



Pesticides and agriculture, which impacts?



What is a pesticide?



The term "pesticide" refers to active molecules or **preparations used** for the prevention, control or **elimination of unwanted organisms**, whether plants (**herbicides**), animals (insects, mites, molluscs, etc.), fungi (**fungicides**) or bacteria. There are more than a thousand **active** pesticide substances.

Information box

In 2020, nearly **66,000 tonnes** of active substances of phytosanitary products were **sold**, making France the **2nd largest user of pesticides** in Europe and the 8th reported per hectare.



Conventional agriculture VS organic agriculture

Simply put, organic farming is based on environmentally **friendly methods**, **avoiding** the use of **pesticides** and chemical fertilizers, while conventional farming uses these products to **maximize** yields.

- **70%** conventional crops are **treated with pesticides**.
- **85%** water samples from **agricultural areas may contain pesticide residues**.
- **40%** of the bee population have **fallen** in recent years due to the use of pesticides.
- **60%** of **biodiversity** has been lost due to **intensive agriculture**.



Organic farming **reduces water pollution** from pesticides by almost **50%**.



A third birds from agricultural environments and almost 80% of insects disappeared in less than 30 years



25% more on average: **organic** fruits and vegetables contain more **antioxidants** than conventional products.

Some solutions :

- Try to consume organic and local products.
- Inform yourself and inform others.
- Avoid using phytosanitary products for your garden (household alcohol vinegar, Bordeaux mixture, black soap, etc.)



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Sources: FNE, Climate Action.



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