

BIG FARMERS ASSOCIATION

The aim: Develop your position regarding to ban/no ban. Build a coalition with as many partners and allies as possible.

The resources (e.g. finances, human resources, political influence, reputation etc.): Sufficient resources, normal reputation, big political influence.

The roles: Big Farmers Association is very interested to continue the use of neonics

Known information:

The BFA argues that in the case of an additional ban on the use of neonicotinoids, Lugovia will lose money every year for the cultivation of several agricultural crops and plants: EUR 15 295 000 for rape, potatoes (for chips, food, seeds), excluding starch potatoes EUR 4 255 530, for fruit trees (apples, pears, cherries, plums) EUR 4 829 080, for carrots EUR 1 232 900, for cabbage EUR 1 913 970, for coniferous plants EUR 7 700 000. Arguments: There are no alternatives available for several PPPs.

In recent years, the concentration process in the agriculture was going on the number of big farms increased, small decreased, and the number of jobs decreased pesticide intensive agriculture saves on workforce expenses, this is how big farmers maximize their profits.

Attitudes towards the following aspects : Food quality and safety very important, the main argument ; Innovation, R&D (alternative pesticides) interested, but mainly interested in innovation that increases their competitiveness ; Environmental goals (bee preservation) not important ; Food security (availability of reasonably priced food) not so important, competitiveness is important ; Economy (industry profit and state budget, job market) profit is very important, but not the job market.

Skeletons: The State Audit Office has found out that Ministry of Agriculture pays large, vaguely justified sums to agricultural NGO's, they are among the recipients, and not interested to lose this money. In recent years the concentration process in the agriculture was going on – the amount of big farms increased, small decreased, and the labor places decreased – pesticide intensive agriculture saves on working places, this is their profit.