

Code of Conduct for responsible food business and marketing practices

CropLife Europe commitments

In 2020 we made six commitments to contribute to the objectives of the European Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy. These **existing commitments** support the relevant aspirations set out in the Code of Conduct for responsible food business and marketing practices.

To track and transparently share the progress the industry is making towards meeting the commitment goals, we have created a few mechanisms to review our progress.

Every year, data will be collected by CropLife Europe through company, national association and operator surveys and through information that would be publicly available. This process will start in 2022 after one full year of implementation and progresses will be published every year in September.

We will also have a 2030 Commitment committee, composed of external stakeholders. The committee will be formed with the intent of reviewing CropLife Europe's progress and making recommendations on staying on target. Stakeholders include academia, NGOs and trade associations.

Our commitments belongs to aspirational objective 6 of the Code of Conduct: Sustainable value creation in the European food supply chain through partnership. In particular, they contribute to the action “**support sustainable use of pesticides and fertilizers whilst contributing to maintaining food security and resilience**”.

Our commitments are grouped into three main areas.

1. Innovation & Investment - supporting the deployment of digital and precision tools as well as biopesticides

Concrete commitments

Pesticides and biopesticides manufacturers have committed to:

- **Invest 10 billion Euros into innovation in precision and digital technologies by 2030**
- **Invest 4 billion Euros into innovation in biopesticides by 2030**

Explanation

EU pesticides manufacturers are accelerating their innovation to provide solutions to help farmers overcome myriad challenges. We are finding new ideas to help farmers contend with everything from extreme weather events to society's changing dietary trends – all the while with an eye on benefiting our environment. In line with the ambition to reduce the environmental and climate footprint, our industry is investing in tools that will give farmers adequate solutions to protect crops from pests and diseases.

To further the European Commission ambitions of a digital and green recovery, we support the deployment of digital tools to assist in a sustainable recovery. We are already seeing how precision and digital technologies are decreasing agriculture's ecological footprint.

Supporting sustainable EU agriculture means also looking at effective solutions, including increasing the availability of biopesticides in targeted spray plans. With nature as a starting point, we have a great opportunity to continue to innovate and develop products with excellent integrated pest management (IPM) profiles.

2. Circular Economy - increasing the collection of the plastic containers in which pesticides and biopesticides are packaged

Concrete commitments

Pesticides and biopesticides manufacturers have committed to:

- **Establish an average 75% collection rate of plastic pesticide containers across EU Member States by 2025.**
- **Ensure that a container collection scheme is available in 100% of EU Member States by 2025, expanding the programme in two additional Member States each year.**

Explanation

Recovering and recycling pesticide containers is a critical step that will help reduce environmental pollution. This not only keeps farmers and society safe – but it helps protect our environment.

By increasing the recovery and recycling of the plastic containers in which pesticides are packaged, our industry is contributing to the EU's goal of a circular economy that provides high-quality, functional and safe products.

3. Protecting People and the Environment - More targeted ways to protect crops with less impact on nature

Concrete commitments

Pesticides and biopesticides manufacturers have committed to:

- **Train 1 million advisors, multipliers and farmers on key best management practices for farmer health protection as well as for water and environment protection by 2030.**
- **To further reduce operators' exposure, make technologies such as Closed Transfer Systems (CTS) available to 100% of European farmers and operators by 2030.**

Explanation

EU pesticides and biopesticides manufacturers are committed to reinforcing our commitment towards protecting farmers and the environment while mitigating a negative impact of our products. At the same time, we are expanding the ways we share information with farmers and advisors concerning the latest advances and changes in technology.

One example is the creation of Closed Transfer Systems (CTS); which allow crop protection products to be directly transferred from their original container to the spray tank and allow the operator to accurately measure the volume of the chemical being transferred. These systems significantly reduce operator exposure and environmental risks from splashing or spilling crop protection products. We will invest in the distribution of these systems to make them available to all European farmers by 2030. By training farmers on the implementation of Integrated Pest Management, water protection, the importance of personal protective equipment (PPE) and the collection of empty containers, our industry commit to minimise exposure and reduce risk.