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For us, it's all about coffee.
Today. Tomorrow. Together.





Optimisation of agrochemical use in green coffee

A synergy project of the Neumann Kaffee Gruppe (NKG)

For use at farm level

November 2025–June 2026

Project stages



Demand assessment



Following the recall of coffee varieties in RAFSS , which had to be withdrawn due to exceeding the maximum residue level of the substance chlorpyrifos, we have compiled the figures to highlight the risk this substance poses to the coffee market. The following points were considered:

- General coffee recalls Recording via the RAFSS (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed)
- Substance approvals and bans worldwide
- Application information from the coffee industry

Incidents

From the RASFF – Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed – EU



[Link: RASFF window – results](#)

Product	Percentage	Number
Total number of alerts for (all) foodstuffs	10	25,905
↓ Chlorpyrifos in food (peppers, tomatoes, nuts, etc.)	5.4% of all alerts → 1,406	1,406
<u>Product group Coffee, tea, cocoa</u>	1.8% of all alerts → 485 of all alerts for foodstuffs	485
↓ Chlorpyrifos in in the <u>product group coffee, tea, cocoa</u>	7.8% of the product group (out of 485) → 37	37
Coffee only (excluding cocoa and tea) Warnings Warnings since 2020	17.8% of the product group (out of 485) → 83	83
↓ Chlorpyrifos <u>only in coffee</u>	10.7% of coffee warnings (out of 83) → 9	9
Comparison of OTA only in coffee	18% of coffee warnings (out of 83) → 15	15

RASFF – 11 September 2025			
Reference	Category	Topic	Date
2025.6006	Nuts, nut products and seeds	Chlorpyrifos in coffee (raw) from Kenya via Norway	07.08.2025 11:07:46 29 August 2024
2024.6536	Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea	Chlorpyrifos in unroasted coffee beans from Colombia	3:46:11
2024.4844	Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea	Detection of chlorpyrifos in organic coffee from Peru	24 June 2024
2023.8451	Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea	Chlorpyrifos in coffee from Denmark	12 July 2023 4:30:13 10 October 2023
2023.6874	Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea	Chlorpyrifos in organic green coffee from Honduras	15:42:31 22 April 2021
2021.1997	Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea	Chlorpyrifos in non-decaffeinated green coffee from Cameroon	11:02:08 21 April 2021, 12:59:19 p.m. 29 December 2020
2020.6075	Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea	Chlorpyrifos in green coffee beans	26 November 2020
2020.5322	Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea	Chlorpyrifos in green coffee beans from Cameroon	11:36:50

Which countries have banned chlorpyrifos? Status 02/2026



Country	Approval	MRL/LOQ	Note
EU	Banned since 2020	0.01 mg/kg	
Kenya	✓	0.05 mg/kg	Only approved for use as a termiticide
Tanzania	✓	-	No restrictions or MRLs documented
Uganda	✓	-	No restrictions or MRLs documented
Ethiopia	✓	-	No restrictions or maximum residue limits documented
Brazil	✓	0.05 mg/kg	
Colombia	Banned since 2021	< 0.01 mg/kg	
Honduras	✓	-	No official ban, residues detected in export goods
Peru	Banned since 1 August 2024	< 0.01 mg/kg	
USA	Banned in food since 2022	< 0.01 mg/kg	
Indonesia	✓	0.05 mg/kg	
Vietnam	Chlorpyrifos Ethyl banned since 2019	-	Only the ethyl form is banned; other forms may be permitted
PNG	✓		No restrictions or MRL values documented

 All information on authorisation and MRL/LOQ values may be invalid as the data situation in the countries is unclear.

Optimisation of agrochemical use in green coffee

Welcome to the expert exchange
on 11 November 2025 in Hamburg

How can we support the supply chain in
the selection and application of
pesticides/agrochemicals?

The participant group is
composed of
interdisciplinary
international experts in
Sustainability, Compliance,
and Food Safety.

Aim of the expert working group meeting



On the trail of agrochemicals / pesticides...

- Why this meeting? Why is this a complex issue that affects different areas?
- Which pesticides are affecting the coffee sector?
- How do we know that these substances play a role?
- Why are these substances critical?

Team discussion :

- At what stage of the process do these substances have an impact?
- Discussion round: What could help? Where (in the process) can we help?

What are the challenges facing the agricultural sector?



The use of pesticides, even dangerous ones, is permitted and encouraged in many coffee-producing countries.



Coffee farmers are often not trained in the correct use of pesticides. As a result, pesticides are frequently used excessively, or dangerous pesticides are used instead of less harmful substances and non-chemical alternatives.



Maximum residue levels vary in many jurisdictions. Example: The maximum residue limit for glyphosate in coffee is 0.1 mg/kg in the EU. In the USA, it is 1.0 mg/kg.



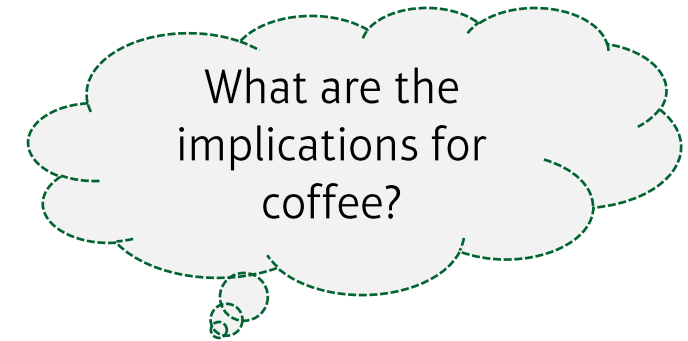
There is no sectoral approach to address the problem holistically.

Discussion (all experts)

What can/must we do at each stage of the supply chain?



- With producers (e.g.)
 - Preparation/joint development of training content on alternatives and the correct use of pesticides
 - Use NKG-Verified, promote integrated pest/weed control
- With exporters (e.g.):
 - Raise awareness of the issue
 - Creating understanding of the financial consequences
 - Improve the knowledge of field staff/FSUs
- With importers:
 - Standardising contract terms with suppliers (export/agriculture) for conventional coffee (NKG supplier terms for food safety)
 - Raising awareness that regulations for conventional coffee are crucial (i.e. not agreeing to roasting agreements that go beyond the objective)
- As a holding company (e.g.):
 - Multi-stakeholder platforms (e.g. GCP)
 - Research partnerships for alternatives (with pesticide manufacturers – unrealistic)



Outcome of this meeting

12 November 2025



We will offer training materials that could include the following:

Selection of specific substances: How do we make this selection?

- a) Top 13 from ECF & NKG
- b) Differentiated by origin TOP 3 from CR3 laboratory data
- c) Rejection rate (if available / RAFSS rate)

What information should the training materials contain?

- Information on health risks (application level)
- Information on environmental risks
- Information on MRL/EU and USA (Asia difficult to obtain)
- Alternatives to this substance (either another substance (costs) or even an alternative without chemicals)
- Which common product names contain which substance (Roundup glyphosate)
- The instructions for use must be strictly followed with regard to dosage and timing.
 - Influences on drift/water/soil must be taken into account.

Who should receive these training materials?

Possibly farmers via intermediaries, whereby we could use the various FSUs for each country. The focus should be on the distribution units so that they have the correct information on EU limits and bans.

Another good idea was that continuous monitoring of funding projects related to these reductions should be carried out selectively for each country (possibly).

Implementation



- ✓ Review and confirm selection of substances
- ✓ Preparation of training materials
 - Regenerative Agriculture Policy and Guidance
 - NKG Pesticide Fact sheets
- ✓ Introduction and publication

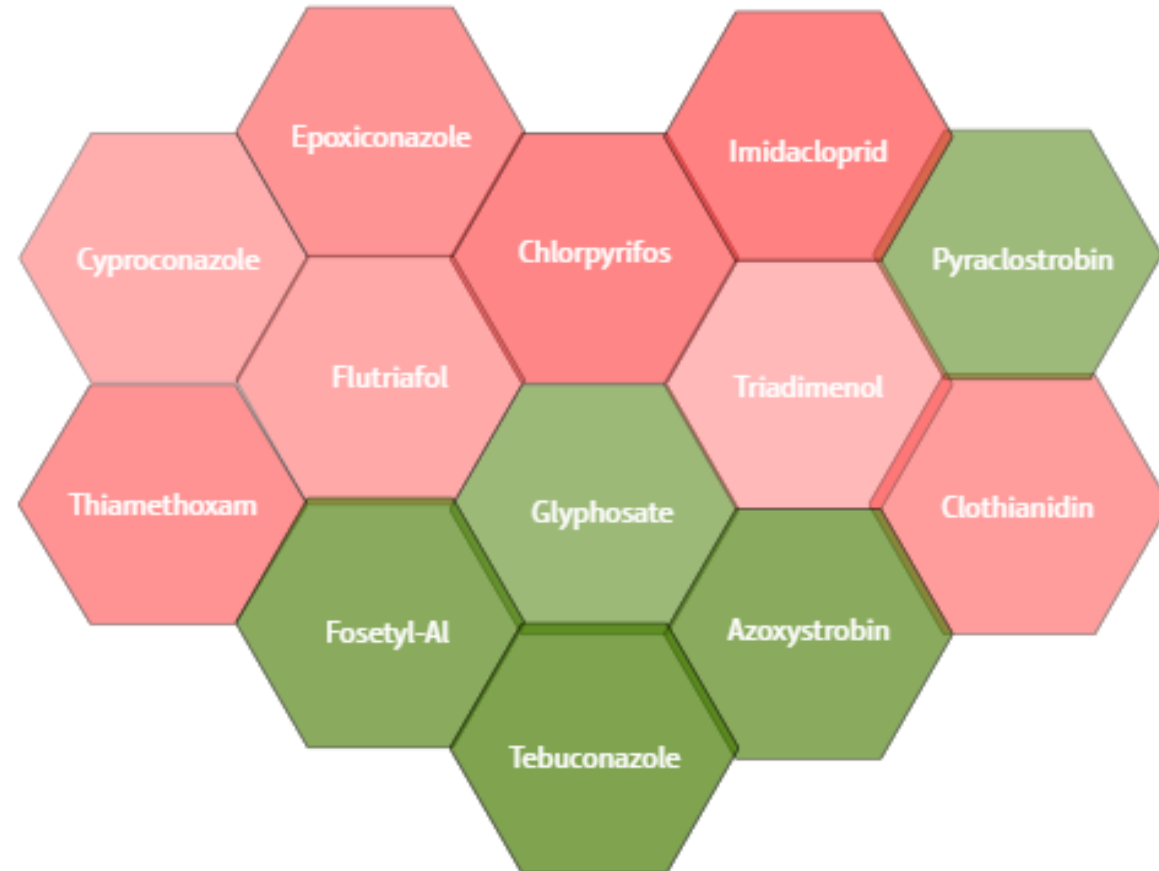
Which pesticides are driving the coffee sector?

TOP 13



Factors influencing the classification:

- 1) Health risks associated with use.
- 2) Health risks associated with consumption.
- 3) Regulatory pressure leads to increased product bans (coffee is banned by authorities).
- 4) The global availability of substances and EU bans on substances are not congruent.



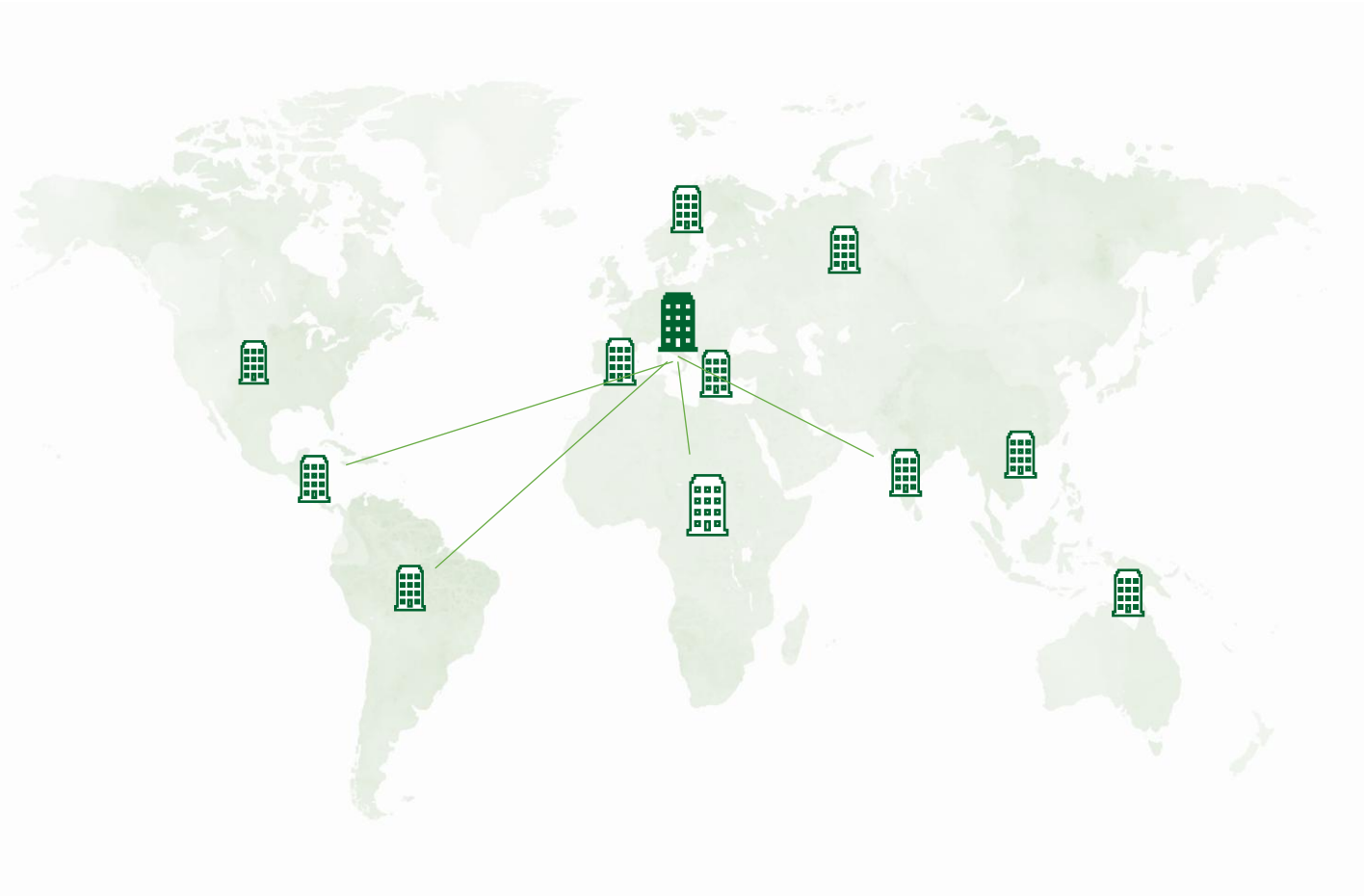
All substances have undergone an internal review of their media presence, RAFSS, and the ECF's risk classification.

NKG introduction and publication

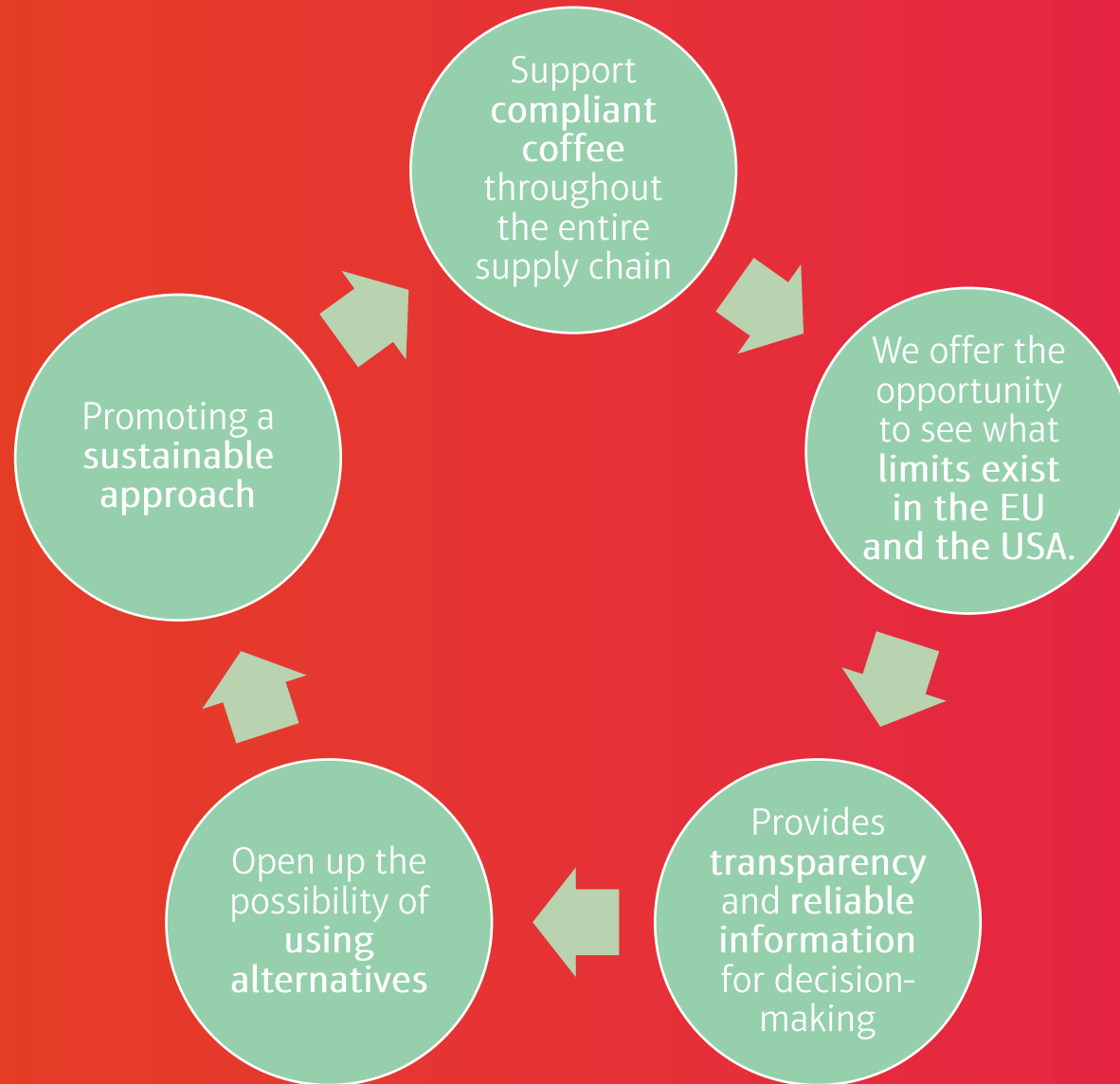


The Neumann Kaffee Gruppe provides information through two channels:

1. The quality experts in the export companies. They need to know which limits are permissible for the EU.
2. The agronomists at the NKG export companies. They can provide training at farm level and provide information about alternatives.



Why is this project important?



Any Questions ?
Please contact us !

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