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Workshop for the revision of the terrestrial ecotoxicology guidance document – 8/9 October 2024



### 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 offfield, 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



 $^2$  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





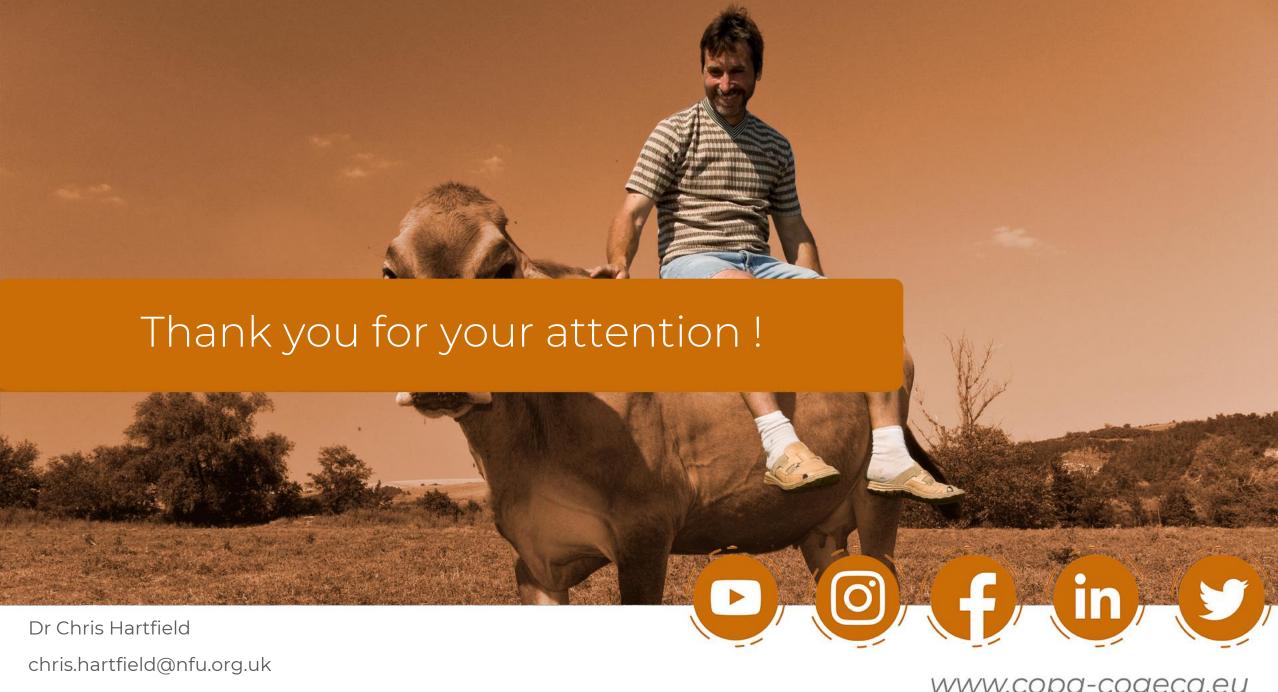
## Other issues

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









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