (N.13(I)/2004), as amended and replaced; To this end, the Department of Agriculture will draw up a list of plant protection products which fall under the above-mentioned categories;

and

b) give preference to the most efficient application techniques, such as the use of low-drift plant protection product application equipment, especially in vertical crops such as orchards and vineyards;

4) The Department of Agriculture shall investigate the possibility of providing incentives under the Strategic Plans of the Common Agricultural Policy to promote the use of low-drift nozzles.

5) The use of plant protection products and the disposal of their waste shall be prohibited on or along roads, very permeable surfaces or other infrastructure close to surface water or groundwater or on sealed surfaces with a high risk of run-off into surface water or sewage systems.

By way of derogation from the above, the use of plant protection products may be authorised only upon presentation of a signed expert opinion justifying the non-use of alternative practices and proposing any risk mitigation measures that need to be taken to protect surface and groundwater. Furthermore, use may only be made of low-risk plant protection products as defined in Article 47 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. Otherwise, special authorisation must be obtained from the competent authority in accordance with the procedure laid down by its decision.

## PART VIII REDUCTION OF THE USE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS OR OF THE RISKS THEY POSE IN SPECIFIC AREAS

Under the National Action Plan, the following measures must be taken:

- in areas that are used by the general public or by vulnerable groups,
- in protected areas such as those defined in the 2003 Law on the protection and management of water (N.13(I)/2004), as amended and replaced and in areas for which the requisite conservation measures are taken in accordance with the provisions of the 2003 Law on protection and management of nature and wildlife (Law 153(I)/2003), as amended and replaced and the 2003 Law on the protection and management of wild birds and game (Law 152(I)/2003), as amended and replaced, and
- - in areas in which a plant protection product has recently been used and in areas which are used by, or accessible to, agricultural workers.

### Objective

The purpose of the National Action Plan is to protect human health and the environment by minimising or banning the use of plant protection products or by minimising the risks posed by their use in specific areas.

### Application of measures and timetables

#### 1. 'Specific areas A'

'Specific areas A' are designated areas that are used by the general public or by vulnerable groups, as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, such as public parks and gardens, camp sites, sports and recreation grounds, schools, educational establishments, playgrounds, healthcare institutions (such as hospitals, clinics, charitable foundations), hotel establishments, camps and archaeological sites.

In specific areas classified as 'A':

- i) the use of plant protection products classified as GHS06 or GHS08 (toxic, highly toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction) shall be prohibited in accordance with the 2020 Law on chemical substances (Law 119(I)/2020), as amended and replaced,
- ii) Upon entry into force of this Decree, priority shall be given to alternative methods to chemical control.
- iii) Without prejudice to the prohibition order referred to in point (i), the use chemical plant protection products shall be permitted only on the basis of a signed expert opinion justifying a) the need to apply chemical plant protection products, and b) the non-existence of effective alternatives and proposing measures to limit the risks to be taken in order to protect human health. When assessing these measures, appropriate action should be taken to minimise the possibility of exposure to spray drift, also taking into account the weather conditions (e.g. wind), and to allow the maximum time interval from the application of a plant protection product and human access to the application area. This interval shall be notified by the user, with special signs placed around the application area. All plant protection products shall be applied using only low-drift aerial spray nozzles.
- iv) All measures shall be taken to inform the public as provided for in Part VI of the Annex to this Decree.

## 2. 'Specific areas B':

a) protected areas as defined in the 2003 Law on the protection and management of waters (Law 13(I)/2004), as amended and replaced. Depending on the circumstances, measures shall be taken to minimise or ban the use of plant protection products in these areas. For bodies of water classified as recreational, including areas classified as bathing waters, the bans and measures referred to in 'Specific areas A' shall apply,

and

b) the areas for which the necessary conservation measures shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of the 2003 Law on the protection and management of nature and wildlife (Law 153(I)/2003) and of the 2003 Law on the protection and management of wild animals and game (Law 152(I)/2003), as amended and replaced. For these areas, the measures set out in the Decrees issued pursuant to the above-mentioned Laws shall be implemented on Natura 2000 sites and concern plant protection products and/or other measures defined by the competent authorities.

## 3. 'Specific areas C'

'Specific areas C' are areas in which a plant protection product has recently been used and areas that are used by, or accessible to, agricultural workers.

Strict compliance shall be ensured with the instructions on the label concerning the safety interval between applications and access by people to crops that have been treated with a plant protection product.

The professional user must affix a label indicating the time of re-entry or access to the site or crop to which the plant protection product has been applied, as specified in the instructions on the product label.

## PART IX HANDLING AND STORAGE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS AND PROCESSING OF THEIR PACKAGING AND RESIDUES

Under the National Action Plan, the following measures must be taken, so that the following work by professional users does not endanger human health:

- i) the storage, handling, dilution and mixing of plant protection products prior to application,
- ii) the handling of the packaging and residues of plant protection products,
- iii) the disposal of tank mixtures remaining after application;
- iv) cleaning of the equipment used after application, and
- v) the recovery or disposal of plant protection product residues and their packaging in accordance with existing national and EU legislation on waste.

## Objective

The objective of the National Action Plan is to minimise the risk and impact on human and animal health and on the environment by the appropriate handling and storage of plant protection products and the appropriate processing of their packaging and residues.

## Application of measures and timetables

- 1) The competent authority shall issue and/or update codes of good agricultural practice in relation to the above-mentioned measures. The competent authority may amend these to take account of scientific or technical progress.
- 2) The application of good agricultural practice codes is mandatory.

## PART X: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Under the National Action Plan, the following measures must be taken:

- i) the promotion of low plant protection product-input pest management such as integrated plant protection and organic farming,
- ii) the creation of and support for the conditions for implementing integrated pest management by providing professional users with the necessary information and tools for pest monitoring and decision-making, and securing access to consultancy services for integrated pest management,
- iii) the implementation by all professional users of the general principles of integrated pest management protection as defined in Annex I to the Regulations, and
- iv) the creation of incentives for the use of integrated pest management on a voluntary basis for specific crops or sectors.

### Objective

The purpose of the National Action Plan is to reduce dependency on plant protection products and thus reduce the dangers they pose and their impact on human health and the environment.

### Application of measures and timetables

1) The Department of Agriculture promotes low-pesticide input pest management, particularly integrated pest control and organic production:

- Organising information events and on-site visits to provide consultancy services through the Agricultural Applications Programme for all relevant production sectors and/or through the National Action Plan for Organic Farming,
- via radio and/or TV broadcasts, and
- via articles published in daily newspapers and in the 'Agrotis' periodical, and
- via an update on the Department of Agriculture's website and on its social media accounts.

2) The Department of Agriculture shall communicate through its website information on implementing integrated pest management and organic farming and its officials' contact details, who will be authorised to provide consultancy services for integrated pest management and organic farming.

Advisory services on integrated pest management may also be provided by private consultants. To this end, the Department of Agriculture shall draw up/renew or refer to a list of private consultants who may provide such consultancy services.

3) The Department of Agriculture shall draw up/update a non-exhaustive list of products, means and practices that are available and practically suited to Cypriot conditions and may be deemed suitable alternatives for use as plant protection products. This list may be used by anyone providing consultancy services for integrated pest management and will be posted on the website of the Department of Agriculture.

4) As part of the strategy for managing resistance with a view to maintaining the effectiveness of plant protection products, thus ensuring that there is no need to increase the number of applications or doses, the competent authority shall continue to promote the voluntary indication of the 'mode-of-action group' on the labels of plant protection products. As part of the actions surrounding agricultural applications, farmers will be informed about the plant protection products mode-of-action group for resistance management.

5) The Department of Agriculture shall draw up, update and make accessible to interested parties, guidelines for integrated pest management for specific crops or sectors considered to have the highest inputs of plant protection products, paying attention to the active substances of particular concern.

6) The Department of Agriculture shall inform professional users of their obligation to apply the general principles of integrated pest management, as set out in Annex I to the Regulations. As part of the checks carried out on compliance with the 2011 and 2021 Laws on plant protection products, as amended and replaced, checks shall be carried out to establish whether all farmers are complying with the general principles of integrated pest management.

7) The Department of Agriculture shall, in cooperation with other services or bodies involved, investigate and/or carry out pilot and demonstrative tests in order to explore and promote new, improved or alternative pest management methods.

## PART XI RISK AND MONITORING INDICATORS

Following the application of the National Action Plan, to gauge the progress made in reducing risks and adverse effects on human health and the environment from the use of plant protection products, the competent authority shall evaluate the harmonised risk indicators drawn up at Community level in accordance with Regulation No 15.

In the context of the implementation of the 2023-2027 NAP, in addition to the use of harmonised risk indicators, the following indicators shall also be monitored so that the achievement of the overall objectives of this National Action Plan can be measured.

### Risk indicators - Monitoring indicators - Objectives - Timetables

#### **1) Training and Certification**

The use and marketing of plant protection products and the provision of consultancy services relating to their use by persons who have not received the appropriate training poses a risk to human health and the environment.

In the context of this National Action Plan, the objective is the initial preparation and issue of the relevant certificate to professional users, distributors and consultants, and the additional training for the renewal of training certificates issued during the period of validity of the 2018-2022 National Action Plan.

For the 2023-2027 NAP, a certification indicator is set for the training of professional users, distributors and consultants with the aim of renewing 20% of training certificates per year during the 2023-2027 NAP.

In order to promote integrated pest management through the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Applications Programme, an annual indicator of the number of farms that benefited from the relevant consultancy services shall be produced and monitored.

#### **2) Sales of plant protection products**

The implementation of the National Action Plan is intended to limit the use of plant protection products that may require risk mitigation measures for human health and the environment on a larger scale, and to increase the use of other plant protection products that do not call for risk mitigation measures on such a large scale (e.g. organic preparations, formulations containing low-risk substances, etc.).

When implementing the 2023-2027 NAP, the Department of Agriculture shall assess on an annual basis the plant protection product sales data. The annual data shall be used to monitor the trends in sales indicators for:

a) plant protection products that do not contain chemical active substances b) plant protection products containing chemical active substances c) the most hazardous plant protection products, i.e. plant protection products containing one or more active substances that have been approved as candidates for replacement in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 d) unauthorised plant protection products that are granted a derogation for emergency plant protection situations pursuant to Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

On the basis of the data obtained monitoring the indicators after the first year of implementation of the 2023-2027 NAP, annual targets shall be established for an increase in the sales of plant protection products that do not contain chemical active substances (a) and a reduction in the sales of plant protection products containing chemical active substances (b - d). When setting annual targets, the possibilities of substituting chemicals with non-chemical plant protection products and with alternative non-chemical methods, and the actions and policy measures implemented through the 2023-2027 NAP in this respect shall also be assessed and taken into account.

### **3) Levels of plant protection product residues in plant products**

Under the 2023-2027 NAP:

there is a target to reduce the amount by which the maximum permissible residue levels are exceeded, with a view to achieving a maximum overrun of 5% by 2027.

To this end, the requisite details shall be obtained from the General State Laboratory, and shall relate to the laboratory examination of the samples of locally produced plant products submitted by the Health Services to the General State Laboratory.

### **4) Traces of plant protection product residues in surface waters**

The application of the National Action Plan is expected to have a positive impact on the issue of water affected by plant protection products.

In recent years, the water monitoring carried out pursuant to Article 24 of the 2003 Law on the protection and management of waters (Law No 13(I)/2004), as amended and replaced, has sporadically identified very small concentrations of active substances from the plant protection products included in the control programme. The Department of Water Development shall cooperate with the Department of Agriculture and the GCSL to investigate the possibility of including in the monitoring programme a number of active substances, preference being given to the priority substances referred to in the 2003 Law on the protection and management of waters (Law No 13(I)/2004) and to substances classified as hazardous to the aquatic environment under the 2020 Law on chemical substances (Law No 119(I)/2020), as amended and replaced. Once the current situation has been assessed, consideration shall be given to the need for setting future objectives to reduce the presence of plant protection products in surface waters, aiming primarily to detect priority active substances.

### **5) Management of empty plant protection product packaging**

Empty plant protection product packaging poses a risk to the environment.

The Department of Agriculture shall assess the current situation regarding the handling of empty plant protection product packaging. To this end, information shall be requested from companies distributing plant protection products in Cyprus about the volume of packaging waste delivered for recycling or recovery. The objective is to increase the volume of empty packaging delivered for recycling or recovery, due account being taken of commercial sales of PPP, by 5% per year.

### **6) Acute poisoning incidents caused by plant protection products**

Under the current National Action Plan, the objective is to reduce acute poisoning incidents



during the five year-period 2023-2027 compared with the previous five-year period.

To gauge the achievement of this objective, data shall be compiled annually from the Medical and Public Health Services.

## **7) Inspection of plant protection product application equipment**

During the period of validity of the 2018-2022 NAP, the inspection system for plant protection product application equipment (sprayers) came into operation and the equipment was entered in the Register of Plant Protection Products Application Equipment.

Based on the estimate that there are around 20 000 active sprayers, the percentage of sprayers which have been successfully inspected is estimated at 11.7% (sprayer inspection indicator), while entry in the Register is estimated at 26% (registration indicator) by the end of 2022.

The objective of the 2023-2027 NAP is:

a) inspection indicator for plant protection products application equipment

The application equipment with a certificate of suitability should represent 50% of operational equipment by 2027.

b) Indicator of entry in the Register of Plant Protection Products Application Equipment

Entry in the Register of application equipment should represent 80% of operational equipment by 2027.

## **PART XII: 2023-2027 NAP MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

In order to monitor the progress with implementing the 2023-2027 NAP and the implementation of the actions included in Parts A-K, a Committee shall be set up, composed of officials from the Department of Agriculture who have competence in matters pertaining to the NAP.

- 1) The Committee's recommendation and any change to the recommendation shall be determined by decision of the Director, who shall determine the members and their individual roles as well as the person responsible for coordination.
- 2) The role of each member in monitoring application and coordinating actions to implement the NAP shall be defined on the basis of their competence and expertise.
- 3) The Commission shall meet both on a regular and on an ad hoc basis, in accordance with the annual work programme drawn up at the end of the previous year.
- 4) Officials of the public services and departments who play an active or participatory role in the implementation of the National Action Plan and also other persons from the research/academic community or organised groups may also be invited to the Committee meetings, and may contribute to the monitoring on the basis of their expertise and scientific background.
- 5) At the end of each year, a report summarising the work and progress achieved in relation to the NAP objectives shall be drawn up to inform the Director and the Competent Authority.