

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

FSI KEY TOPIC

Members of the Floriculture Sustainability Initiative are working together on sustainable practises and have the ambition to increase sustainably produced and traded flowers and plants.

One of the key topics in the industry is the use of agrochemicals, in which IPM is the leading principle for responsible pest & disease control.

Although there are encouraging steps taken, the possible negative effects on the environment and people, the absence of accepted metrics for the industry and incompatible policies and practiced lead to uncoordinated and unrealistic demands from governments, NGO's, trade/retail and consumers.

AMBITION:

The ambition is that with IPM as leading principle, large-scale implementation of responsible Pest & Disease control solutions will lead to:

1. Minimizing environmental impact
2. Improved health & safety for workers at farm level
3. Product safety guarantee for consumers.

FSI members are guiding and challenging the sector to stimulate change towards better practices. By working on improvements the FSI members are implementing better practices and anticipating on possible future requirements.

APPROACH:

- The approach is motivating various stakeholders to challenge current practices and systems, to work collectively on measurable improvements, and to share and communicate learning's and results.
- It will allow for different ways of working towards the ambition taking into consideration different growing systems, regions and product specific characteristics:
- The main purpose is to guide the sector with a longer-term perspective, not to prescribe the route or try to run after / match current market demands.
- The system to stimulate improvements should have credible record keeping, transparency and traceability as basic requirements to allow for analyses and eventually demonstrate (sector) progress.

FRAMEWORK:

The framework accelerates improvements and includes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as leading principle, focussing on:

- Setting clear definitions around relevant terms that can easily lead to misunderstandings if not agreed upon beforehand. This includes terms like IPM, Pesticide, Toxicity etc.
- Agreeing upon the most important variables that need to be included in order to guarantee useable record keeping data. This includes amounts/volume/applications/usage of active ingredients and products used.

- Developing an environmental impact indicator/tool that can be used to display and stimulate improvements overall.
- Facilitating stakeholders with setting up reliable record keeping involving growers, standards and NGO's
- Discussing current and future bottlenecks (including regulations)
- Agreeing on a first level based on legislation and allow for future milestones
- Building on current and future initiatives and FSI (- members) projects

WORKING GROUP:

The FSI Working Group on Agrochemicals (WGA) is working on the above approach and framework under guidance of the FSI Board. The following

- Formulate and propose definitions and overviews relevant to understand the topic of agrochemicals
 - Emissions, toxicity, residue, IPM, etc.
 - Current conventions, legislation
 - NGO approaches and strategies towards 2020
 - Market requirements
 - Current sector programs and projects
- Define the proposed methodology that will capture the necessary information
 - Active ingredients, use, indicators, result measuring and outcomes
 - Integrated approach with FSI projects on IPM and Chain Transparency 2.0
 - Integrated approach with relevant initiatives on this topic
 - Reliable record keeping as basis for improvements
- Develop a roadmap for implementation
 - Communicating the FSI approach in the market
 - growers/traders/retailers/governments
 - Standards that are in the FSI Basket to take the next steps towards reliable record keeping and data management.
- Consultation of FSI members, information and support
- Report to FSI Board

ANNEXES

1. IPM outline

2. background

In 2016, FSI commissioned two basic studies that summarized market demands and certifications used in floriculture regarding agrochemicals. The studies indicated that:

- Market demand and retailers' requirements tend to differ in the consumption countries. This leads to incompatibility with legislation and enforcement in production countries and as a result leads to different approaches. These include lists based approaches and extra, above legal requirements on certain types of pesticides. Even leading to exclude some type of flowers in retail assortments due to the outcomes of residue testing without any norms being set for these products.
- Certifications that are in use in floriculture offer different and sometimes limited approaches:
 - o mention record keeping as requirement but give no guidance and do not use data
 - o lack covering the relevant control points, varying from basic legal criteria to the absence of record keeping, transparency/traceability
 - o do not include systemic approaches and clear norm setting
- The studies were followed by discussions with the FSI Board members and other stakeholders on the ambition, understanding of the topics/definitions, possible approaches and how to move forward.
- Together with the FSI project partners MPS, Koppert and Afriflora we built on previous projects and prepared the launch of 2 projects focussing on relevant topics addressing transparency, record keeping, toxicity, residue and IPM up scaling.
- FSI members participate in the Dutch garden centre approach, sector platform and supply chain initiatives aimed at lowering pesticide use and their route towards limiting some types of pesticides and could benefit from each others approach.
- The Dutch FSI members work towards a responsible business covenant where one of the topics is to address the safe use and reduction of the chemical pesticides pressure on the environment. This approach should be integrated into the FSI approach, preventing a parallel program.