

BIODIVERSITY AND PESTICIDES

Preserving biodiversity is central to sustainable agriculture. Proper crop protection can help further this goal.

What is biodiversity? Why does it matter?

'Biodiversity' refers to the variety of living organisms which exist on our planet. Preserving biodiversity is fundamental to preserving the ecosystems which sustain life.

Natural ecosystems provide a wide range of 'services' to humanity through, for example, carbon sequestration, water purification, or pollination, among many others. But ecosystems are extremely complex and their survival depends on the interaction of numerous organisms.

Why protect biodiversity?

With the growth in world population, the expansion of populated areas and the increase in human activities that depend on natural resources, biodiversity needs protection.

How do pesticides contribute to biodiversity conservation?

Factors threatening biodiversity include the expansion of human habitat, the reduction of wildlife habitats, as well as the negative impact of invasive species, such as weeds and fungi. Crop protection products can contribute to biodiversity conservation by enhancing agricultural productivity and controlling invasive species:

- By increasing crop yields and minimizing losses caused by pests and diseases, pesticides help reduce the amount of land devoted to agriculture and limit encroachment on non-agricultural land, thereby helping to preserve wildlife habitats, such as forest, wetlands and grasslands.
- Invasive plant species such as weeds and fungi can also have a negative impact on wildlife habitats. Pesticides help control these species and protect wildlife.
- Herbicides help to enable the spread of conservation tillage, which helps improve soil quality and reduce erosion. In turn, this helps to improve habitats and limit agricultural encroachment.

Is the industry truly committed to preserving biodiversity?

We all depend on the preservation of biodiversity. Our industry is committed to supporting sustainable agriculture and this commitment is reflected in many ways:

- The industry supports international efforts to protect biodiversity, such as through the UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- The industry promotes Integrated Crop and Pest Management (ICM/IPM) through extensive training programs. Every year, over 350,000 trainers, agricultural extension workers and farmers are trained by CropLife and its affiliates.
- The industry invests heavily in continuously developing better and safer products with lower environmental footprints in order to protect our environment

The industry supports extensive testing and monitoring of its products to ensure their safety and efficacy.

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY MEANS:

- INCREASING FARM PRODUCTIVITY TO LIMIT ENCROACHMENT ON WILDLIFE HABITAT
- PROTECTING HABITATS FROM INVASIVE SPECIES AND FUNGI
- PROMOTING INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT TO ENSURE THE SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES
- INVESTING IN TRAINING FARMERS AND SUPPORTING THEIR ROLE AS NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDS
- INVESTING IN DEVELOPING BETTER PRODUCTS AND SOLUTIONS