

EN
E-000613/2020
Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.4.2020)

In its Communication on a European Green Deal¹, the Commission has announced that the upcoming Farm to Fork strategy will aim at reducing the risks and use as well as the dependency of EU farmers on chemical pesticides.

In order to achieve this a more rigorous implementation of the principles of integrated pest management is important. These principles promote prevention, monitoring and intervention on plant diseases and pests preferably by non-chemical solutions, e.g. mechanical and biological control methods.

As regards the biological control tools, microorganisms and viruses are subject to the EU legislation on plant protection products². The Commission is working with the Member States towards facilitating the market access of such biological pesticides via a revision of the data requirement and decision-making criteria. Under the Better Training for Safer Food programme³, the Commission has initiated training schemes regarding integrated pest management and assessment of microbiological plant protection products. Furthermore, Horizon 2020, the EU Research programme, supports research and innovation activities to reduce the use of the most hazardous chemical plant protection products⁴. The Common Agricultural Policy (current and future) supports the substitution of chemical pesticides by biological methods going beyond the legal requirements as well as provision of advice on integrated pest management.

Natural enemies of plant pest which are meso- or macroorganisms (e.g. predators, insects, mites, nematods) are not regulated at EU level and can be placed on the market in the Member States in accordance with relevant national legislation.

¹ COM (2019) 640 final

² Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC (OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1).

³ https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/btsf_en

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/farming/documents/factsheet-agri-plant-health_en.pdf & <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/cc7026c4-56b6-11ea-aece-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-117749527>