Taming the pesticide cloud:



Balancing productivity and sustainability in farming

The word gives us a clue: pesticides are substances used to **control any pest**, mainly in agriculture. Without them today's **food system** would have much less productivity, but they also pose some risks. That's why it is advisable to do a **conscious use** and and combine them with **greener alternatives**.



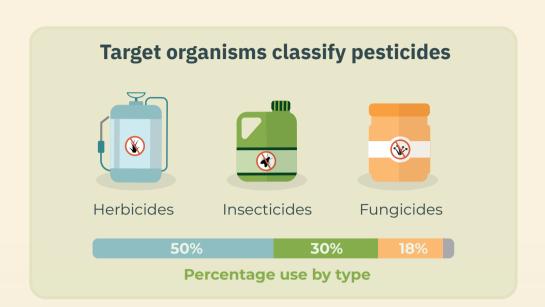
How common is to apply pesticides?

Very. Nowadays, about **one-third of crops in the world** rely on the application of pesticides for their production.



More and more demanded

A continuous increase in the **demand for food** pushes **agriculture productivity** and increases the **use of pesticides**.





The bright side

They contribute significantly to the **growth of food production**, especially in the agricultural sector.

- · Decrease crop losses in a 30%-70% range
- · Extend shelf life of agricultural goods
- · Increase livestock yields
- · Reduce insect-borne diseases

Responsible use

Still, it is recommended to apply several **measures to** minimise risks.

- · Use of the right equipment
- · Use of precise application technology
- · Reduce the use in sensitive areas
- · Raise awareness about pesticide risks



A warning

Since they are used to kill or control certain pests, they can be **toxic to non-target organisms** or humans, pollute the environment and affect biodiversity. Also, they can make undesirable species resistant to them.

