

- FSI Key Topic Paper –
**Agrochemicals - Pest & Disease Control
Ambition and Approach**

Introduction - Context

The use of agrochemicals in the floriculture industry and the potential negative impacts on people and the environment are of increasing concern to governments, NGO's and consumers.

Although the industry has taken positive and encouraging steps towards responsible pest & disease control, the absence of accepted metrics and norms is leading to divergent and inconsistent requirements and policies. At a time when improved responsible environmental practice is much needed, growers and actors within the supply chain are having difficulty anticipating demands from governments, NGO's, trade/retail and consumers, especially within the European market.

Through the FSI working group, existing efforts and projects are being aligned. The objective here is to avoid list-based approaches by end-buyers, and rather stimulate improved farming practices on pest & disease control as a way forward, thereby reducing the negative impacts of agrochemicals. By sharing and implementing better practices, the industry can demonstrate improvements while building an understanding of current and future market requirements.

Definition of IPM

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the leading principle for pest and disease control, defined by the FAO: "Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment. IPM emphasizes the growth of a healthy crop with the least possible disruption to agro ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms." ¹

FSI ambition

With IPM as the leading principle, large-scale implementation will inspire best-practice and solutions that will:

1. Minimize the negative environmental impacts of agrochemicals
2. Ensure health & safety for people working/handling flowers and plants
3. Ensure product safety for consumers.

FSI Approach

- The main objective is not to prescribe the route or try matching current market demands, but to guide the sector with a longer-term perspective. It will build on current and future initiatives and FSI (- members') projects.
- The approach should motivate various stakeholders to bridge the gap between current and better/best practice; to work collectively on measurable improvements by means of record keeping; and to share and communicate learnings and results.
- It will allow working towards the ambition by taking into consideration growing systems, regions and product-specific characteristics.

¹ [IPM in the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management](#)

- Responsible environmental practice will be a new requirement over time that will be added to the FSI Basket benchmark.

Framework

The framework accelerates improvements on responsible environmental practice and includes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as a leading principle, focusing on:

- Defining the most important **data and variables** that are necessary for effective IPM. This includes amounts/volume/applications/usage etc. of active ingredients and products used and reliable **record keeping** at the farm level. These variables should be standardized in a fixed format to serve as basis for record keeping.
- Record keeping will be a new FSI requirement to implement for at least all environmental **Standards in the FSI Basket**. Focus will be furthermore on reliability of the data, aligning on the 'what' and leaving the 'how' to the Standards.
- The development of **environmental impact indicators/tools** that can be used to measure and stimulate improvements.

Next Steps

1. Inventory of definitions etc. relevant to understand P&DC:

- Definitions database created and continuously updated.
- Overviews of relevant Legislation, Retail requirements, lists and NGO approaches
- Discuss bottlenecks and update inventory

2. Record keeping

- Defining the relevant data and variables that are necessary inputs for effective IPM.
- Ensuring that stakeholders agree upon the data and variables selected.
- Define the standard format for recordkeeping (the what) as requirement for any environmental standard

3. Adoption of record keeping requirement by Standards

- Communicate the FSI Key Topic Paper to create buy-in and acceptance
- Approach Scheme owners to discuss new requirement, current practise and feedback.
- Define timeline for standards to adopt record keeping as a basic requirement.
- Discuss the best-suited tools and approach for reliable record keeping (the how).

4. Development of Environmental Impact Indicator:

- Support the proposal to develop an Environmental Impact Indicator.
- Emphasize internationalization, scientific validation, NGO support and integrate learning's/usability other sectors to prevent re-inventing the wheel.
- Alignment with the current projects on Chain Transparency and IPM.

Communication

- Confirm the ambition and approach with FSI Members with the Key Topic Paper
 - o Members update, Key topic paper added to the resource section of the website
 - o Include the benchmarking and FSI Basket approach towards and beyond 2020 in a separate PowerPoint presentation for FSI members.
- Engage with FSI members, retailers and NGO's in consultation phases along the project
- Communicate time line and progress 2018 – 2020 and beyond