

EN
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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.1.2025)

As regards the financial support for walnut producers, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan Regulation¹ offers Member States different possibilities to help farmers cope with plant diseases, which may include support for investments, support in a form of loans, guarantees and working capital, risk management, cooperation projects and advisory services. However, it is up to the Member States to plan and implement such measures.

In the Greek CAP Strategic Plan², support is allocated in the context of the operational programmes implemented by producer organisations and may be used for the sustainable pest and disease control techniques, and climate change adaptation and mitigation, through advisory services and technical assistance, as well as training, including coaching and exchange of best practices. Member States might also be able to grant further support in accordance with relevant State aid rules^{3,4}.

In accordance with Regulation 1107/2009⁵, active substances are approved at Union level and plant protection products are authorised at Member State level. Fungicides based on the approved active substances copper-based, sulfur, neem oil or *Bacillus subtilis* could fight anthracnose. Should plant protection products be not yet authorised in Greece for anthracnose in walnuts, the competent authority may, if the relevant conditions are met, use the provisions in the above-mentioned Regulation to grant mutual recognition to plant protection products authorised in other Member States, extend existing authorisations of plant protection products to minor uses, or grant emergency authorisations for a period not exceeding 120 days.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013, OJ L 435/1, 6.12.2021.

² <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/>, <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/category/sskap-2023-2027/sskap-egkrisi-tropopoiiseis/>

³ See Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas (OJ C 485, 21.12.2022, p. 1) and Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/2472 of 14 December 2022 declaring certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OJ L 327, 21.12.2022, p. 1).

⁴ <https://competition-cases.ec.europa.eu/search>

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1107/oj>