

Invitation to participate in a study exploring the impact of pesticides on human, livestock, and environmental health

What are the benefits of taking part?

Benefits for both farmer and neighbouring household participants:

- We will provide you with unique data on the distribution of pesticides in your bodies, local environment, livestock and farms (where applicable)
- You will learn how exposure to pesticides in your area influences environmental, human, livestock, and soil health
- Your participation will enable us to influence and support local, national and European agricultural policies surrounding pesticides
- If you wish, you will be able to receive the results of your blood sample if we identify abnormal test results, some of them you will not typically receive from your usual medical check-ups

Benefits for farmer participants:

- Upon request, you will receive recommendations on certain crop management and pest control practices based on a cost-benefit analysis of pesticide use at your farm, including both economic and environmental sustainability aspects
- You will join a network of stakeholders both in your case study country and from across Europe/Argentina that allows an exchange of experiences surrounding pesticides
- You will have the opportunity to participate in workshops to share your views and experiences with various other farmers and scientific experts to help developing viable transition pathways for sustainable and profitable agriculture at your farm and other farms and regions
- Based on the results of this study, we will share with you transition pathways for economically and environmentally sustainable pesticide use so that you can make informed choices about how to control crop pests in a safer and more sustainable way
- You will get access to long-term predictions of how the transitions proposed in this study could result in environmental and financial benefits at farm level

Do you grow XY? Or, do you live in a rural area where XY is grown?

Are you interested in the agriculture, the environment, human health, and how farmers could transition towards the more sustainable use of pesticides? If so, then please consider participating in SPRINT!

What is SPRINT?

This study is part of the European SPRINT project, funded by the HORIZON 2020 program. We have case studies in 10 European countries and one in Argentina. The project will assess the extent to which people, livestock, and ecosystems are exposed to pesticides and the impacts of this exposure.

We will do this by taking samples and monitoring how exposed you, your livestock (where applicable), and your local environment are to pesticides. We will then identify ways of transitioning towards a more sustainable and cost-effective use of pesticides so that they have minimal impact on environmental, livestock, and human health, whilst ensuring farmers don't lose money as a result.

We will be gathering anonymous data and information in your local area before combining it with the results from the other 10 studies. This will allow us to assess and compare pesticide use and levels in different types of agriculture. We will identify the most common mixtures of pesticides and find out whether they are dangerous to people, livestock and the environment. We will use these results to develop a toolbox which will help us to decide how pesticides could be used in a more integrated way.

Who we are looking for?

1. Family farms from both conventional and organic systems
2. Families living close to these farms

Interested in volunteering as a participant?

Please read the following information carefully to understand what participating involves. If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch. We are also happy to answer any questions you may have. We greatly appreciate your voluntary participation and do not take it for granted.

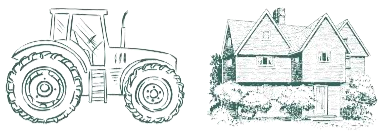
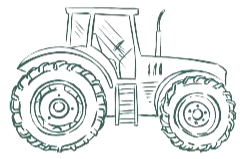
Email:

Twitter: @SPRINTH2020

Project website: <https://sprint-h2020.eu/>



What will my participation involve?

Type of participant(s)	Activity	Estimated time requirement
 <p>Farmers and neighbours/non-farmers</p>	<p>Give access to your home so that researchers can collect dust samples</p> <p>Allow samples to be taken directly from you (urine, stool, nasal swabs and blood; all taken by a healthcare professional)</p> <p>Wear a silicone bracelet for continuous recording of exposure to pesticides</p> <p>Allow samples to be taken from your food and feed of your animals (farm/domestic, where applicable)</p> <p>Participate in an interview about your diet, health and farm management practices (where applicable)</p>	<p>None - complete consent form</p> <p>1 hour (once)</p> <p>None - but wear the bracelet for 14 days</p> <p>None - complete consent form</p> <p>2-4 hours (three times during the project)</p>
 <p>Farmers only</p>	<p>Allow access to your farm so that researchers can take soil, crops, earthworm, insect, and bat faeces samples after pesticide applications</p> <p>Allow access to your livestock for urine, faecal, milk and blood sampling (collected by a vet)</p> <p>Attend annual workshops to discuss research results and share your ideas about improving the sustainable use of pesticides</p>	<p>1 hour (once)</p> <p>None - complete consent form</p> <p>1-1.5 days (once a year throughout the project- 5 days in total)</p>



Interested in participating?

If you are interested in volunteering for the study, or if you have any further questions regarding this study, please get in touch. We will be happy to assist you and help you answer all your questions related to your participation in the study.

Co-ordinator of the case study:

Telephone:

Email:

Project website: <https://sprint-h2020.eu/>



Further information: Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Why should I get involved?

The EU has a goal of halving pesticide use by 2030. This project will help them to achieve this target. We need your help so that we can find practical ways of using pesticides more sustainably based on real-life data.

What if I decide to stop participating in the study once it has begun?

Your participation in the project is voluntary, so you can stop participating in the study partway through if you wish. However, we reserve the right to use the samples and information collected so far for the purposes of the SPRINT study and subsequent research, in compliance with ethical rules. If you would like to take part in the project, but you do not want to know your personal results, then that is ok. If you have any doubts or concerns about your participation, please consult us and we will be happy to help.

What will happen to the samples and information I provide?

We take the protection of your data very seriously. Before your samples and information are analysed, we will replace your name with a unique code to ensure your privacy. No data that could identify the individuals and farms involved will be provided among the study participants or elsewhere. Your samples will not be analysed for the presence of alcohol or drugs (medicinal/recreational). The anonymized data collected will be stored and used for research purposes only and may be combined with other data from various sources. In accordance with EU rules, the information provided will be stored securely and will not be shared with any other organizations. The study has an approved international and national protocol of work progress, and is approved by the relevant ethics committee. All employees are instructed on all ethical, legal and moral principles, the observance of which will be required. The SPRINT study meets the legislation requirements for the protection of sensitive and personal data.

Are there any risks of joining the study?

All sampling will be performed by qualified and specially trained health professionals. There are no perceived risks other than possible minor discomfort during sampling.

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