



Where next with biological pest control

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WHAT I WILL COVER



- **UK Pesticides National Action Plan 2025 (NAP2025)**
- **Short-term (3-5 years) trends**
- **Medium-term (5-10 years) trends**
- **Long-term (10 years+) trends**
- **Summary**

UK Pesticides National Action Plan 2025



1. 'Encourage uptake of IPM
 2. Set clear targets to monitor use of pesticides
 3. Strengthen compliance to ensure safety and better environmental outcome'
- To address the 18 actions stated, many of them lack detail:
 - 10 actions to encourage uptake
 - 4 actions to set targets to monitor
 - 4 actions to build and strengthen compliance

Policy paper

UK Pesticides National Action Plan 2025: Working for a more sustainable future

Published 21 March 2025

Contents

Introduction

Objective 1: Encourage uptake of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Objective 2: Set clear targets and measures to monitor use of pesticides

Objective 3: Strengthen compliance to ensure safety and better environmental outcomes

References

Annex 1: Statutory obligations for a Pesticides National Action Plan

Annex 2: Integrated pest management principles

Annex 3: Pesticide facts and figures



UK Pesticides National Action Plan 2025



Encourage uptake:

- Increase knowledge and implementation of decision support tools
- Training provision and funding for research
- Precision application and use of drones
- Evidence based horizon scanning of gaps
- Support biopesticide applications and their approval
- Specify major crop as lagging on uptake

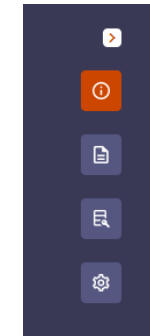


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Setting targets to monitor:

- Work with organisations collecting data behind the indicators from previous NAP to update, improve and replace existing indicators
- All 4 governments to work with regulatory bodies to agree indicator framework for producing monitoring reports
- Assess progress against targets
- Publish biennial reports on results



Pesticide Usage Surveys

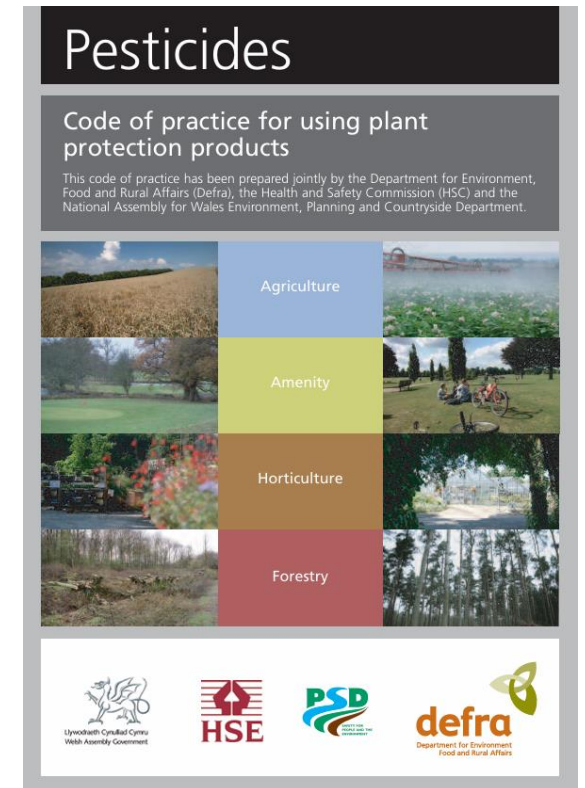
This application presents pesticide usage data relating to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as reported to the Pesticide Committee on Pesticides and funded by the charge on the agrochemicals. It is managed by the Biosciences Institute of Northern Ireland.

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Strengthen compliance:

- Commission a project to review where data can further inform a risk-based approach to compliance
- Industry/assurance schemes might be considered as part of assessing users' risk profiles, targeted inspections
- Update of the 'Code of practice for using plant protection products' (and the 'Code of practice for suppliers of pesticides to agriculture, horticulture, and forestry')
- Engage with online marketplaces for online sales of professional PPP to increase visibility of the legal requirements



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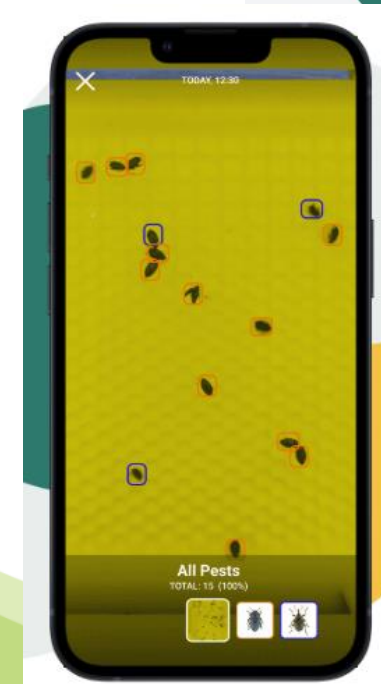


What does it really all mean:

- ✓ Recognition of the need for pesticides
- ✓ Clear target on reduction of pesticides use
- ✓ Large broadacre crops identified as key area to increase the uptake of IPM
- ✓ Bio-control agents and biopesticides clearly promoted
- ✓ Updates to monitoring and reporting of the use and uptake of IPM
- ✓ More training and update on statutory instruments
- ✓ More rigorous compliance coming our way
- ✓ Importance of assurance schemes and industry bodies
- ✓ Better control of online sales of PPP
- ✓ Targeted risk-based inspections

SHORT-TERM

- Decision support tools
- Digitised agronomy
- Introduction formats – labour cost savings
- New species and improved production systems, strains and formulations
- Precision application and delivery methods
- Conservation of habitats and reduction of impact on beneficials on whole farm approach
- Bee Vectoring Technology (BVT)
- Sterile Insect Techniques (SIT)



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MEDIUM-TERM

- Genetically engineered biocontrol agents
- New species and improved production systems, strains and formulations – Super bugs!
- Entrance of field introductions of biologicals through drones etc
- Crop genetic improvements and selections – removing predatory mite barriers, VOC attractants etc



LONG-TERM

- Cyborg insects, nanobots??
- Remote controlled predatory insects??
- Unlikely to happen within the next 10 years BUT...
- Improvements will reach new height of effectiveness
- Crop production system changes in parallel



SUMMARY



- Digitised crop monitoring and decision support uptake
- Precision delivery methods improvement
- Bio-control agent strains and improvement to formulations
- Utilising the whole farm IPM
- Increased costs to farming businesses over short period of time
- Stringent compliance in future and evidence-based approach
- Speed of uptake is likely to increase in short- and medium-term

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