

EN

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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is aware of this disease phenomenon. As the causal agent remains unidentified, no specific EU plant health obligations currently apply¹.

A Horizon Europe² Cluster 6³ topic⁴ on emerging plant pest risks will open early next year for applications. Member States may also use Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) support to support research for instance through EIP-AGRI⁵ Operational Groups⁶ for innovative solutions under the CAP.

At least 2% of eligible expenditure allocated to research and innovation under operational programmes for recognised fruit and vegetable producer organisations could be used to address such challenges. These recognised producer organisations may also make use of the various risk prevention and management interventions⁷ being part of their operational programmes. Moreover, when the reduction of the value of marketed production (VMP) determining the EU subsidies for producer organisations is due to a pest and falls by at least 35%⁸, Member States may take this into account when calculating the final support to mitigate the impact of the VMP reduction.

The CAP also offers other tools. Member States introduce in their CAP Strategic Plans crisis payments for farmers affected by plant pests⁹. Member States can use CAP tools to build medium and long-term resilience¹⁰ and address short-term impacts through direct payments, risk management, and investments in restoration of production potential, while also supporting preventive investments.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/2031/oj>.

² Cluster 6 ‘Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment’, https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

³ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-6-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment_en

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-01-two-stage?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=relevance&keywords=HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-01-two-stage:%20Strengthening%20plant%20health:%20addressing%20emerging%20plant%20pest%20risks&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501&frameworkProgramme=43108390>.

⁵ European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI).

⁶ Article 77, Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.

⁷ Article 47(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 (e.g. mutual funds, replanting of orchards, harvest and production insurance).

⁸ Article 32 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/126.

⁹ Regulation (EU) 2025/2649 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2025 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 as regards the conditionality system, types of intervention in the form of direct payment, types of intervention in certain sectors and rural development and annual performance reports and Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 as regards suspensions of payments, annual performance clearance and controls and penalties, PE/49/2025/REV/1 (OJ L, 2025/2649, 31.12.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/2649/oj>).

¹⁰ ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj>.

Once the causal agent is identified and a pest risk analysis (by the European Food Safety Authority or Member States) is complete, a discussion on its potential regulation under the EU's plant health law will be initiated in the relevant technical committee.