

IMPACTS OF THE NEONICOTINOID RESTRICTIONS

FINDINGS FROM 5 IMPACT STUDIES

In 2013, the European Commission restricted the use of three neonicotinoids in the EU. Numerous studies have since assessed the impact of the restrictions on the European agricultural sector and its productivity.

Impacts on agricultural productivity

↓912,000
tons



The neonics ban has resulted in a ↓ of **912,000 ton of oilseed rape annually**.
In the UK, **oilseed rape acreage ↓ by 14%**.

The European oilseed rape industry alone **has lost around €900 mn per year**.

€900 mn
per year



An **↑ 533,000 ha of land is required** outside the EU to compensate for the missing oilseed rape yields, equal to the territory of Cyprus.

Without neonicotinoids, the EU will **quickly become a net importer of key staple crops**, including maize, potatoes and oilseed rape.



€3-4 bn
per year



Neonics contribute an annual crop volume of **21-31 mn tons** in the EU, worth a farm income of **€3-4 bn per year**.

Impact on pest management



A study of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre found that **pest management** practices have become **significantly more time intensive**, driving up farmers' costs and leaving them less competitive.



In most countries, farmers were forced to apply **↑ insecticide treatments**, with a **3- to 4-fold increase** reported in the UK for 2015.



Lack of effective and diverse insecticidal modes of action will **accelerate pest resistance**, thereby rendering the limited tools ineffective.

Impact on the environment



The neonicotinoid restrictions have **negative implications for biodiversity** and the environment worldwide, such as an **↑ in greenhouse gas emissions** and **water use**.



Due to the European restrictions on neonicotinoids, an **↑ 1.3 bn m³ of water** will be used globally, while within the EU it will require **1.4 million m³ more water**.

Sources:

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