Agricultural Outlook for Sugar and Biofuels

Pesticide Regulations and Impact on Sugar Beet Yields

Géraldine Kutas, Director General

European Crop Protection Association

Background and Context

- **In 2014, neonics were restricted for all bee-attractive crops.**
- **Neonic restrictions were voted based on the (still) non-approved EFSA Bee Guidance Document which is currently being revised**
- **In 2017, JRC published an impact assessment looking at alternatives used by farmers in place of neonics seed treatment. It concluded:**
  - Increase in farmer time and costs to protect their crops – in some cases increase of more than 4-fold in treatments
  - Alternatives used were significantly less effective
  - Significant increase in pest pressure
  - No significant increase in beneficial insects
- **In 2017 and 2018, AGRI MEPs and agri food chain associations sent letters to the EC urging the consideration of socio-economic factors before imposing further restrictions on neonics**
- **Nevertheless in 2018, further neonic restrictions, for all outdoor uses, including sugar beet were voted through**

Where Are We Today?

European Crop Protection

- **Since 2018, sugar beet farmers have lost 22 AS from their toolbox with a further 26 classified as Candidates for Substitution**
- **Pest pressure is increasing while new pests are emerging in central Europe**
- **In 2019, 15 MS granted emergency authorizations for neonics, 13 MS did so in 2020. This includes many countries who backed the decision to further extend neonic restrictions in 2018**
- **In 2020/21, high pest pressure and lack of neonic seed treatments caused sugar beet farmers in France to*:**
  - move to foliar treatments with up to 6 applications resulting in higher costs up to €130/ha
  - Experience yield losses of about 50% and even up to 80% in most affected regions resulting in losses of 5 tonnes/ha and €1700/ha in turnover
  - 35% of sugar beet farmers have seen their income cut in half

*Source: CIBE

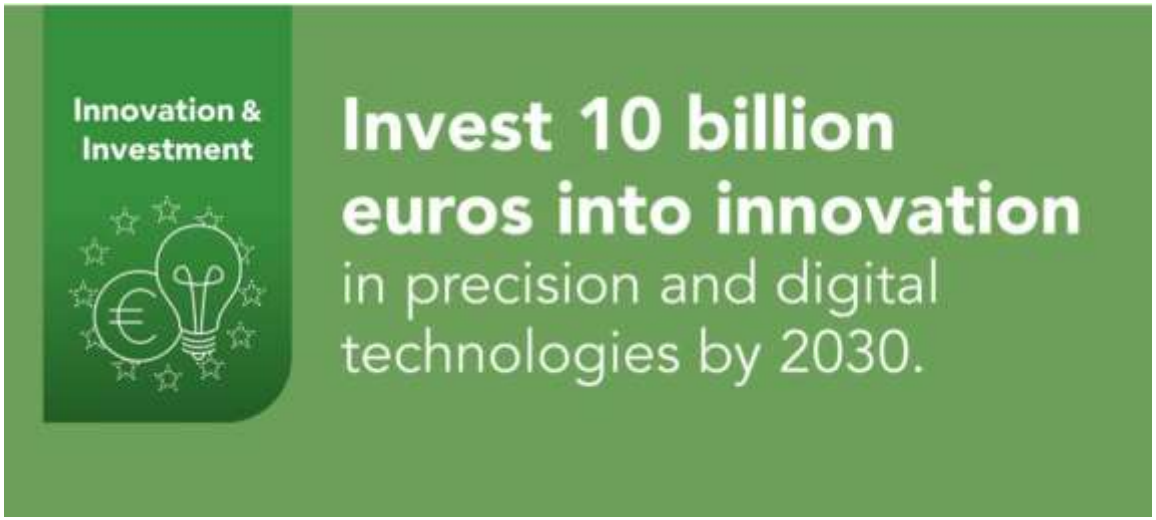
We are Committed.. but We Need Help!

European Crop Protection

- In order to address the EU Green Deal targets, there needs to be a regulatory environment that embraces, fosters and encourages innovation
- Currently, it takes 11 years on average and an investment of €250M to place one solution on the market
- After 10 years of implementation of Regulation 1107, only 44 new active substances, including just 13 with “low risk” status were placed on the market
- No viable alternatives to neonics currently exist. Sugar beet farmers need a wide-ranging toolbox of complimentary solutions including biopesticides while implementing IPM
- Seed treatment is an important tool used in precision agriculture, optimizing the use of pesticides

#2030Commitments

European Crop Protection



Conclusions…

European Crop Protection

- Science-based and led by innovation, we are always working to develop safe and sustainable crop protection solutions
- It is important to understand that the timing for the development of new solutions is set by science, not politics
- Conducting thorough and comprehensive ex-ante impact assessments that analyze the social, economic and environmental impacts before implementing policies is vital
- The viability of alternatives compared to banned or restricted substances must be considered rather than merely assumed that alternatives are better
- Let's work together to provide EU farmers with the tools they need to provide sustainable, safe and affordable food for us all.

European Crop Protection

Thank you!

#MoreWithLess

#2030Commitments