



European Commission

Reducing the risk and use of pesticides

June 2022

#EUGreenDeal #EUFarm2Fork

FOR OUR HEALTH

Protecting human health and lives by producing **food with less chemical pesticides.**



For 39% of citizens pesticide use is a major food safety concern.

Eurobarometer 2019_Food safety in EU - EB91.3



Safer, pesticide-free areas around schools, playgrounds and parks.



Protecting professional workers who handle chemical pesticides.



WHY WE NEED TO REDUCE PESTICIDES

FOR NATURE

Long term food security by helping farmers produce **quality crops** in harmony with nature, relying on scientific knowledge and modern technologies to control pests, and using chemical pesticides only as a last resort.



Protecting nature and promoting biodiversity for current and future generations.



Halting the decline of bees and other pollinators that are necessary to feed a growing world population.



Protecting against soil degradation and climate change.



WHY ACT NOW

Between 2013 and 2019, in **European rivers and lakes**, pesticides were detected above their effect threshold.

In agricultural areas, **pesticides reduce biodiversity:**

- ▶ **75% of global food crops** rely on animal pollination
- ▶ In the EU, 50% of land cultivated with crops dependent on pollinators already face a **pollination deficit.**

About 385 million cases of unintentional acute pesticide poisonings occur annually world-wide including around **11,000 fatalities.**

THE KEY MEASURES



✓ **Legally binding targets** reducing the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50% by the year 2030.



✓ **A ban on all pesticide use in sensitive areas**, including all urban green areas used by the general public.



✓ **Environmentally friendly pest control** ensuring all farmers practice Integrated Pest Management in which chemical pesticides are used only as a last resort.



✓ **Promoting low-risk alternatives** with national targets to increase non-chemical methods of pest control and sales of non-chemical plant protection products.



✓ **Helping farmers access required advice and guidance** for more sustainable farming with less chemical pesticides.



✓ **Enabling the use of new technologies** such as precision farming, which contributes to further reducing the use of chemical pesticides.



✓ **Common Agricultural Policy funding** for investments and advice in sustainable practices.



✓ **Accelerating approvals** of biological alternatives for farmers and other pesticide users.



✓ **Global solidarity** by supporting sustainable agriculture in countries exporting food to the EU and introducing a new, more environmental approach on maximum residues level.