UK Pesticides Strategy and National Action Plan

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• **Domestic Drivers**
  - Political interest;
  - Volume and complexity of pesticide regulation/controls;
  - Active industry/voluntary sector.

• **EU Drivers**
  - Thematic Strategy/sustainable use directive;
  - Water Framework Directive;

  - **BUT** important to note change of context in 2010
Development of the current strategy

• 2006 Plan
  - Draft strategy consulted on 2005;
  - 100+ responses;
  - General support for concept of strategy;
  - Differences on scope of: products and extent.

• 2008 Plan
  - Updated strategy consulted on 2007;
  - 17+ responses;
  - Support for extension of scope to cover human health, promotion of integrated approaches;
  - Differences on importance of voluntary approaches.
Policy considerations

• Ensure use of plant protection products compatible with sustainability.

• Widely differing views of stakeholders.

• Mature policy environment.

• Uncertain climate for farming generally (CAP reform) and pesticide users specifically (loss of products through review of 91/414).

• Thematic Strategy.
Policy considerations

• Important to note change of policy context in 2010

• New Government priorities
  • tackling budget deficit
  • reducing burdens – particularly for small businesses
  • new drive to support business
  • Need for impact assessments to address implications for growth and competitiveness
Strategic Outcomes

To achieve high standards of human and environmental protection against potential risks posed by pesticides whilst maintaining the economic viability of crop production and effective control of pests, weeds and diseases.
**Strategy Aims**

- **Consumers**: protect by minimising risks from pesticides residues in food;
- **Users and workers**: protect by minimising exposure to pesticides;
- **Residents and bystanders**: protect by minimising exposure from spray operations;
- **Water**: reduce pollution caused by pesticides;
- **Biodiversity**: reduce the impact of pesticides;
- **Amenity**: establish ‘best practice’ in sector;
- **Amateur**: minimise risks to users and the environment;
- **Availability**: maintain sufficient methods of crop protection particularly for minor crops (and also minor uses on major crops).
- **Alternative approaches**: encourage the introduction of cost-effective approaches and greater use of integrated crop and pest management.
Strategic outcomes and aims

Pesticides Forum

- Human Health Action Plan
- Water Action Plan
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Amateur Use Action Plan
- Amenity Use Action Plan
- Availability Action Plan
- Legislation and policy
- Incentives
- R&D and knowledge transfer
- Voluntary approaches
Water Action Plan

Reduce pollution to standards required by WFD

EU legislation
- National risk assessment
  - Use EU review.
  - Measures to comply with SUD.
  - Review synergistic and additive effects.
  - Review aerial spraying.
  - Review buffer zones other routes of contamination.

Links with other Government Initiatives
- Better water monitoring.
- Identify sensitive habitats/develop measures.
- Support WFD development (EQS setting, catchment approaches, pesticide POMs).

Industry and Voluntary initiatives
- Voluntary Initiative
  - Environmental information.
  - Crop Protection Management Plans.
  - BETA and POWER certification.
  - Testing equipment.

R&D
- Knowledge transfer
- Targets and indicators
  - Review of R&D.
  - R&D news updates.
  - Guidance on application technology.
  - Develop targets and indicators.
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Action areas</th>
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<td><strong>Regulation</strong></td>
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<td>European</td>
<td>• Contribute to EC programme on evaluating new and existing active substances under Directive 91/414/EEC.</td>
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<td>Domestic</td>
<td>• Development of package of measures to ensure compliance with measures on protection of aquatic environment and drinking water.</td>
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<td>• Re-register products following Annex I inclusion of active substances.</td>
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<td>• Review case for assessing synergistic and additive effects, controls on aerial spraying and UK buffer zone policy.</td>
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<td><strong>Other Government Initiatives</strong></td>
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<td>• Improve programmes monitoring pesticides in the water and the aquatic environment.</td>
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<td>• Development of measures to protect and promote sensitive species and habitats from adverse effects of pesticides.</td>
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<td>• Improving links with Waste Strategy initiatives.</td>
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<td>• Promoting best practice amongst key user groups.</td>
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<td>• To support implementation of WFD by establishing closer linkages with process of setting EQSs and UK-specific pollutants, developing pesticide specific programmes of measures and development of catchment-based approaches.</td>
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<td><strong>Voluntary</strong></td>
<td>• Industry bodies to promote relevant best practice activities, principally within framework of the Voluntary Initiative.</td>
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<td><strong>Research and Development</strong></td>
<td>• Research directed at reducing uncertainty within the environmental risk assessment process and development of practical mitigation measures.</td>
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Indicators

• Framework of economic, environmental and social indicators

• Review and reports by stakeholder forum
Sustainable use directive implementation

- Public consultation held February to May 2010
- Discussed findings with new Government Ministers, June 2010 onwards
- Published consultation response, December 2010
- 2nd stage consultation anticipated spring/summer 2011
- Make legislation, establish agreements with industry organisations
- New laws and procedures in place for November 2011
Consultation

• Consultation document issued with:
  - Impact Assessment (costs from surveys, stakeholders, own experience, Commission Impact Assessment). Scale of costs important
  - Options (do nothing/strengthen statutory and voluntary controls/regulatory controls)

• Over 300 responses

• Range of responses from all sectors
Consultation outcome

• only minor changes necessary to meet the new requirements

• no compelling evidence provided in the responses to justify further extending existing regulations and voluntary controls

• UK Government will continue to take a risk-based approach to minimising the potential impacts of pesticides to people or the environment

• further action will be taken should the current monitoring programme or other evidence demonstrate the need.
Lessons from development of UK strategy so far

What went well
• It can be done – stakeholders will help.
• The concept works – progress in many areas.
• Helps everyone understand their contribution.

Other lessons
• Too long developing plans - don’t get hung up on detailed wording.
• Need small number of indicators.
• Stakeholder burden – currently reviewing.
Strategy overview

Thank you
Any questions?

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