

THE PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS LAW OF 2011

Decree by virtue of Article 23

Official Newspaper Annex Three (I): 01.06.2012	For the purposes of Regulation 4 of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulations of 2012, with regards to the National Action Plans to set up the quantitative and other targets, measures and timetables to reduce risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and for the development and introduction of integrated pest management and of alternative approaches and techniques in order to reduce dependency on the use of pesticides,
141(I) of 2011	The Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, executing his authority, by virtue of Article 23 of the Plant Protections Product Law of 2011, issues the following Decree:
Brief title.	1. The present Decree will be referred to as the Plant Protection Products (National Action Plan) Decree of 2013.
Definitions.	2. –(1) At the present Decree –
KDP 193/2012	«Regulations» means the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulations of 2012.
141(I) of 2011	(2) Any other terms, which are used in the present Decree and are not interpreted differently in this, have the meaning attributed to them by the Plant Protections Product Law of 2011 and the Regulations.
Annex	3. The National Action Plan for the period 2013-2017, which sets out the quantitative and other targets, measures and timetables to reduce risks and impacts of plant protection products use on human health and the environment and for the development and introduction of integrated pest management and of alternative approaches and techniques in order to reduce dependency on the use of plant protection products, is described in the Annex to this Decree.

ANNEX
(Paragraph 3)

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2013-2017

PART A: TRAINING OF PROFESSIONAL USERS, DISTRIBUTORS AND ADVISORS

In the context of the National Action Plan the following measures should be taken:

- i) To define the procedures and timetables for the training of professional users, distributors and advisors in order to acquire sufficient knowledge about plant protection products and
- ii) to establish a system for granting certificates by the Competent Authority, which will demonstrate this adequacy of knowledge.

Target

Target of the National Action Plan is the acquisition of sufficient knowledge from professional users, distributors and advisors, which is expected to lead to a reduction of risks and impacts from the use of plant protection products on human health and the environment.

Way of Implementation of the Measures and Timetables

1) PROFESSIONAL USERS

Until 26 November 2015, all professional users should hold a Professional User of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate, which will demonstrate that they have gained sufficient knowledge of the subjects listed in Annex II of the Regulations.

a) Requirements for granting the Training Certificate

In order to receive a Professional User of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate it is required:

- i) To submit an application to the Department of Agriculture for a Training Certificate, in a form approved by the Competent Authority and
- ii) To participate in a number of training courses organized by the Department of Agriculture to include at least the subjects listed in Annex II of the Regulations, taking into account the role and responsibilities of professional users' Seminars are compiled by the Department of Agriculture and approved by the Competent Authority,

or

- iii) Succeed at written exams set by the Department of Agriculture taking into account at least all the subjects listed in Annex II of the Regulations' In the event the applicant fails the exams, he must attend the training courses referred to in point (ii) above, in order to obtain the Training Certificate.

With the abovementioned application, the Competent Authority may require the submission of data demonstrating the professional status of the applicant for obtaining a Professional User of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate (e.g. farmer, gardener, etc.).

The Competent Authority may require additional training of professional users when it deems it necessary.

The Training Certificate is issued by the Department of Agriculture, is valid for five (5) years and may be renewed for successive periods of five (5) years.

Persons who hold the Advisor on Plant Protection Products Training Certificate may directly obtain the Professional User of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate, if they submit the abovementioned application.

b) Renewal of the Training Certificate

For the renewal of the Professional User of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate, an application is submitted to the Department of Agriculture, in a form approved by the Competent Authority.

c) Withdrawal of the Training Certificate

The Director of the Department of Agriculture may withdraw a Professional User of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate or suspend its validity for a period deemed necessary, if it finds that the holder does not comply with the provisions of the Law or the Regulations or of this Decree or the written demands of the Department of Agriculture.

Before taking a decision on the withdrawal or suspension of the Training Certificate, the Director of the Department of Agriculture notifies in writing the affected person for its intentions, informing him for the reasons of its decision and providing the right to submit representations within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of service of the notice. The affected person may appeal against the decision within thirty (30) days from the date of notification of this decision, with a written and reasoned appeal to the Minister.

2) DISTRIBUTORS

Until 26 November 2015, all distributors should hold a Distributor of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate, which will demonstrate that they have gained sufficient knowledge of the subjects listed in Annex II of the Regulations.

Distributors that must hold a Distributor of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate include:

- plant protection products salespersons (retail)
- owners or managers of retail stores of plant protection products and
- at least one person who is employee of a natural or legal person responsible for placing the plant protection product on the market of the Republic.

a) Requirements for granting the Training Certificate

In order to receive a Distributor of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate it is required:

- i) To submit an application to the Department of Agriculture for a Training Certificate, in a form approved by the Competent Authority,
- ii) To participate in a number of training courses organized by the Department of Agriculture to include at least the subjects listed in Annex II of the Regulations, taking into account the role and responsibilities of distributors: Seminars are compiled by the Department of Agriculture and approved by the Competent Authority,

In case the Department of Agriculture informs the Competent Authority of its weakness to provide access to appropriate training, the Competent Authority may certify other bodies for providing such training, in accordance with criteria laid down by a Competent Authorities' Decision. The Decision on the certification of such bodies shall be issued no later than 26 November 2013.

- iii) succeed at written or/and oral exams set by the Department of Agriculture taking into account at least all the subjects of the abovementioned training courses.

By way of derogation from point (ii) above, if an applicant demonstrates adequacy of knowledge on a subject or subjects listed in Annex II of the Regulations, by submitting a degree, diploma or other certificate of attendance on the corresponding topic or topics, to satisfy a three-member Committee designated by the Competent Authority, may be excluded from participating the training courses on that topic or topics. For this purpose, the applicant shall submit to the Department of Agriculture an application for the Exemption of Participation from the training courses, in a form approved by the Competent Authority.

The Competent Authority may require additional training of distributors when it deems it necessary.

The Training Certificate is issued by the Department of Agriculture, is valid for five (5) years and may be renewed for successive periods of five (5) years.

Persons who hold the Advisor on Plant Protection Products Training Certificate may directly obtain the Distributor of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate, if they submit the abovementioned application.

b) Renewal of the Training Certificate

For the renewal of the Distributor of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate, an application is submitted to the Department of Agriculture, in a form approved by the Competent Authority.

c) Withdrawal of the Training Certificate

The Director of the Department of Agriculture may withdraw a Distributor of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate or suspend its validity for a period deemed necessary, if it finds that the holder does not comply with the provisions of the Law or the Regulations or of this Decree or the written demands of the Department of Agriculture.

Before taking a decision on the withdrawal or suspension of the Training Certificate, the Director of the Department of Agriculture notifies in writing the affected person for its intentions, informing him for the reasons of its decision and providing the right to submit representations within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of service of the notice. The affected person may appeal against the decision within thirty (30) days from the date of notification of this decision, with a written and reasoned appeal to the Minister.

3) ADVISORS

Until 26 November 2015, all advisors should hold an Advisor on Plant Protection Products Training Certificate, which will demonstrate that they have gained sufficient knowledge of the subjects listed in Annex II of the Regulations.

a) Requirements for granting the Training Certificate

In order to receive an Advisor on Plant Protection Products Training Certificate it is required:

- i) To submit an application to the Department of Agriculture for a Training Certificate, in a form approved by the Competent Authority,
- ii) to hold a Certificate of Registration as an agriculturist, under a sector approved by the Council of Agriculturists, based on a university degree or diploma, according to Article 4 of the Agriculturists Registration Law.

Persons involved in drafting and implementing plant protection programs for forest species in forests, should obtain an Advisor on Plant Protection Products Training Certificate which will only relate to this scope. In this case, applicants may, instead of the abovementioned Certificate of Registration as an agriculturist, submit a copy of their University Degree or Title in Forestry,

and

- iii) To participate in a number of training courses organized by the Competent Authority in cooperation with the Council of Agriculturists in order to provide for the necessary additional training, taking into account the subjects listed in Annex II of the Regulations as well as the role and responsibilities of advisors.

The Training Certificate is issued by the Department of Agriculture, is valid for five (5) years and may be renewed for successive periods of five (5) years. The Competent Authority may require additional training of advisors when it deems it necessary.

b) Renewal of the Training Certificate

For the renewal of the Advisor on Plant Protection Products Training Certificate, an application is submitted to the Department of Agriculture, in a form approved by the Competent Authority.

c) Withdrawal of the Training Certificate

The Director of the Department of Agriculture may withdraw an Advisor on Plant Protection Products Training Certificate or suspend its validity for a period deemed necessary, if it finds that the holder does not comply with the provisions of the Law or the Regulations or of this Decree or the written demands of the Department of Agriculture.

Before taking a decision on the withdrawal or suspension of the Training Certificate, the Director of the Department of Agriculture notifies in writing the affected person for its intentions, informing him for the reasons of its decision and providing the right to submit representations within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of service of the notice. The

affected person may appeal against the decision within thirty (30) days from the date of notification of this decision, with a written and reasoned appeal to the Minister.

4) Prohibitions

As of 26 November 2015, the use of plant protection products by professional users, the distribution of plant protection products on the market and granting advices on pest management and safe use of plant protection products, from persons not holding the relevant Certificate, is prohibited.

As of 26 November 2015, granting oral or written instructions to the end user, for the use of the appropriate plant protection product according to the terms and restrictions of its authorisation, is only allowed by persons holding an Advisor on Plant Protection Products Training Certificate. The Competent Authority may, if it deems it necessary, to allow the use of a plant protection product only upon written instructions of an Advisor.

PART B: REQUIREMENTS FOR SALES OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

In the context of the National Action Plan the following measures should be taken:

- i) Measures to ensure that, until 26 November 2015, all distributors will have sufficient staff in their employment holding the relevant Training Certificate referred to in Part A of the Annex to this Decree and which will be available at the time of sale to provide adequate information to customers as regards pesticide use, health and environmental risks and safety instructions to manage those risks for the products in question,
- ii) measures to ensure that, until 26 November 2015, plant protection products that are approved for professional use will only be sold to persons holding the relevant Training Certificate referred to in Part A of the Annex to this Decree and
- iii) measures to ensure that distributors selling plant protection products to non-professional users provide general information regarding the risks to human health and the environment of plant protection products use, in particular on hazards, exposure, proper storage, handling, application and safe disposal in accordance with Community legislation on waste, as well as regarding low-risk alternatives.

Target

Target of the National Action Plan is the sale of plant protection products that are approved for professional use only by personnel with adequate knowledge to persons with adequate knowledge, and to provide information regarding the risks from the use of plant protection products and the management of these risks. These measures are expected to lead to a reduction of risks and impacts on human health and the environment during the sale or use of plant protection products.

Way of Application of the Measures and Timetables

These measures will be applied in parallel with those provided for in the Pesticides (Sale, Manufacture and Storage) Regulations of 2003.

- 1) Until 26 November 2014, the Competent Authority will draw up a List of Plant Protection Products of Professional Use, which will include all plant protection products classified as toxic, very toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction in accordance with the Chemical Substances Law, as amended or replaced. The List can be divided depending on the group of professional users who may use those specific plant protection products in their professional activity.
- 2) Until 26 November 2015, all holders of a pesticides salesperson license under the Pesticides (Sale, Manufacture and Storage) Regulations of 2003 should hold the Distributor of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate provided for in Part A of the Annex to this Decree.
- 3) As of 26 November 2015, the sale of a plant protection product will only be allowed in the presence of a salesperson holding the relevant Training Certificate.
- 4) As of 26 November 2015, the salesperson should provide customers with adequate information concerning the use of plant protection products, the risks to health and the environment and safety instructions to manage those risks for the products in question.

To be able to provide these instructions, the salesperson should be a holder of the Advisor on Plant Protection Products Training Certificate referred to in part A of the Annex to this Decree. Otherwise, the shop owner should have a contract with a person holding such a certificate, which will indicate the responsibility of this person:

- (a) for the supervision of the store and the salesperson or salespersons employed in the store, for the implementation of the Pesticides (Sale, Manufacture and Storage) Regulations of 2003, as amended or replaced,
- (b) to take risk mitigation measures to address risks from handling plant protection products in the store (e.g. during transportation, storage etc.),
- (c) for the actions to be taken in case of an accident and
- (d) to provide to customers, orally or in written, the necessary information a regards plant protection products use, health and environmental risks and safety instructions to manage those risks for the products in question.

To ensure that the holder of the Advisor on Plant Protection Products Training Certificate will be available at the time of sale, he may not have a contract for the supervision of more than one pesticides retailer store.

- 5) As of 26 November 2015, the sale of a plant protection product included in the List of Plant Protection Products of Professional Use is only allowed to professional users presenting a Professional User of Plant Protection Products

Training Certificate. The registry number of the professional user will be recorded on the invoice copy which will be kept in the store records.

6) Micro distributors selling only products for non-professional use which will not be included in the List of Plant Protection Products of Professional Use, do not have to hold the Distributor of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate referred to in part A of the Annex to this Decree, provided that they are exempted from the requirement to hold a salesperson license according to the Pesticides (Sale, Manufacture and Storage) Regulations of 2003, as amended or replaced.

As of 26 November 2014, each person or company responsible for the distribution on the market of a plant protection product intended for amateur use, should provide to each distributor or micro distributor of the product a leaflet with general information regarding the risks for human health and the environment of its use, in particular on hazards, exposure, proper storage, handling, application and safe disposal in accordance with Community legislation on waste, as well as regarding low-risk alternatives.

Distributors or micro distributors of these plant protection products should provide their customers with the abovementioned leaflet with each sale of the corresponding product, as of 26 November 2015.

PART C: INFORMATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

In the context of the National Action Plan the following measures should be taken:

- i) Measures to inform the general public and to promote and facilitate information and awareness-raising programmes and the availability of accurate and balanced information relating to plant protection products for the general public, in particular regarding the risks and the potential acute and chronic effects for human health, non-target organisms and the environment arising from their use, and the use of non-chemical alternatives and
- ii) to put in place a system for gathering information, where available, on pesticide acute poisoning incidents, as well as chronic poisoning developments among groups that may be exposed regularly to plant protection products.

Target

Target of the National Action Plan is to minimize the risks and impacts from the use of plant protection products on human health and the environment by taking measures for informing and raising awareness of the general public.

Way of Application of the Measures and Timetables

- 1) The Department of Agriculture will issue in 2013, to inform and raise awareness of the public on the risks of plant protection products, which will be referred to:
 - the risks to human from the use of plant protection products and the protection measures to be taken particularly for the vulnerable groups of the population, as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009,
 - the risks for the environment, non-target organisms, flora and fauna from the use of plant protection products and the measures that should be taken for their protection,
 - the symptoms of acute poisoning from exposure to plant protection products and the first aid.

The above information will be further provided through the website of the Department of Agriculture and “Agrokypros”, through radio and/or television programmes and through articles published in daily newspapers and the “Agrotis” magazine. All information will be available to any body needs to use them within any relevant public information programmes it undertakes.

- 2) The Medical and Public Health Services have the responsibility to gather information on pesticide acute poisoning incidents, as well as chronic poisoning developments among groups that may be exposed regularly to plant protection products such as operators, agricultural workers or persons living close to plant protection products application areas.

This information shall be annually forwarded to the Competent Authority. The Competent Authority will, in collaboration with the Medical and Public Health Services, assess the incidents so as to take appropriate measures such as informing the public and the plant protection products approval holders and sellers and amend or withdraw plant protection products approvals.

PART D: INSPECTION OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS APPLICATION EQUIPMENT

In the context of the National Action Plan the following measures should be taken:

- i) To establish the procedure for the inspection and the certification system of the plant protection products application equipment, the use of which may present a risk for human health and the environment, in accordance with the timelines set out in Regulation 8 of the Regulations, to ensure that it meets the requirements set out in Annex III of the Regulations,
- ii) to ensure that the operators of handheld plant protection products application equipment or knapsack sprayers, excluded from the above inspection, have been informed of the need to change regularly the accessories and for the specific risks linked to this equipment and that they are trained for the proper use of application equipment and
- iii) to ensure that professional users conduct regular calibrations and technical checks of plant protection products application equipment in accordance with the appropriate training they receive as described in Part A of the Annex to this Decree.

Target

Target of the National Action Plan is to minimize the risks and impacts on human health and the environment when applying plant protection products, ensuring the suitability of plant protection products application equipment and the adequacy of knowledge of operators.

Way of Application of the Measures and Timetables

1) Training

Until 26 November 2015, all professional users will receive training on the proper use and maintenance of application equipment, in the context of the training provided for in Part A of the Annex to this Decree.

2) Information on the risks from the use of plant protection products application equipment.

As of 1 January 2014, the sellers of plant protection products application equipment should inform buyers concerning the specific risks associated with this equipment, as well as with the need to change regularly the accessories. This information should be given at least in the form of a document that will be handed to the buyer when purchasing the equipment.

Professional users will be informed of the risks associated with plant protection products application equipment as well as with the need to change regularly the accessories, in the context of the training provided for in Part A of the Annex to this Decree.

3) System for the inspection of plant protection products application equipment and for granting a certificate

a) The System for the inspection of plant protection products application equipment and for granting a certificate will apply to foggers and field sprayers that have or are connected to a spray tank of a volume greater than 100 litres or to application equipment the use of which, after an assessment of the Competent Authority, may present a risk for human health and the environment.

b) As of 1 January 2014, holders of the above plant protection products application equipment shall submit an application to the Department of Agriculture to record their equipment in a specific Register. The form of the application is drafted by the Department of Agriculture.

c) The inspections of the above plant protection products application equipment is carried out by Stations licensed by the Competent Authority according to criteria that will be determined by a CA decision until 31/12/2013. In addition, the Competent Authority shall determine with a CA decision until 31/12/2013, the procedure for granting and renewing the license of the inspection Stations of plant protection products application equipment.

d) The licensed Stations will ensure during the inspection that the plant protection products application equipment satisfies the relevant requirements set out in Annex III of the Regulations.

Upon successful completion of the inspection, the Station will grant the relevant certificate of the application equipment, in a form specified by the Competent Authority.

The Competent Authority will issue, until 30/06/2013, an Inspection Manual for the plant protection products application equipment that must be followed by the Stations granting the certificates.

e) As of 26 November 2016, the use of plant protection products application equipment referred to in point (a), without a relevant certificate, is prohibited.

4) Controls at professional users level

During controls performed for the implementation of the Plant Protection Products Law of 2011, it will be checked whether professional users conduct regular calibrations and technical checks of plant protection products application equipment.

PART E: AERIAL SPRAYING

In the context of the National Action Plan, the necessary measures to establish the procedure for the authorisation of aerial spraying only in special cases, in accordance with Regulation 9 of the Regulations, should be taken.

Target

Target of the National Action Plan is the determination of the procedure for the authorisation of aerial spraying only in special cases and under such conditions that minimizes the risks to human health and the environment.

Way of Application of the Measures and Timetables

Procedure for the Authorisation of Aerial Spraying in Special Cases

1) The Department of Agriculture will define until 31 March 2013:

- a) The specific conditions by which aerial spraying may be carried out,
- b) the crops, areas, circumstances and particular requirements for application, including weather conditions, where aerial spraying may be allowed and
- c) the measures necessary for warning residents and bystanders in due time and to protect the environment in the vicinity of the area sprayed.

The Department of Agriculture will be able to modify the above if necessary.

2) The applicant submits a request for approval of an application plan to the Director of the Department of Agriculture, accompanied by the necessary data, in which he describes the way in which he ensures that the following conditions are met:

- a) The application of aerial spraying would be consistent with what is defined by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to point (1) above,
- b) there are no viable alternatives, or there are clear advantages in terms of reduced impacts on human health and the environment as compared with land-based application of pesticides,
- c) the plant protection products to be used must be explicitly approved for aerial spraying by the Department of Agriculture following a specific assessment addressing risks from aerial spraying,
- d) until 26 November 2015, the operator carrying out the aerial spraying will have to demonstrate sufficient knowledge in conducting aerial spraying with the necessary previous professional experience. After 26 November 2015, the operator shall be deemed to have sufficient knowledge to carry out aerial spraying only when holding the Professional User of Plant Protection Products Training Certificate provided for in Part A of the Annex to this Decree,
- e) the enterprise responsible for providing aerial spray applications shall be certified by the competent authority for authorising equipment and aircraft for aerial application of plant protection products,
- f) if the area to be sprayed is in close proximity to areas open to the public, specific risk management measures are taken to ensure that there are no adverse effects on the health of bystanders - the area to be sprayed shall not be in close proximity to residential areas,
- g) the aircraft shall be equipped with accessories that constitute the best available technology to reduce spray drift.

3) The applicant shall submit to the Director of the Department of Agriculture an Application for Conducting Aerial Spraying, in a form drafted by the Department of Agriculture and in which the following are stated:

- a) the approved, by the Department of Agriculture, application plan, based on which the aerial spraying will be conducted,
- b) the exact area/areas where the aerial spraying will be conducted,
- c) the provisional time of aerial spraying,
- d) the plant protection products to be used and
- e) the quantities of the plant protection products to be used.

4) The Director of the Department of Agriculture notifies the data of the Application to the Department of Environment, the Water Development Department, the Department of Forestry, the Game and Fauna Service, the Department of Medical and Public Health Services or to any other Department or Agency he considers appropriate, for consultation in order to ensure the protection of public health, the environment and particularly protected species of flora and fauna.

5) The Director of the Department of Agriculture appoints a three-Member Committee consisting of two Officers of the Department of Agriculture and one Officer of the Department of Forestry, which will have the responsibility for the evaluation of the application plan and the Application for Conducting Aerial Application, taking into account the above consultation, and for providing the Director with its recommendation.

Procedure for the Authorisation of Aerial Spraying in Special Cases under Particular Circumstances

In particular circumstances such as emergency or specific difficult situations, the Application for Conducting Aerial Spraying is submitted without the need to submit the application plan. The Director of the Department of Agriculture calls the Department of Environment, the Water Development Department, the Department of Forestry, the Game and Fauna Service, the Department of Medical and Public Health Services or any other Department or Agency he considers appropriate for a meeting, for consultation in order to ensure the protection of public health, the environment and particularly protected species of flora and fauna. At the meeting, the application is evaluated taking into account the compliance with the conditions set out in paragraphs (2) and (3) of Regulation 9 of the Regulations. The Director of the Department of Agriculture approves or rejects the application taking into account the conclusions of the meeting.

PART F: INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC

In the context of the National Action Plan measures should be taken to inform persons who could be exposed to the spray drift.

Target

Target of the National Action Plan is to protect the health of persons who could be exposed to the spray drift, from the impacts from the use of plant protection products

Way of Application of the Measures and Timetables

1) Professional users are obliged to take all necessary measures to ensure that during the application of a plant protection product the possibility of spray drift is minimised.

For this purpose professional users may take the following actions:

- implement alternative to chemical control, plant protection measures,
- apply plant protection products with low drift application equipment,
- use low drift nozzles or the nozzles used are sufficiently calibrated and maintained to reduce drift,
- apply plant protection products at days and hours, during which the possibility of persons being exposed to spray drift is minimized,
- not to apply plant protection products in windy conditions.

2) Professional users are required to inform all those who could be exposed to spray drift.

When only bystanders may be exposed to spray drift, the professional user places before spraying, around the site of application (e.g. on poles, on the fence, etc.), a form that includes at least the plant protection products to be used, their toxicity and the relevant risk phrases relating to human health as well as the impacts on other professionals activities that may be affected (e.g. beekeepers, breeders, snail breeders etc.).

3) The competent authority may request additional measures to inform persons who could be exposed to the spray drift, in cases where it is deemed necessary.

PART G: PROTECTION OF THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT AND DRINKING WATER

In the context of the National Action Plan the following measures should be taken:

- i) To give preference to plant protection products that are not classified as dangerous for the aquatic environment pursuant to Chemical Substance Law, as amended or replaced, nor containing priority hazardous substances as set out in the Protection and Management of Waters Law, as amended or replaced,
- ii) to give preference to the most efficient application techniques such as the use of low-drift plant protection products application equipment especially in vertical crops such as those found in orchards and vineyards,
- iii) to use mitigation measures which minimise the risk of off-site pollution caused by spray drift, drain-flow and run-off and
- iv) to reduce as far as possible or eliminate applications on or along roads, railway lines, very permeable surfaces or other infrastructure close to surface water or groundwater or on sealed surfaces with a risk of run-off into surface water or sewage systems.

Target

Target of the National Action Plan is to take measures for the protection of the environment and of drinking water from the impacts of plant protection products.

Way of Application of the Measures and Timetables

1) Users of plant protection products must adhere to any restrictions on the use and storage of plant protection products in the following buffer/safety zones:

- a) Any buffer zones set with the authorization of each plant protection product and noted on its label,
- b) the safety zones as set at Regulatory Administrative Acts issued under the Protection and Management of Waters Law, for aqueous systems which are used for taking water for human consumption purposes and
- c) the safety zones of irrigation bores as set in the Control of Water Pollution (Groundwater Protection Measures) Decree of 1996, as amended or replaced.

2) The Department of Agriculture will ensure through controls carried out at the farmer's level in the context of the implementation of the Plant Protection Products Law of 2011, the compliance with any additional instructions on the label in relation to the risk reduction measures for the aquatic environment, such as using low-drift nozzles, buffer zones, safety zones etc.

Moreover, through these controls, the Department of Agriculture will identify at farmers' level, any presence of obsolete plant protection products requiring collection and safe disposal/management, which pose a potential point source for aquatic environment pollution. These obsolete plant protection products will be determined and included in a national list.

3) Within the framework of the training referred to in Part A of the Annex to this Decree as well as the information and advisory services that will be provided under Part J of the Annex to this Decree, particular attention must be given in order:

a) To give preference to plant protection products that are not classified as dangerous for the aquatic environment pursuant to Chemical Substance Law, nor containing priority hazardous substances as set out in the Protection and Management of Waters Law. For this purpose, the Department of Agriculture will, until 31 March 2013, draw up a list of plant protection products that fall within the above categories

and

b) to give preference to the most efficient application techniques such as the use of low-drift plant protection products application equipment especially in vertical crops such as those found in orchards and vineyards.

4) The Department of Agriculture will examine the possibility of providing incentives in the context of the new Common Agricultural Policy, to promote the use of low-drift nozzles.

5) The Department of Agriculture will evaluate, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and the Agricultural Research Institute, the possibilities to apply innovative liquid waste management systems (e.g. biobeds) for handling plant protection products remnants and spray solution remaining after application, taking into account the current national

legislation. In addition, the possibility of providing incentives in the context of the new Common Agricultural Policy to promote the use of these systems will be examined.

6) The use of plant protection products and the disposal of their remnants on the surface or along roads, very permeable surfaces or other infrastructure close to surface water or groundwater or on sealed surfaces with a high risk of run-off into surface water or sewage systems is prohibited.

By way of derogation from the above, the use of plant protection products is only permitted after a signed opinion of an advisor, in which the non-use of alternative practices will be justified and any risk mitigation measures for the protection of surface water and groundwater shall be recommended. In addition, only low-risk plant protection products as defined in Article 47 of Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009 should be used. Otherwise, there must be an approval from the Competent Authority in accordance with a procedure defined by a CA decision.

In the context of the National Action Plan measures should be taken to minimize or prohibit the use of plant protection products:

- in areas used by the general public or by vulnerable groups of the population,
- in protected areas as defined in the Protection and Management of Waters Law and in areas identified for the purposes of establishing the necessary conservation measures in accordance with the provisions of the Protection and Management of Nature and Wild Life Law and the Protection and Management of Wild Birds and Game Law and
- in recently treated areas used by or accessible to agricultural workers

Target

Target of the National Action Plan is the protection of human health and the environment by minimizing or prohibiting the use of plant protection products or by minimizing the risks of their use in specific areas.

Way of Application of the Measures and Timetables

1. «Specific Areas A»

"Specific Areas A" are defined as the areas used by the general public or by vulnerable groups of the population, as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, such as public parks and gardens, sports and recreation grounds, schools and playgrounds, healthcare facilities (e.g. hospitals, clinics, charitable institutions), hotels, military camps and archaeological sites.

In Specific Areas A:

- i) The use of plant protection products classified as toxic (T), very toxic (T⁺), carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction in accordance with the Chemical Substances Law, as amended or replaced, is prohibited from 30/06/2013,
- ii) from 30/06/2013, priority shall be given to the application of low-risk plant protection products, as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, to biological control measures and to alternative to chemical control, methods.

Taking into account the point (i) above, in case of application of other plant protection products there must be a signed opinion of an advisor, in which any risk mitigation measures for the protection of human health shall be recommended. In the context of these measures, the maximum time interval between the application of the plant protection product and the access of humans to the application area should be given. This time interval should be notified by the user with specific visible signs around the application site.

During the transitional period until 26 November 2015, when the Advisor on Plant Protection Products Training Certificate will be granted to all advisors, the above signed opinion will be given by agronomists and foresters as appropriate.

The application of any plant protection product will only be done with low-drift application equipment.

- iii) all measures for informing the public, as defined in Part F of the Annex to this Decree, shall be taken.

2. «Specific Areas B»

«Specific Areas B» are defined as:

a) The protected areas as defined in the Protection and Management of Waters Law, as amended or replaced. Measures to minimize or prohibit the use of plant protection products in these areas shall be applied accordingly. For bodies of water designated as recreational waters, including areas designated as bathing waters, the prohibitions and measures mentioned for the "Specific Areas A" shall be applied

and

b) the areas identified for the purposes of establishing the necessary conservation measures in accordance with the provisions of the Protection and Management of Nature and Wild Life Law and the Protection and Management of Wild Birds and Game Law, as these are amended or replaced for these areas the measures included in the Management Plans relating to Natura 2000 sites concerning plant protection products or/and other measures defined by the competent authorities, shall be applied.

3. «Specific Areas C»

«Specific Areas C» are defined as the recently treated areas used by or accessible to agricultural workers

The label instructions in relation to the time interval between the application of the plant protection product and the access of humans to the application area must be strictly followed.

In any case, measures should be taken so that people may access the treated area only after the spray has dried completely or the incorporation of the plant protection product in the soil is completed, or, in case of application in closed areas, the area is adequately ventilated.

4. «Green Eco-Management Bodies»

The Department of Agriculture will invite all Municipalities, Communities and bodies (e.g. school committees) that manage green areas in "Specific Areas A", to participate in the Program "Green Eco-Management Bodies" which will fit those Municipalities, Communities and bodies achieve to minimize the use of plant protection products in their green areas, by implementing integrated pest management programs or biological control programs to control pest and diseases.

For this purpose, interested Municipalities, Communities and bodies should submit to the Department of Agriculture, the Integrated Pest Management or Biological Control Program that they intend to implement. When submitting this Program, they may submit data concerning the use of plant protection products before its implementation in order to determine the level of success of the goal to minimize the use of plant protection products.

The Department of Agriculture will determine the success criteria for the inclusion of Municipalities, Communities and bodies in the Program "Green Eco-Management Bodies" and will grant the relevant participation certificates.

PART I: HANDLING AND STORAGE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS AND TREATMENT OF THEIR PACKAGING AND REMNANTS

In the context of the National Action Plan measures should be taken in relation to:

- i) storage, handling, dilution and mixing of plant protection products before application,
- ii) handling of packaging and remnants of plant protection products,
- iii) disposal of tank mixtures remaining after application,
- iv) cleaning of the equipment used after application and
- v) recovery or disposal of plant protection products remnants and their packaging in accordance with the current National and Community legislation on waste.

Target

Target of the National Action Plan is to minimize the risks and impacts on human health and the environment with the proper handling and storage of plant protection products and the proper handling of their packaging and remnants.

Way of Application of the Measures and Timetables

- 1) The Department of Agriculture will issue, until 26 November 2013, Codes of Good Agricultural Practice in relation to the above measures. The Department of Agriculture may amend these Codes taking into account the scientific and technical progress.
- 2) The Codes of Good Agricultural Practice will be included in the training courses referred to in Part A of the Annex to this Decree.
- 3) The implementation of the instructions on the label of plant protection products is mandatory. During controls performed for the implementation of the Plant Protection Products Law of 2011, the implementation of the label instructions on the above measures as well as the implementation of each Code of Good Agricultural Practice, will be checked.
- 4) The Department of Agriculture will evaluate, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and the Agricultural Research Institute, the possibilities to apply innovative liquid waste management systems as provided in part G of the Annex to this Decree. In addition, the options for the collection and management of empty containers of plant protection products will be examined.

PART J: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

In the context of the National Action Plan measures should be taken:

- i) to promote low plant protection products-input pest management such as integrated pest management and organic farming,
- ii) to establish or support the establishment of necessary conditions for the implementation of integrated pest management, by giving professional users the necessary information and tools for pest monitoring and decision making as well as by giving them access to advisory services on integrated pest management,
- iii) for the implementation of the general principles of integrated pest management, as set out in Annex I of the Regulations, by all professional users and
- iv) to establish incentives to encourage the implementation of crop or sector specific guidelines for integrated pest management on a voluntary basis.

Target

Target of the National Action Plan is to reduce dependency on the use of plant protection products and therefore reduce the risks and impacts of their use on human health and the environment.

Way of Application of the Measures and Timetables

1) The Department of Agriculture will carry out a campaign during 2013, to promote low plant protection products-input pest management, specifically integrated pest management and organic farming:

- by organising information seminars through the Agricultural Extension Programme to all relevant production sectors
- as part of the apprentice training courses at the Agricultural Training Centres,
- through radio and/or television programmes and
- through articles published in daily newspapers and the "Agrotis" magazine.

2) The Department of Agriculture will notify, until 30/06/2013, the contact details (phone, e-mail) of its Officers, who may provide advisory services on integrated pest management and organic farming. In addition, until 30/06/2013, a webpage which will provide the necessary information regarding the implementation of integrated pest management and organic farming will be created.

Advisory services on integrated pest management may be provided by private advisors. For this purpose, the Department of Agriculture will draw up, by 30/06/2013, a list of private advisors who notify the Department of Agriculture for their ability to provide such advisory services.

3) The Department of Agriculture will, until 30/06/2013, create a non-exhaustive list that includes products, tools or practices available and practicable in Cyprus conditions, which can be used as alternative to the use of plant protection products. This list will be utilized accordingly, from those who provide advisory services on integrated pest management.

4) As part of the strategy for resistance management in order to maintain the effectiveness of plant protection products and thus to avoid the need to increase the number of applications or the dosages, the Competent Authority will promote the voluntary inscription on the labels of plant protection products of the "Mode of Action Group".

5) The Competent Authority will establish, not later than 31 March 2013, Expert Committees to assist in the drafting of guidelines for the Integrated Pest Management in specific crops or sectors. Priority will be given to crops or sectors deemed to have the highest input of plant protection products taking into account the active substances of particular concern.

The guidelines for the Integrated Pest Management will be adopted by a decision of the Competent Authority.

By 30/06/2013, the Department of Agriculture should explore the potential for incentives to encourage implementation of the above guidelines for the Integrated Pest Management on voluntary basis.

6) The Department of Agriculture should, within the framework of the campaign referred to in point (1) above, inform professional users of their obligation to implement the general principles of integrated pest management as set out in Annex I of the Regulations, until 1 January 2014.

During controls performed for the implementation of the Plant Protection Products Law of 2011, the implementation of the general principles of integrated pest management by all professional users will be checked.

PART K: RISK INDICATORS

In order to calculate the progress achieved in the reduction of risks and adverse impacts on human health and the environment from the use of plant protection products, as a result of the implementation of this National Action Plan, the Competent Authority will utilize harmonized risk indicators that will be established at Community level in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Regulations.

In Cyprus, national risk indicators have not been established until the publication of this Decree. However, some national risk indicators must be set, in addition to harmonized indicators, in order to be used so that the achievement of the targets of this National Action Plan becomes measurable.

Risk Indicators – Targets – Timetables

1) Training

The use and distribution on the market of plant protection products as well as providing advisory services with regards to their use, by persons who are not sufficiently trained, pose a potential risk to human health and the environment.

A target in the context of this National Action Plan is the initial training and the issue of a relevant certificate to all plant protection products professional users, distributors and advisors, until 26 November 2015.

2) Use of plant protection products

The implementation of the National Action Plan is expected to result in a restriction of the use of chemical plant protection products that may require risk mitigation measures for humans and the environment on a larger scale and an increase of the use of other plant protection products that do not require risk mitigation measures on such a scale (e.g. organic formulations, products containing low risk active substances etc.).

At this stage, the quantitative level that could be set for the reduction or increase, respectively, of the use of the above products cannot be estimated. However, the Department of Agriculture will identify trends in the use of these products (in particular those of particular concern), taking data on their sales for the five year period until 26 November 2017 compared with the previous five years, in order to assess any impacts from the implementation of the National Action Plan. In addition, the Department of Agriculture will ask for data on the use of plant protection products from Municipalities, Communities and other bodies, as well as of Plant Protection Associations.

3) Plant protection products residue levels in plant products

A positive impact on the levels of plant protection products residues found in plant products is expected with the implementation of the National Action Plan.

Therefore, under this National Action Plan:

- a) A target to reduce the percentage of cases exceeding the Maximum Residue Limits is set, which should follow a declining trend so that until 26 November 2017 the percentage of exceedances will not exceed 3% and
- b) in the absence of legislation for the risk assessment on the presence of more than one plant protection product residue in food (multiple residues), the gradual reduction of multiple residues in order to minimize these cases, will be set as a target.

For this purpose data from the Health Services will be used.

4) Plant protection products residue levels in surface water

The implementation of the National Action Plan is expected to have a positive impact on any water pollution by plant protection products.

In the context of the water monitoring program, in accordance with Article 24 of the Protection and Management of Waters Law, in recent years, some very low concentrations of active substances included in the monitoring program have been sporadically detected. The Water Development Department will investigate, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and the State General Laboratory, the potential inclusion of more active substances in the monitoring program, giving priority to the priority substances as defined in the Protection and Management of Waters Law and those that have been classified as dangerous for the aquatic environment in accordance with the Chemical

Substances Law. After assessing the current situation, the need to set future targets for reducing the presence of plant protection products in surface waters will be examined.

5) Handling empty packaging of plant protection products

The empty packaging of plant protection products are a potential danger for the environment. With the implementation of the National Action Plan it is expected to have a positive impact on the proper handling of empty packaging.

The Department of Agriculture will assess the current situation in relation to the handling of containers of plant protection products. To this end, the Department of Agriculture will take the relevant information from the distributors of plant protection products in Cyprus in relation to the volume of empty containers delivered for recycling or energy recovery. The target will be to increase the percentage of empty containers delivered for recycling or energy recovery, taking into account the retail sales of plant protection products, by 5% annually.

6) Plant protection products acute poisoning incidents

A target in the context of this National Action Plan is to reduce plant protection products acute poisoning incidents for the five year period until 26 November 2017 compared with the previous five years.

To calculate the achievement of this target data will be taken on a yearly basis from the Medical and Public Health Services.

7) Spray drift

Spray drift is a potential danger for human health and the environment.

The increase in use of low-drift nozzles will decrease this danger. Therefore, a target under this National Action Plan is to increase the use of low-drift nozzles by 15% until 26 November 2017.

To calculate the achievement of this target data will be taken on the sales of these nozzles from associated companies as well as from farmers through a relevant questionnaire.

Additionally, the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Agricultural Research Institute will study the possibility of using a risk analysis model for plant protection products frequently used in mountainous areas, which can be transported through spray drift causing pollution of surface waters.

8) Inscription on the labels of plant protection products of the "Mode of Action Group"

The development of resistance of pests and diseases to plant protection products usually leads to an increase in the number of applications with chemicals or an increase of dosages, thus leading to greater risks for human health and the environment. As part of the strategy for resistance management the necessary information for proper rotation of plant protection products must be provided to professional users. This can be done through training but also through the inscription on the labels of plant protection products of the "Mode of Action Group".

Therefore, a target in the context of this National Action Plan is the inscription of the "Mode of Action Group" on the labels of 60% of plant protection products until 26 November 2017.