

THE EU SUPPORTS THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES

In order to reduce the dependency on the use of pesticides, the EU law stipulates that users must apply the principles of integrated pest management, which favours prevention and prioritises the use of low risk pesticides and non-chemical methods.

[The EU report on the sustainable use of pesticides](#) reflects the actions undertaken by each EU country to implement these legal obligations on their territory and the steps to be taken to improve the current situation. A lot has been achieved in recent years:



Aerial spraying is banned and exceptions are only granted under strict conditions.



900,000 sprayers have been tested for accurate and safe application.



Pesticide use is prohibited or minimised in public parks, sport grounds, hospitals and schools.



Farmers must implement Integrated Pest Management and give preference to non-chemical methods if they provide satisfactory pest control.



Four million farmers have been trained to use pesticides safely



The number of EU approved low risk and/or non-chemical pesticide substances has doubled since 2009.



Rivers, lakes, ground water and drinking water must be protected against pesticides.



Organic farming crops now cover 6.7 % of EU Agricultural Area and organic production has increased by 18.7 % from 2012 to 2016 according to Eurostat.