

# EUROPE'S POST-PATENT PLANT PROTECTION INDUSTRY

## 1 WHO IS ECCA?

Established in 1993, the European Crop Care Association represents Europe's post-patent plant protection industry whose members are actively involved in the development, manufacturing, and marketing of active substances and formulations.

### Quick facts about ECCA's members:

- Employ over 2,800 people across the continent.
- Generate more than €1.3 billion in sales, representing approximately 15% of the European plant protection market.

## 2 VISION FOR THE FUTURE?

A fair and efficient regulatory environment for post-patent crop protection businesses, with an emphasis on ensuring competition is not distorted and SMEs have equal and fair market access opportunities.



## 3 WHO BENEFITS?

### European farmers

- Post-patent plant protection products are crucial for managing the impact of pests, driving cost optimisation.
- Consistent EU regulations for post-patent plant protection products can strengthen the single market and drive investments in new products.

### European consumers

- Cost optimisation means cheaper food prices for European household budgets.
- Lower import dependence also means more "Made in Europe" products on European shelves.

### European innovation and competitiveness

- The lack of authorisations and/or their delays by some Member States prevents the industry from commercialising safe and efficacious post-patent plant protection products.
- Harmonised authorisations would support European innovation and competitiveness.

### European strategy to combat climate change

- Post-patent plant protection products aid farmers in managing new farming conditions, new crops and new pests.
- At the same time, they support the European Green Deal and ensure it puts farmers' interests at the forefront.

## 4 WHAT IS ECCA ASKING FOR?

- The end to the artificial extension of exclusive intellectual property rights for plant protection product patent holders.
- Harmonised authorisations of all post-patent plant protection products across the EU Member States within the period prescribed by EU regulations: one year.
- Working regulations that allow post-patent companies to access the market and provide cost-effective and safe options for Europe's farmers.
- The EU to communicate the value and importance of plant protection products, addressing misconceptions amongst Europe's citizens of the role of these products and that which the industry plays in providing safe and affordable food.

