

Hazardous Substances Advisory Committee (HSAC)

Consultation on the Revised National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (NAP)

27th Meeting, November 2020

Commission

Defra and the Devolved Administrations are developing a consultation on the revised National Action Plan (NAP) for the Sustainable use of Pesticides under the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012.

The four Nations would welcome an HSAC response to the consultation when it is published and are particularly interested in HSAC's views on:

- Research needs and other evidence gaps.
- Improving metrics and indicators to support reduction in risks associated with pesticides

Delivery

The committee will be introduced to the NAP at their 27th Meeting. A twelve-week online consultation on the revised NAP is expected to be released shortly after. The committee are invited to provide a coordinated response.

Background

The National Action Plan

Under the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012, there is a legal requirement to review our UK NAP every 5 years and to consult on the preparation and modification of the NAP in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Sustainable Use Directive. The previous NAP was published in 2013 and was criticised for not being ambitious or impactful enough.

The NAP is a UK wide plan developed in conjunction with the Devolved Administrations. It sets the direction for the sustainable use of pesticides, the protection of people and the environment, and the delivery of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

IPM is defined as the combined use of **all available control methods**, including **targeted use of pesticides used when alternatives are ineffective or unavailable**. It emphasises crop health and minimal disruption to the agro-ecological system. IPM also includes measures to optimise pesticide application, with the aim of reducing non target effects and unnecessary environmental exposure.

Developing the Revised National Action Plan

The drafted revised NAP high-level aim is to minimise the risks and impacts of pesticides to human health and the environment, while ensuring pests and pesticide resistance are managed effectively.

The drafted revised NAP key goals are to:

- Ensure continued robust regulation to protect our health and environment.
- Support the development and uptake of IPM.
- Ensure those that use pesticides do so safely and sustainably.
- Support in the reduction of the risks associated with pesticides by improving metrics and indicators.
- Ensure that we work effectively with others to deliver the NAP goals.

Policy linkage

The NAP is a UK wide plan developed by the four Nations. It is looking to increase ambition in line with the goals of Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan, and the goals of the Devolved Administrations' related strategies. Effective pesticides policy, is also essential to support delivery of wider Government objectives on water, soils, biodiversity, food production, and human health. The revision of the NAP allows us to help shape the strategic direction for the future of food, farming, and the environment.