

The banner features a background image of two people shaking hands, with the European Union flag on the left and the United States flag on the right. The text 'COLLABORATION PLATFORM ON AGRICULTURE' is overlaid in white, bold, uppercase letters.

COLLABORATION PLATFORM ON AGRICULTURE

USDA-DG AGRI meeting on Production Input and Crop Management

On Tuesday 4 October 2023, DG AGRI and USDA officials, led by Luis Carazo, Acting Director International, and Dr. Prakash Hebbar, APHIS Acting Deputy Director Europe, Africa, and Middle East, exchanged views on how to develop joint activities on production input and crop management, as envisaged in the work programme of the Collaboration Platform on Agriculture (CPA).

Both sides agreed that the CPA should focus on the promotion and exchange of information between U.S. and EU farmers, on best management practice such as integrated pest management.

USDA considered that farmer-to-farmer exchanges are among the most efficient ways to promote the uptake of innovative practice and shared several examples already happening between EU and US farmers on specific topics. USDA expressed willingness to explore possible support to such exchanges, for instance on pests which are already present (and managed) in the U.S. and might spread to the European Union and vice versa. In relation to that notion of early warning and best management practices, USDA pointed to the ongoing work at the USDA-ARS Overseas Biological Control Laboratory located in Montpellier, France, and active collaborations between EU and US researchers on management of forest, grain, and horticultural pests.

DG AGRI explained the EU's objective to reduce the use and risk of chemical pesticides and indicated the array of policy tools implemented in the EU to reach that objective, from research and knowledge transfer to regulation, incentives, risk management measures and practical tools such as the IPM database.

USDA noted that the lawful application of crop protection products, including chemical pesticides, improves agricultural productivity and addresses growing global food security and nutrition needs. USDA recognized the importance of farmer access to a broad variety of crop protection tools, including the judicious use of chemical pesticides, as an important part of sustainable agricultural production practices and integrated pest management programs.

In conclusion, DG AGRI and USDA noted a shared interest in exchanging best management practices and experience on supporting integrated pest management in the context of the Collaboration Platform on Agriculture. DG AGRI proposed to start with an administration-to-administration exchange on the tools implemented by each side to promote the uptake of innovative practices among farmers, involving relevant experts from both sides.