



# The United Voice of Farmers and their Cooperatives at European Level

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Workshop for the revision of the terrestrial ecotoxicology guidance  
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european farmers      european agri-cooperatives

# Introduction

- \* The importance of Non-Target Terrestrial Organisms
- \* Evidence-based approach to improving risk assessment
- \* Food and crop producers need to have confidence in the regulatory framework - this requires an evidence-based, clear, predictable, consistent & agreed risk assessment process
- \* Simplistic assumptions and unacceptable levels of conservatism risk creating a risk assessment process that is detached from reality
- \* Outcomes 'should lead to measurable benefits'





# Biodiversity declines and the role of the farmed landscape

- \* Communities of species becoming less diverse – biotic homogenisation
- \* Evidence that biodiversity declines have slowed down<sup>1</sup>
- \* Drivers of biodiversity loss – land management is a key factor in Europe<sup>2</sup>
- \* Protect and link habitat for biodiversity off-field, focus on food and crop production as primary protection goal in-field
- \* Shifting in-field focus away from crop production risks food security and global biodiversity

<sup>1</sup>Species richness declines and biotic homogenisation have slowed down for NW-European pollinators and plants – *Carvalho et al*, 2013

<sup>2</sup> A global-scale expert assessment of drivers and risks associated with pollinator decline – *Dicks et al.*, 2021



# NTTPs or TTPs?

- \* Under GAP, non-crop plants within cropped areas are kept to a practicable minimum
- \* The main protection goal in the in-field space is crop production, not production of weeds
- \* Negligible risk to NTTPs and NTAs in the in-field space = negligible crop production



# NTAs

- \* Europe's farmers are practising IPM – prevention includes the protection and enhancement of important beneficial organisms
- \* If prevention fails, pest control is required
- \* The in-field focus shifts from protecting and enhancing pest regulators to protecting crop production
- \* NTAs are not birds or mammals – does phylogenetics allow sufficient distinction in-field?
- \* Focus on landscape level risk assessment





# Other issues

- \* 'off-crop in-field' doesn't exist in practice in any consistent way
- \* Factor precision agriculture into the risk assessment





Thank you for your attention !

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