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CropLife Europe reports â?¬2.9 billion investment in biopesticides, urges faster EU approvals

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The European crop protection industry has reached approximately 73 per cent of its â?¬4 billion biopesticide investment commitment for 2030, while calling for more predictable regulatory procedures to accelerate market access.

CropLife Europe has reported that the European crop protection industry invested €2.9 billion in biopesticide research and development between 2015 and 2025, reaching approximately 73 per cent of its €4 billion investment commitment for 2030. The industry association has called for improvements to European Union regulatory procedures to help bring new biological crop protection products to farmers more quickly.

The investment update comes as EU institutions consider changes to food and feed safety legislation, including measures intended to streamline the assessment and authorisation of biocontrol products. According to CropLife Europe, lengthy and unpredictable approval processes remain a significant challenge for companies developing biological alternatives to conventional pesticides.

Regulatory delays remain a concern

CropLife Europe estimates that introducing a new biological pesticide to the European market currently takes seven to ten years. The association says approval timelines can be around three to four years in the United States and parts of Asia, with potentially shorter periods in Brazil. These comparisons highlight the industry's concerns about differences in regulatory processes between major agricultural markets, although approval requirements and timelines vary by product and jurisdiction.

CropLife Europe argues that delays in obtaining regulatory approval can affect farmers' access to biological crop protection products and reduce the commercial benefits of research investment. Olivier de Matos, Director General of CropLife Europe, said the sector is progressing towards its investment commitments but needs a regulatory framework that enables innovation to reach farmers without unnecessary delays. He also emphasised the importance of maintaining Europe's

safety standards while improving the efficiency and predictability of product assessments.

EU considers changes to biocontrol approval procedures

The European Commission's Food and Feed Safety Simplification Package includes proposals intended to improve regulatory procedures for agricultural inputs, including biological crop protection products. The proposed measures include a clearer definition of biocontrol substances and priority assessment procedures designed to facilitate their approval.

On 30 September 2026, the Council of the European Union adopted its negotiating position on parts of the legislative package, supporting faster assessment of biocontrol substances. However, the proposed regulatory amendments remain subject to the EU legislative process and have not yet entered into force.

CropLife Europe has welcomed the proposed changes while calling for sufficient regulatory resources, science-based assessments and more predictable approval procedures. The association maintains that efficient regulatory processes are necessary to translate industry investment into commercially available crop protection technologies.

Investment supports biological crop protection development

CropLife Europe's €4 billion commitment forms part of the industry's broader innovation objectives for 2030, including investment in precision agriculture and digital technologies. Biopesticides are an important area of crop protection research as agricultural input manufacturers develop biological approaches to pest and disease management.

The association's latest investment figures indicate progress towards its long-term funding target, although the announcement does not identify specific products resulting from the expenditure or quantify how many new solutions have reached commercial markets. As EU policymakers continue reviewing the proposed regulatory reforms, the debate is expected to focus on improving access to biocontrol technologies while maintaining human health and environmental protection requirements.