

Topic title: Risk assessment of new low risk pesticides

Year of the topic: 2022

Type of action: RIA

Budget: 1x € 6M (to be confirmed once budget figures are known)

Targeted outcomes:

- Improve risk assessment of new so-called low-risk pesticides for plant protection and weed control with the use of relevant methodologies.
- Foster EU regulatory science and risk assessment of new low-risk pesticides for agriculture.
- Ensure the safety and efficacy of new low-risk pesticides used in agriculture through improved risk assessment.
- Increase the availability of safe and environmentally friendly methods for plant protection and weed control to reduce the risks to the environment, non-target organisms and human health.

Scope:

Concerns are mounting over the effects of pesticides on the environment, non-target organisms and human health. Member States and EU policies seek to reduce the reliance on chemical pesticides for crop protection through the design and implementation of approaches that are more integrated and restrictions on the use of several active substances currently used in pesticides. In order to ensure the lowest risk to human health and the environment, the development of so-called low-risk substances¹ is encouraged by several regulatory incentives in the EU. However, the changing nature of low-risk plant protection products requires increased capacities in risk assessment. The plant protection products approval and authorization process has to keep pace with scientific and technological developments to advance assessment methods of new low-risk plant protection products.

New products may seek EU market regulatory approval, thus proposals will need to consider and address relevant EU regulatory requirements as well as EFSA guidance documents are to be followed for specific safety testing under risk assessment²

Proposals will contribute to:

- Improve risk assessment of new low-risk pesticides such as new species/strains or new mode of application with the use of relevant methodologies.

¹ Low-criteria and provisions are outlined in 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

² Insert links to these further information on EFSA guidance documents etc?

- Develop and advance the integration of different tools, technologies and methodologies to support comprehensive and consistent risk assessments of new low risk pesticides in view of safety and sustainability.
- Assess the effects and risks of these new substances and/or products.
- Assess and improve the level of certainty in risk assessments of new low-risk pesticides.
- Develop criteria for assessing that new low risk pesticides have a hazard profile compatible with the assumption of low risk pesticides.
- Contribute to the standardization and validation of the developed tools, technologies and methodologies for risk assessments.

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