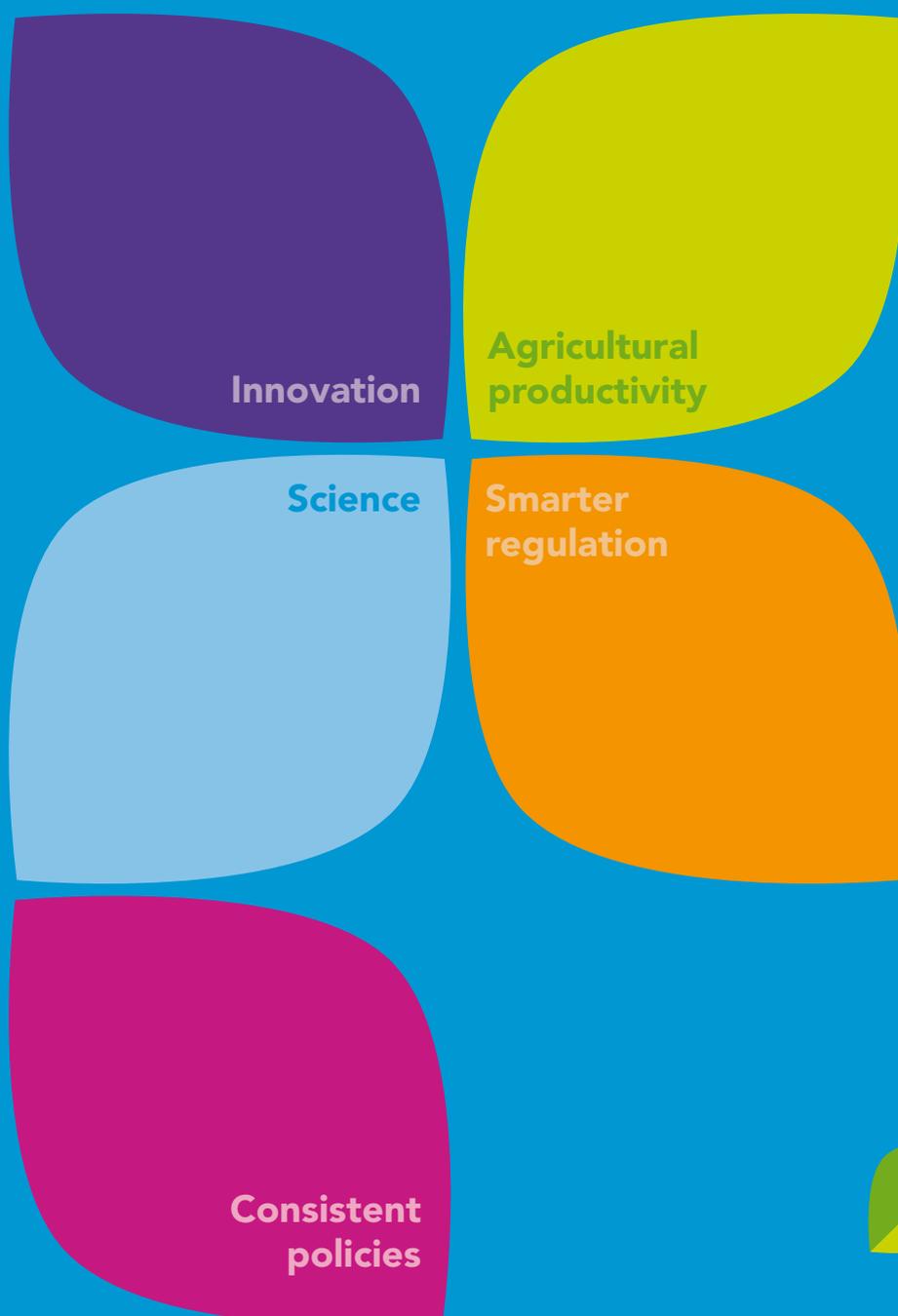


A vision for the future of Europe

Five steps to promote
innovation, competitiveness
and sustainable productivity



European
Crop Protection

By innovating today, we can meet the challenges of tomorrow

One of society's greatest challenges is implementing sustainable solutions to feed a rapidly growing population while making the most efficient use of ever-scarcer natural resources. The European Union has a responsibility to help meet this goal. But for Europe to remain globally competitive, create jobs and be a leader in agricultural innovation, we need to rethink our approach to policy-making.

We need a regulatory environment that fosters rather than discourages innovation.

Europe's crop protection industry is committed to helping build a stronger Europe by contributing to sustainable, resource-efficient, competitive and productive agriculture.

By innovating today, we can meet the challenges of tomorrow. But to achieve this Europe needs to unlock its innovation potential with a better integration of science and policy-making.

The EU's current emphasis on hazard-based legislation has led to a significant decline in Europe's share of total worldwide crop protection R&D investment – limiting the availability of solutions for European farmers and making them less competitive. Instead we should favour policy based on robust science and a risk-benefit approach.

The crop protection industry is ready to work with stakeholders and regulators to realise innovative solutions that give farmers the necessary tools for:

- enhancing agricultural productivity and ensuring farmers' competitiveness
- improving efficiency in the use of water, energy and land resources
- providing economic and social security by creating jobs today and for future generations

Pesticides have improved our way of life for several decades. However, the compelling reasons for their use in agriculture are rarely discussed and the benefits they bring to the table – healthy, high-quality and affordable food; economic stability; resource-efficiency; and improved biodiversity – are often taken for granted. As a key component of Integrated Pest Management, pesticides are essential to today's system of sustainable and productive agriculture.

European and National institutions should consider public concerns with regard to how the food we eat reaches our table and what it means to our lives and the environment. But we all also must work together to make sure people understand the benefits and risks of agricultural technologies and why they are so essential. This will set the stage for a reasonable and balanced debate on these issues of utmost importance for our sustainable future.

Let's work together

We look forward to an enlightening, interactive discussion and partnership together with a wide range of stakeholders on how to ensure Europe's place as a world leader in innovation and economic, social and environmental security.

To start the dialogue, we offer 5 policy recommendations:

1. Build a science-based policy framework that balances risks and benefits

- Balance risks and benefits in policy-making
- Reinforce a science-based approach to policy-making
- Improve coordination between risk assessment and risk management

2. Implement smarter and better regulation

- Run a regulatory fitness check of the crop protection sector
- Improve impact assessments in policy-making
- Implementing smarter and better regulation

3. Ensure value-added consistency between EU policies and international agreements

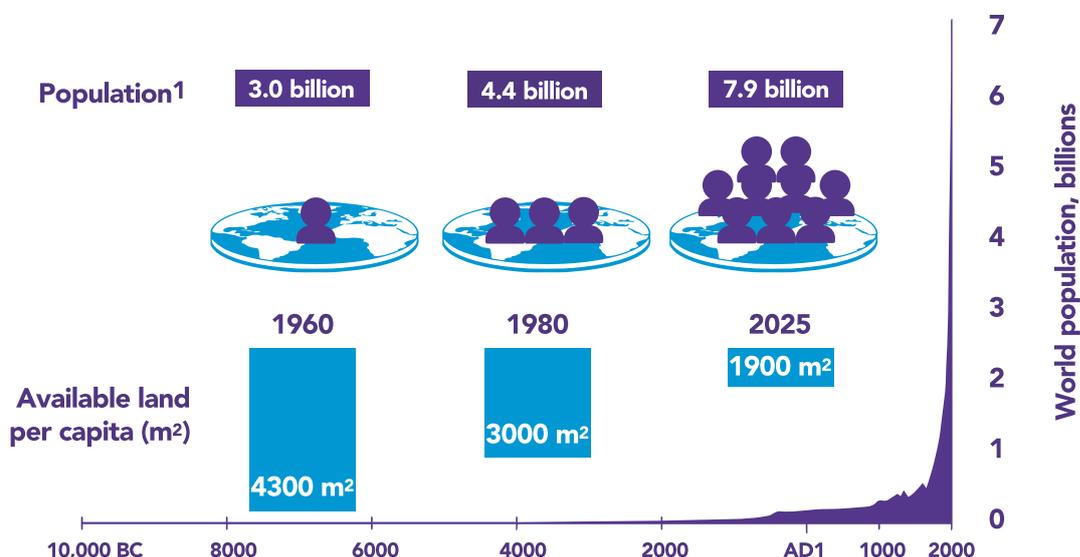
- The EU should ensure consistency between regulation, policies and international agreements

4. Foster innovation

- Adopt an Innovation Principle in EU decision-making
- Reinforce protection of intellectual property rights

5. Mainstream agricultural productivity and competitiveness

- The EU must boost agricultural competitiveness and productivity in a sustainable way



¹ Source: ONU, FAO

Science

Decisions should be based on risk assessment and management supported by scientific evidence and expertise

Building a science-based policy framework that balances risks and benefits

Balance risks and benefits in policy-making: EU policies and regulations should be built on a risk-based approach to provide a more suitable framework that balances risks and benefits of proposed policy decisions. We call for a change in pesticides legislation and policy-making to ensure that decisions are based on a full evaluation of the risks and benefits.

Improve coordination between risk assessment and management: We need to ensure a more predictable, science-based regulatory process. This requires greater coordination between risk assessment (EFSA) and risk management (Commission and Member States). The European Parliament and the Council should also reflect this approach in their decision-making.



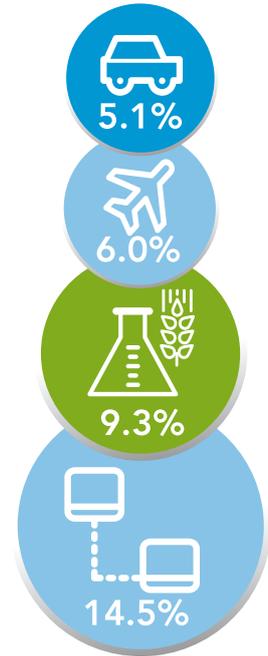
“The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom” (Isaac Asimov)

Reinforce a science-based approach to policy-making:

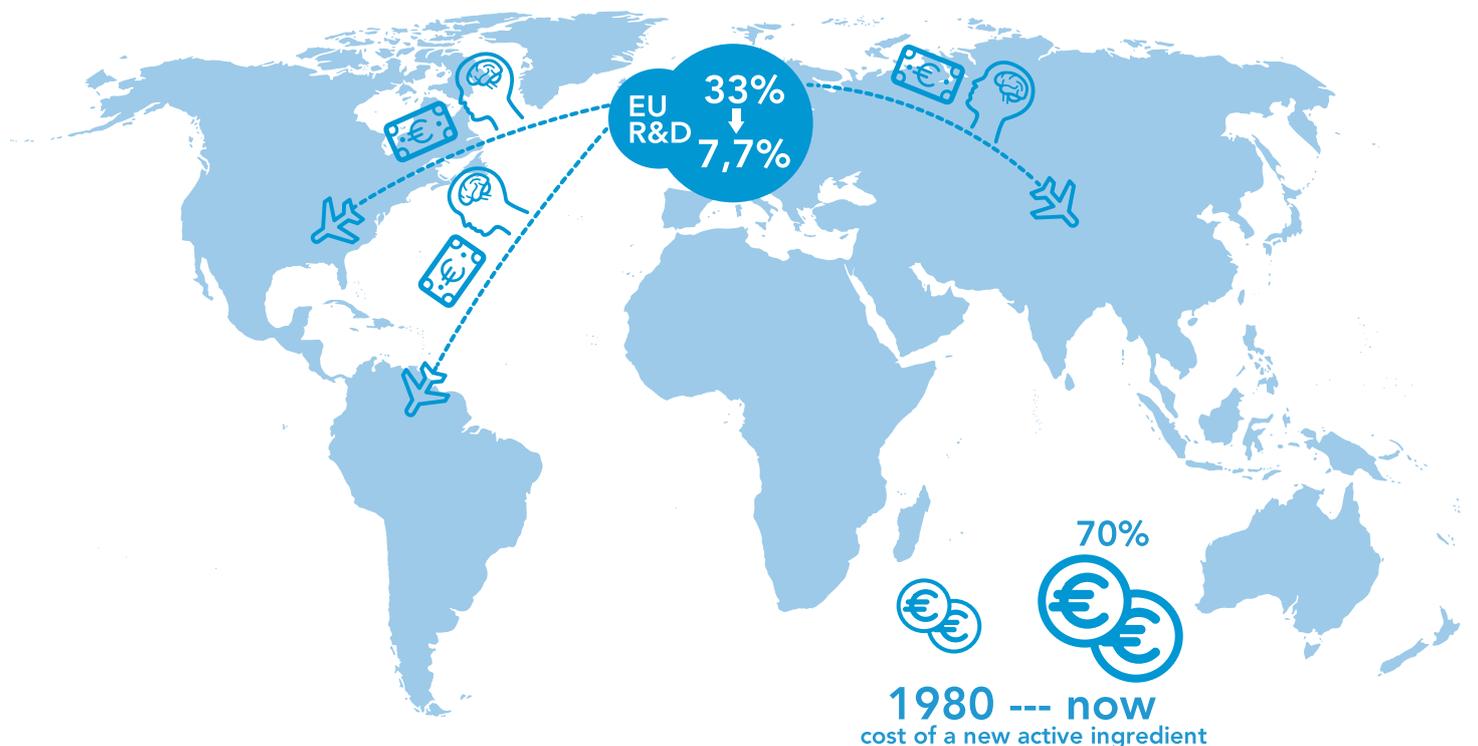
Europe needs to enhance the interaction between science and policy-making by:

- Providing a formal role to the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for the EU institutions to review the use of scientific evidence in risk management legislation, regulation or administrative decisions, and require further scientific assessment where appropriate
- Supporting the EU CSA with a network of Scientific Advisers in all Commission Services and in all Member States
- Creating a more inclusive model for scientific assessment that relies on full use of scientific evidence and expertise in risk evaluation and decision-making, including input from academia, the public and the private sector (industry scientists)
- Enhancing public understanding of science through improved education and communication

R&D intensity²



R&D investment is shifting out of Europe³



² Source: R&D investment in relation to turnover. Phillips McDougall (2012), European Innovation Scoreboard (2013)

³ Source: "R&D trends for chemical crop protection products and the position of the European Market", Phillips McDougall (2013)

Smarter
regulation

Regulations
should be
proportionate,
efficient, cost-
effective and
innovation-
friendly

Implementing smarter and better regulation

Run a regulatory fitness check of the crop protection sector:

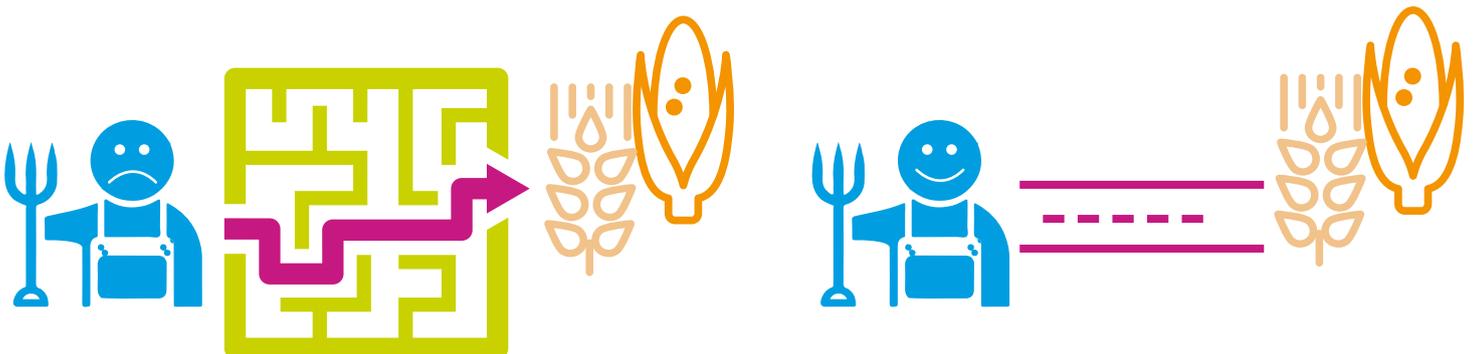
The EU would benefit from a regulatory fitness check for the crop protection sector, carried out by examining the ever-increasing regulatory burdens for their practicability, efficiency, and impact on innovation, and taking into account both primary and secondary legislation and their interaction. The lessons learned should form the basis of a proportional, efficient, cost-effective and innovation-friendly regulatory framework.

Improve impact assessment in policy-making:

Policy-makers should consider the potential impact of their political, legislative and regulatory decisions in social, economic and environmental terms, including innovation. The impact assessment should be carried out independently in a participatory and transparent way to better inform decision-makers for all policy and legislative initiatives.

Achieve an institutional common understanding of the precautionary principle:

Europe needs a clearer and common interpretation and use by all institutions of this essential principle of the EU Treaties, which aims for a high level of protection for health and the environment, thereby enabling decision-makers to better balance the benefits, risks and uncertainties of policy decisions. Considering precaution in a broader framework with proportionality and innovation will provide a basis for balanced decision-making.



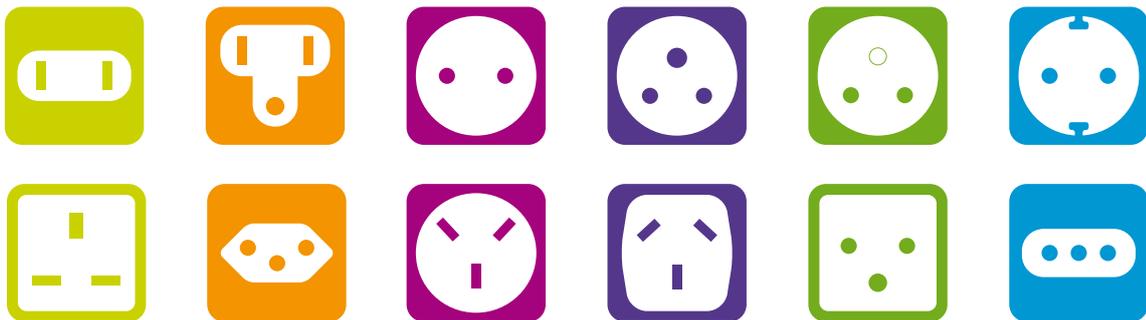
Consistent policies

Ensuring value-added consistency between EU policies and international agreements

The EU should ensure consistency between regulation, policies and international agreements:

Trade negotiations are an important aspect of Europe's economic and social welfare. The EU should ensure that policies and legislation are internally and internationally consistent, allowing fair trade and ensuring competitiveness of European agriculture and industry.

The EU should ensure that policies and legislation are internally and internationally consistent



The EU says *"The Union shall in particular ensure the consistency of its external activities as a whole in the context of its external relations, security, economic and development policies"* (Article C of Maastricht Treaty)

Innovation

**Innovation
should be
at the heart of
EU policy-making**

Fostering innovation

Adopt an Innovation Principle in EU decision-making:

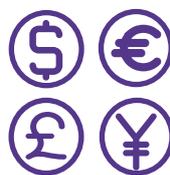
The EU should formally adopt an Innovation Principle in European risk management and regulatory practice. Whenever legislation is under consideration, its impact on innovation should also be taken fully into account in the policy and legislative process, including in the Commission Impact Assessment Guidelines. The Innovation Principle will contribute to a balanced European regulatory policy, allowing continued investment in European innovation – the foundation of job and wealth creation within Europe, and vital to tackling the on-going financial crisis.

Innovation improves our life



By 2050 Agricultural Innovation can deliver⁴

67%
more food



50%
lower prices

⁴Source: "Food Security in a World of Natural Resource Scarcity: The Role of Agricultural Technologies", IFPRI (2014)

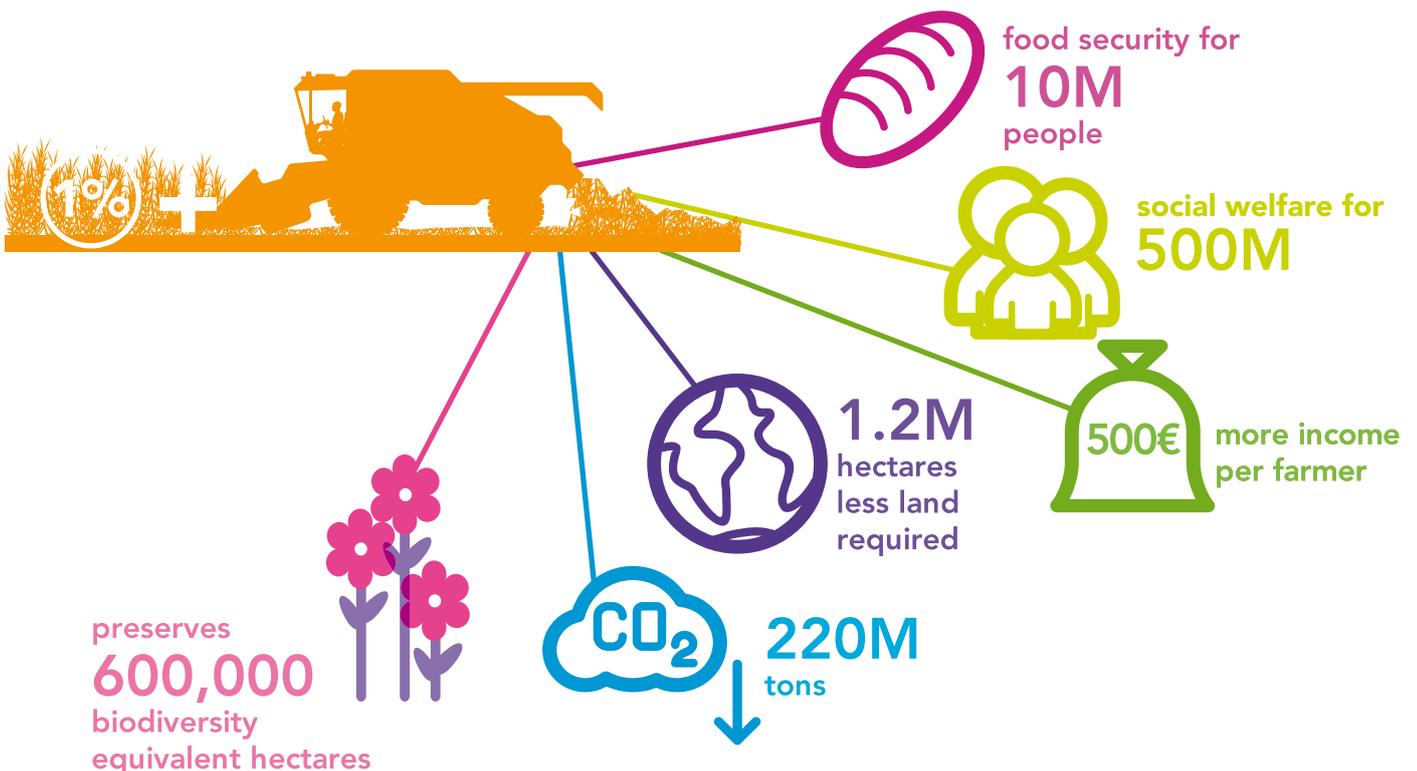
Agricultural productivity

The EU must boost agricultural competitiveness and productivity in a sustainable way

Mainstreaming agricultural productivity and competitiveness

The EU must boost agricultural competitiveness and productivity in a sustainable way: We should fulfill our responsibility to address the challenge of feeding a growing global population. The European Commission should establish a specific Unit on agricultural competitiveness and productivity, to ensure that policy measures with an impact on European agriculture, such as legislation on agricultural inputs, are properly shaped to support productivity and resource-efficiency. Finally, the European Innovation Partnership on Sustainable and Productive Agriculture should continue to be reinforced enabling all actors to provide a better innovation landscape for agriculture.

Each additional percentage point in agricultural productivity results in⁵



⁵ Source: "The social, economic and environmental value of agricultural productivity in the European Union", Noleppa, von Witzke and Carlsburg (2013)

Our Network

Corporate Member Companies



Associate & SME Member Companies



Full Member Associations



Group of Nordic Country Associations, Constituting One Member Only



National Associations as Associate Members



GAPEG Member Companies (non-agriculture)



GAPEG Member Associations (non-agriculture)





European
Crop Protection

Our commitment to the future of sustainable agriculture

Since 2011, Europe's crop protection industry has been reaching out to major food chain and environmental stakeholders in an inclusive effort to promote sustainable and productive agriculture. With this wide-ranging initiative, the industry has taken an uncompromising look at itself and affirmed a new commitment to openness and transparency in closing the gap between industry and society.

The initiative delivers projects to ensure safe and affordable food, safeguard water, enhance biodiversity, and protect the health of farmers and the public. The goal is to empower the agricultural sector to meet the demands of a growing population while at the same time protecting our environment. The list of projects includes:



Food: The industry's Residue Management project aims to support the reduction of residues through the promotion of integrated pest management principles and good agricultural practices.



Water: Our industry-launched project encourages farmers and operators to use best practices that help to reduce run off from pesticides by 50-75%.



Biodiversity: The InSPiA (European Index for Sustainable Productive Agriculture) project creates a farm network to enable the validation, demonstration and communication of best management practices for the promotion of biodiversity and sustainably productive agriculture in Europe.



Health: The Safe and Sustainable Use Initiative has a 10-year proven track record of success in 15 European countries of ensuring the safe and sustainable use of crop protection products.

This is only the beginning of our commitment to provide transparent and meaningful information on these important issues. It's clear that the time for this change is now. The world around us and our way of life depend on it.

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