
VII. Plenary discussion on regulatory issues and ICPBR working groups

Discussing protection goals for bees – an EFSA approach

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DOI: 10.5073/jka.2012.437.054

Protection goals defined in EU regulation

In Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009, a high level of protection is required, which is expressed as ‘no unacceptable effects on the environment’ where it concerns plant protection products and of ‘no serious risk to the environment’ where it concerns treated seeds. However, often a ‘translation’ into precise goals to guide the development and application of risk assessment methodology is difficult. In particular, clarifications are needed to define specific protection goals with respect to ecological, temporal and spatial scales: in-crop versus off-crop; multiple stress and uncertainties.

Ecosystem Services

Overview of Ecosystem Services in agricultural landscapes for both in-crop and off-crop situations which are potentially affected by pesticides (EFSA Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR), 2010).

Ecosystem service category	In crop area	Off crop area
Provisioning	Food Fibre and fuel	Food Genetic resources
Regulating	Pollination Pest and disease regulation	Fresh water Pollination Pest and disease regulation Water regulation Erosion regulation Water purification
Cultural	Education and inspiration Recreation and ecotourism Cultural heritage	Education and inspiration Recreation and ecotourism Cultural heritage Aesthetic value
Supporting	Primary production Photosynthesis	Primary production Photosynthesis Habitat provision Soil formation and retention Nutrient cycling Water cycling

Example: Protection goals for birds and mammals

In-field, ecosystem service: education, inspiration, recreation, ecotourism and (food). When we asked the risk managers in Brussels for protection goals, we got the following answer:

- The population should be protected, no visible dead birds and mammals

The birds and mammals working group translated this question in:

- The population should be protected, no dead birds and mammals

What could we do at this meeting?

Define specific protection goals for bees, other non-solitary bees and solitary bees for:

- In-field and off-field situations,
- Different ecosystem services: pollination, food production (honey, wax & propolis) and, biodiversity (genetic resources, education, aesthetic values), education and inspiration.

References

1. Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European parliament and of the council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC. Official Journal L 309.1: 24.11.2009.
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3. Nienstedt et al, 2011. Sci Total Environ doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2011.05.057