



Introduction

Agrodis is the association of the ancillary agro industries in the Netherlands. Our members provide farmers and growers with products and services amongst which crop protection products (both chemical and biological). We represent approximately 90% of the Dutch market. Our member companies are farmer owned cooperatives and private companies.

Our members support farmers and growers in their efforts to innovate and make production more sustainable. As an association we encourage and support these activities and we work closely with farmer and grower organisations. In order to be able to innovate and compete in the market the industry needs enough crop protection products (both chemical and biological). So we strongly strive to maintain an effective packet of products and methods to protect our crops that can be used responsibly. This forms the “safety net” that we as an industry need in order to safely experiment with novel ways of protecting both our crops and the environment.

We herewith would like to express our concerns regarding the situation with respect to the flower bulb industry. This industry is iconic for our horticulture and of great economic importance to our country. It is also an industry that invests a lot of money and effort in order to make its production more and more sustainable.

Hot water treatment at risk

In this sector the use of hot water treatment is at risk as there are not enough disinfectant products available. This is a worrying fact as the hot water treatment in itself is an effective and environmentally friendly method of killing nematodes. In order to address the potential side effects of hot water treatment it is necessary to treat the water used with a disinfectant. Up until now the industry could for instance make use of formaldehyde because the government authorised the controlled use of formaldehyde. The Horticulture industry and research bodies as Wageningen University and Research Centre as well as members of our association have for many years been searching for alternatives for formaldehyde. First of all we would like to stress the importance of these efforts and would like to mention that it is crucial that these efforts continue. Unfortunately we have not yet reached the point at which enough alternatives exist for formaldehyde.

It is therefore that we recommend all stakeholders involved to do everything they can, to make sure that the flower bulb industry can continue its search for alternatives with the “safety net” of disinfectants like formaldehyde. As Agrodis we are more than willing to assist (for instance through our system of self regulation (CDG) and controlled distribution) in managing the risks associated with such products. We are committed to finding solutions that protect both the interests of the flower bulb industry and the society at large (environment and worker protection).

Yours sincerely,

Ing. C.M. de Ruijter
Director Agrodis

De vereniging Agrodis is de brancheorganisatie voor de toeleveranciers voor de Nederlandse land- en tuinbouw, die een totaalpakket aan gewasbescherming leveren voor een gezonde teelt