EU strategy for sustainable plant protection

Ladislav Miko
Deputy Director General for the Food Chain
European Commission
Regulatory framework
EU legislative frame

- Placing on the market of plant protection products
- Collection of statistics
- Technical requirements for machinery
- Sustainable use of pesticides
- Maximum residue levels of pesticides
Approval of PPP

- Major revision of the whole regulatory framework in last years
- New and stricter approval criteria and concepts
  "Cut-off criteria" - Endocrine disruptors – Substitution principle
- Work sharing between EU and Member States
  Approval of active substances at EU level – products at national level
- Incentives for low-risk and basic substances
  Longer approval periods (15 y to unlimited) – accelerated procedure for authorisation of products
- IPM provisions
Review of approved pesticides
1993-2012
Evaluation active substances in EU

- Before 1993: ≈ 1000 substances

- Today:

  - Approved: 412
  - Not approved: 770
  - Evaluation ongoing: 74

![Graph showing number of substances approved, not approved, and in evaluation over years from 2001 to 2011. The graph includes categories for pheromones, plant extracts, and micro substances.]
Sustainable use of pesticides

Objectives of the regulatory intervention at use level:

- Reducing risks and impacts of the use of pesticides
  - On human health
  - On the environment
- Promoting
  - The use of Integrate Pest Management
  - The use of alternative techniques
Sustainable use of pesticides
Reducing risks and impacts

- Training of professional users, advisors, distributors
- Sales of pesticides by qualified persons only
- Technical inspection of farmer's spraying equipment
- Aerial spraying
  - Complete ban – derogation only under very strict conditions
- Handling and storage
  - Avoid endangering health and the environment
Sustainable use of pesticides
Promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- IPM ≠ no pesticides
- IPM =
  - Low pesticide input management
  - Consideration of all available plant protection measures
  - pests and diseases kept at levels which are economically and ecologically justifiable
  - healthy crops with least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems
- Obligatory as of 1 January 2014
- Research co-ordinated and supported at EU level
  - Currently 10 projects under FP 7 – more are under evaluation
Sustainable and responsible use of pesticides
Promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- Establishment of general principles among others
  - Preventive measures
    - resistant varieties – crop rotation – adequate cultivation techniques
  - Monitoring of pest and diseases
    - field inspection – forecasting models – diagnostic tools –
  - Threshold levels for acceptable presence of pest and diseases
  - Control: Biological, physical and other non-chemical methods, specific pesticides

- Best solution to be developed at national and regional level
  - Pest and diseases adapted to agricultural, soil and climatic conditions –

- Long term objective: IPM included in cross compliance scheme
Maximum residue levels for pesticides

RESULTS 2009
All food categories

- 57% No residues
- 40% Below or at MRL
- 3% Above MRL
Future work to develop our strategy

- Implementation of provisions for the approval of plant protection products
  - Establishing criteria for endocrine disruptors (end 2013)
  - Identifying candidates for substitution (end 2013)
- Sustainable use of pesticides
  - Monitor and enforce legal transposition (ongoing)
  - National Action Plans of Member States (end 2012)
  - Implementation of IPM (January 2014)
- Maximum residue levels
  - Assessment of chemical mixtures (development methodology by EFSA ongoing)
- Revision of other relevant legislation (plant quarantine, seeds)
**On-going work in area of pesticides**

- New data requirements for application dossiers (soon to be adopted)
- Assessment of pesticides and impact on bee health (ongoing)
- Establishment review programmes
- Regular review of approved substances
  - up to 60 scientific assessment per year
- Updating regularly MRL legislation
- Involvement Court cases