

Our approach to Crop Protection

The Sainsbury's approach to Crop Protection is set out in our supplier facing Responsible Sourcing Manual: this is used to help support sustainable and resilient production for fresh/frozen produce and grain for our in-store bakeries.

The pillars of this approach and further detail of our requirements are outlined beneath:

Safe and legal:

- Suppliers must safely source all fruit, salad, vegetable, grain, and other crop products ensuring that all crop protection products used on specific crops meets the relevant regulatory use criteria in the country of use, and the relevant maximum residue level (MRL) levels in the country of sale.

Use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

- Suppliers must be able to demonstrate an IPM based approach to crop protection. This should drive best practice and ensure that, where possible, crop protection products use is minimised.
- Some countries set IPM requirements in their legislation (where these are in place they must be followed), but Sainsbury's also provide guidance to support our suppliers with IPM considerations, for example where there are no 'in country' requirements in place.

Plant Protection Product Use:

- Where plant protection products are used, this should be a well-managed and targeted use of these products (such as pesticides) within an IPM based approach.
- We require due diligence from our suppliers to show that the products they intend to use are approved for use on the relevant crops in the country of use.
- We have a list of pesticides (active ingredients) that we do not allow to be used in our supply chains, for example, some of the most hazardous materials that have been identified through international conventions (such as the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions).
- We also have certain active ingredients where our suppliers will need to be able to show a clear case to support the use in an IPM programme (e.g., for resistance management or food waste risks). All of the applications must be reviewed and signed off by a Sainsbury's agricultural expert.

Pesticide Residue reporting:

- Our suppliers must have a transparent approach to pesticide residue testing and reporting where crop protection products are used.
- Any testing programme must be based on a risk assessment: for example, considering relevant risk factors for that particular crop and country of production.
- Tests must be undertaken by an accredited laboratory and shared with Sainsbury's for review.
- If we see an MRL exceedance, or even a high level, we will investigate with suppliers to understand why this occurred and to support best practice and learning.

Technical engagement and working with each other:

- We expect our suppliers to have an active involvement in our Sainsbury's Crop Action Group and similar activities (e.g., where we might work across crop types on common issues of concern).
- We work together to share insight, horizon scanning and best practice – to learn from each other. This will not only address crop protection areas but will also other areas (for example): wider IPM, food waste, legislation, environment, and wider areas of our Plan for Better / Better for the Planet.
- Working together in this way helps to encourage best practice and improve risk awareness to support sustainable and resilient IPM based crop production.