

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATIONS

(Not confidential to participants)

### Ministry of Agriculture

It is believed that the proposal to ban neonics would have a negative impact on agriculture and food production in Lugovia with a negative impact on crop yields and quality. To enable farmers to grow their products, the use of alternative pesticides will be enhanced and thus be released into the environment, with potential negative impacts on the environment. For several neonicotinoid applications, alternatives are not available.

### Ministry of Environmental Protection

Most of the available alternatives to neonicotinoids have shorter exposure times, so the treatment should be repeated several times during a season, increasing the risk to the environment. In the EU, active substances are approved for a limited period, and a review of many active substances is now underway, which may also lead to the withdrawal of certain alternatives to neonicotinoids from the market. Lack of PPPs increases the use of unregistered PPPs and the risks of illicit PPPs.

### Beekeepers Association

Use of neonics threatens the beekeeping business. The number of bee colonies is growing thanks to the development of the sector and subsidies. Perhaps the number of bee colonies would grow even faster, and owners would be more profitable if bees were not exposed to neonics. Yearly sampling and testing of honey has shown that neonics can be found in Lugovian honey and this cumulatively is dangerous for humans to consume.

### Big Farmers Association

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 focus in agriculture was related to the number of big farms increased, small decreased, and the number of jobs decreased as pesticide intensive agriculture saves on workforce expenses; this is how big farmers maximize their profits.

### Traders of Pesticides

Traders of Pesticides continuously fund extensive research on the use of neonics. Neonicotinoids are important plant protection agents for Lugovian rape, potato, fruit, and vegetable growers as well as for plant breeders. Traders argue that there are no other practical alternatives to pest control for these neonicotinoid applications.

### Organic Farmers

Unfortunately, conventional agriculture largely relies on pesticides, and their consumption in Lugovia is growing. But organic farms can grow their products without neonics and other pesticides. So, why others cannot? Organic farmers do not need help from conventional farmers to kill pests, they have their own methods and tools for controlling pests without chemicals. Organic farming creates more jobs for local people. On the other hand, high workforce expenses make the produce more expensive, which with current living costs in Lugovia could make food less affordable to a large part of the population.