



Training and awareness raising on the sustainable use of plant protection products: views of the European farmers and European agri-cooperatives

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Outline

- 1. Who are Copa and Cogeca?**
- 2. Training and certification of users**
- 3. Information and awareness raising**



Who are Copa and Cogeca?

Copa – European farmers

Bringing together 60 EU farmers' organisations

Cogeca – European agri-cooperatives

Bringing together 35 EU agricultural cooperative organisations

- representing 13 million farmers and their families
- as well as around 38,000 cooperatives
- among the biggest and most active interest representations in Brussels



Training and certification of users

Directive 2009/128/EC (art.5)

Training and certification of users

*Member States shall ensure that all professional users, distributors and advisors have access to **appropriate** training by **bodies designated** by the competent authorities. This shall consist of both initial and additional training to acquire and update knowledge as appropriate.*

Copa-Cogeca views Training and certification of users



1. Basic training and continued information is crucial for everyone applying PPPs, including farmers.
2. Several farmers' unions and cooperatives are already involved in such programmes and in some Member States there is already a legislative framework in place.
3. Furthermore, training should be mandatory for advisors, distributors and local authorities.
4. Important to have a device that certifies the skills of users whether they are acquired through appropriate training or verified by a test.
5. Financial instruments are crucial for achieving the prerequisite for good agricultural practice.

Examples of good practice

Latvia - Only persons who have received a certificate attesting the acquisition of basic knowledge about plant protection can use PPPs classified as class one or two. In addition to this, there is always a certified employee at points of sale to provide sound advice to buyers on the proper use of PPPs.

Portugal - Training sessions are required for all professional users and handlers of plant protection products. Moreover, practical training and workshops are also provided for trainers of professional users in order to harmonise and improve the training process at national level.



Information and awareness raising

Directive 2009/128/EC (art. 7)

Information and awareness raising

*MS shall take measures to **inform the general public** and to promote and facilitate information and awareness-raising programmes and the **availability of accurate and balanced information** relating to PPPs for the general public, in particular regarding the risks and the potential acute and chronic effects for human health, non-target organisms and the environment arising from their use and the use of non-chemical alternatives.*

Copa-Cogeca views

Information and awareness raising

1. Information given to the general public should be objective, balanced and science-based.
2. It should not only cover environmental and health aspects relating to the use of plant protection products, but should also include messages explaining why they are used and what their benefits are.
3. A lot of information is already on the ground. No need to reinvent the wheel.
4. In the CAP proposal (Rural development) post 2013, great emphasis on the knowledge and innovation transfer at farm level



Examples of good practice

Austria – The Chambers of Agriculture regularly inform the general public and farmers about the responsible use of PPPs and their effects by publishing press releases and through their relevant websites.

France - The “Ecophyto 2018 project” aims to provide the general public with information. Each year, indicators on the use of PPPs are published and publically discussed.

Examples of good practice

Hungary – Every year, the Central Agricultural Office publishes a PPP catalogue containing all certified PPPs, their main characteristics, safety instructions, applications, etc.

Several sources of information available: official “green book” and “white book”, articles in agri-magazines, websites and the advisory services of the Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture or the Hungarian Chamber of Plant Protection Engineers and Plant Doctors.

UK - As part of the Voluntary Initiative Programme, environmental info sheets have been produced for the majority of PPPs on the market in the UK.



How does it look in real life ?

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Thanks for your attention



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