



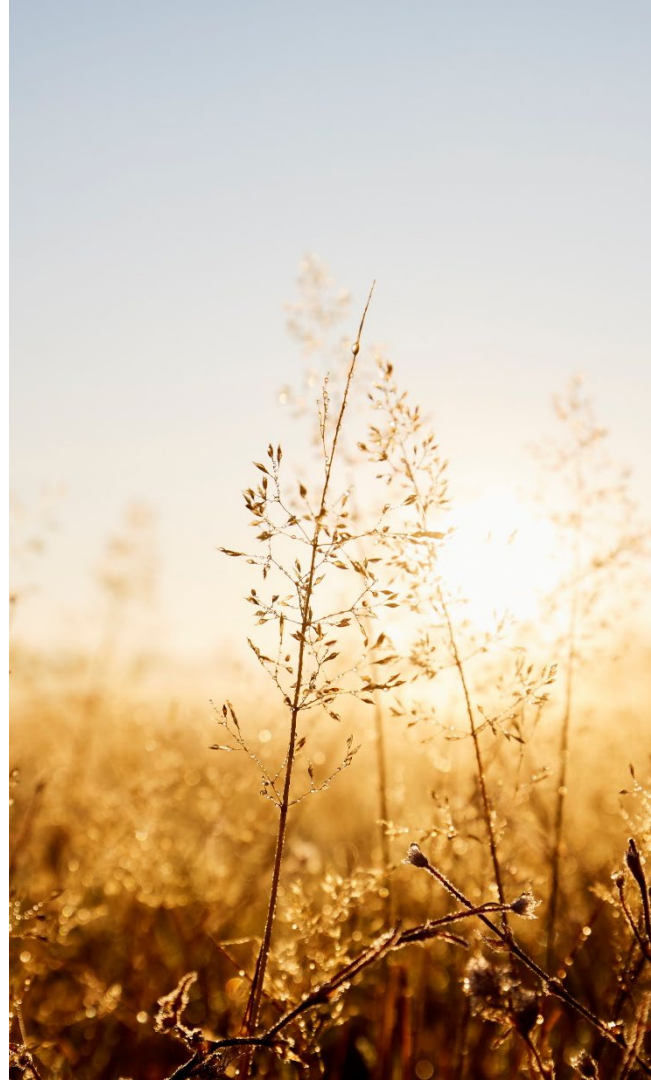
Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

UK Pesticides Policy Update

BCPC Congress

Helena Busby – *Deputy Director, Pesticides Policy, Defra*

5 November 2025



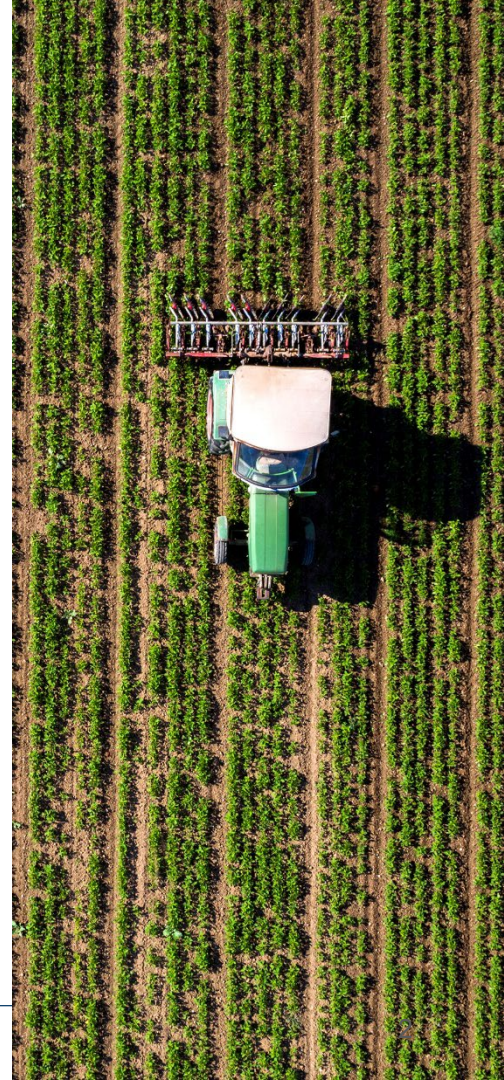
Agenda

Strategic context

**Update: UK-EU SPS
agreement**

Policy update

Research update



Strategic Context

- **UK pesticides industry**
provides £0.97 bn in revenue and over 3,500 direct jobs
- **Effective pest management**
supports £12 bn of crop production
- Pesticide use can impact **non-target species**. Pollinators alone provide benefits of £630 m per year in crop production.



Growth

Food
security



Nature
recovery

UK-EU SPS agreement

An SPS agreement can bring direct benefits to the GB agri-food sector

- We will agree a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement to make agrifood trade with our biggest market cheaper and easier, cutting costs and red tape for British producers and retailers. This will help reduce the pressure on prices and increase choice in the shops.
- Once in force, an SPS agreement could boost UK-EU agri-food trade and add **up to £5.1 billion a year** to the UK economy in the long run.
- A common pesticides regulatory framework will reduce complexity for the food sector. This will **remove business costs associated with duplicative approval processes**.
- Expect negotiations to begin later this autumn, once the EU has secured its mandate.

UK Pesticides National Action Plan 2025

Working for a more sustainable future

Three key objectives:

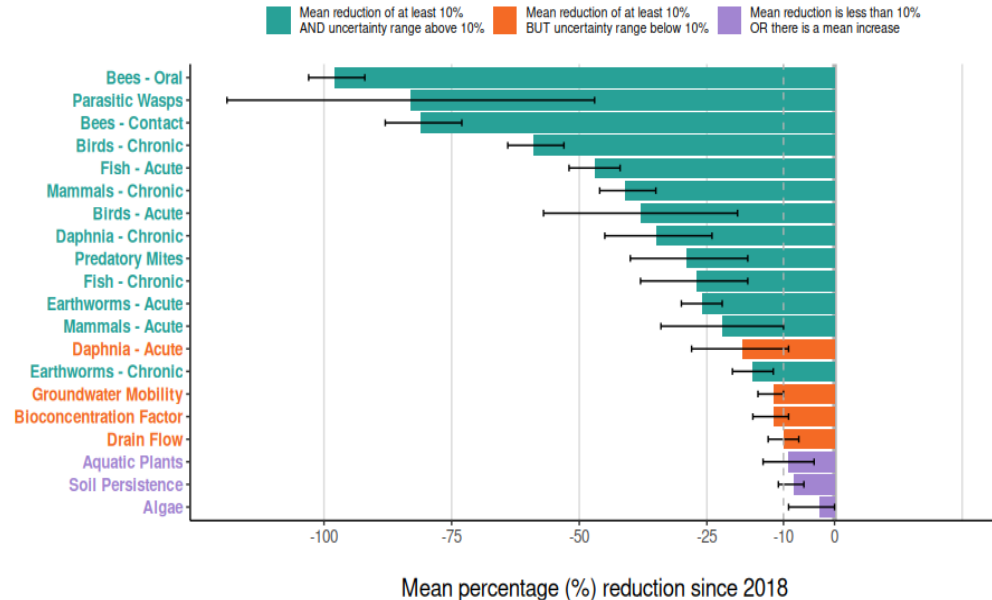
1. Encourage uptake of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
2. Set clear targets and measures to monitor use of pesticides
3. Strengthen compliance to ensure safety and better environmental outcomes



UK pesticides target

Target – to reduce each of the PLI metrics by at least 10% by 2030, taking figures for 2018 as a baseline

Environmental Fate	Terrestrial Toxicity	Aquatic Toxicity
Bioconcentration Factor	Bee Oral	Algae Acute
Soil Persistence	Bee Contact	Aquatic Plant
Drain Flow	Mammal Chronic	Daphnia Acute
Groundwater Mobility	Mammal Acute	Daphnia Chronic
	Parasitic Wasp	Fish Acute
	Bird Acute	Fish Chronic
	Bird Chronic	
	Earthworm Acute	
	Earthworm Chronic	



Improving farmer and grower knowledge: IPM and managing resistance



The Resistance Roadshow

Who?

Farmers, growers, land managers and advisors

What?

Sessions on resistance in pests, weeds, diseases and regional, practical solutions

When?

December 2025 – March 2026





Biopesticides Innovation Research Network (BIRCH)

Who?

Researchers, industry, regulators and policy professionals

What?

Focus on evidence-based advice to support biopesticide registration and risk assessment

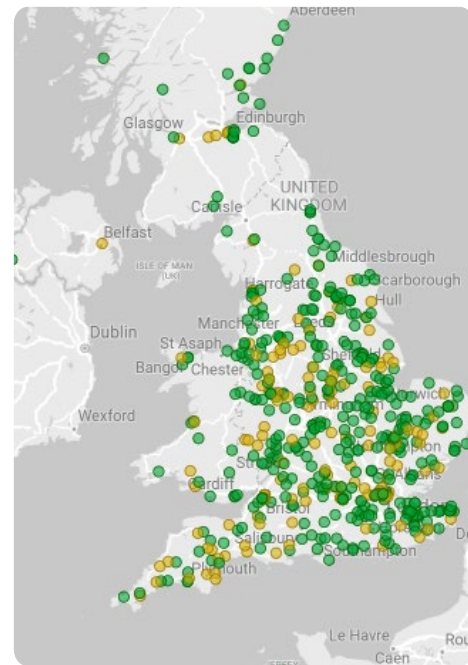
How?

Network building, targeted evidence reviews, international engagement

Innovation in crop protection

Farming Innovation Programme (FIP) and Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF)

- **FIP:** to 2030 Defra is allocating **at least** £200m.
- **Example crop protection projects:**
 - Developing a Precision Breeding Pathway via Gene Editing for Virus Yellows (FIP)
 - ARWAC – targeting blackgrass with robotic weeding
 - Tractor Powered Electric Desiccator for Weed and Plant Control (FETF grants were available during 2024 & 2025 – no decision has yet been taken on a future round)



FIP projects since 2021



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Thank you