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# Sustainable Crop Protection for Resilient Swiss Agriculture

# - How to Bridge the Gaps?

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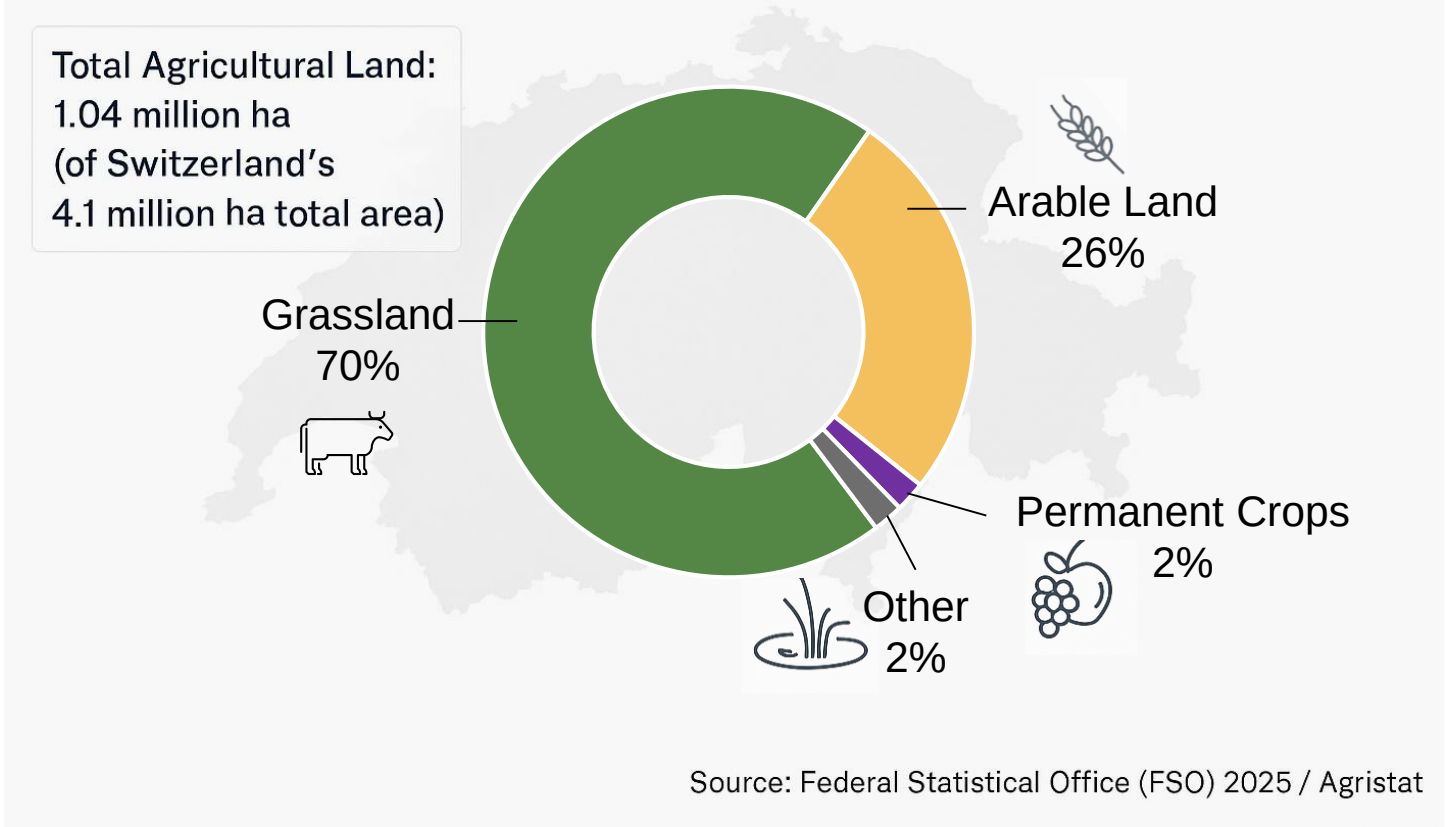
Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG

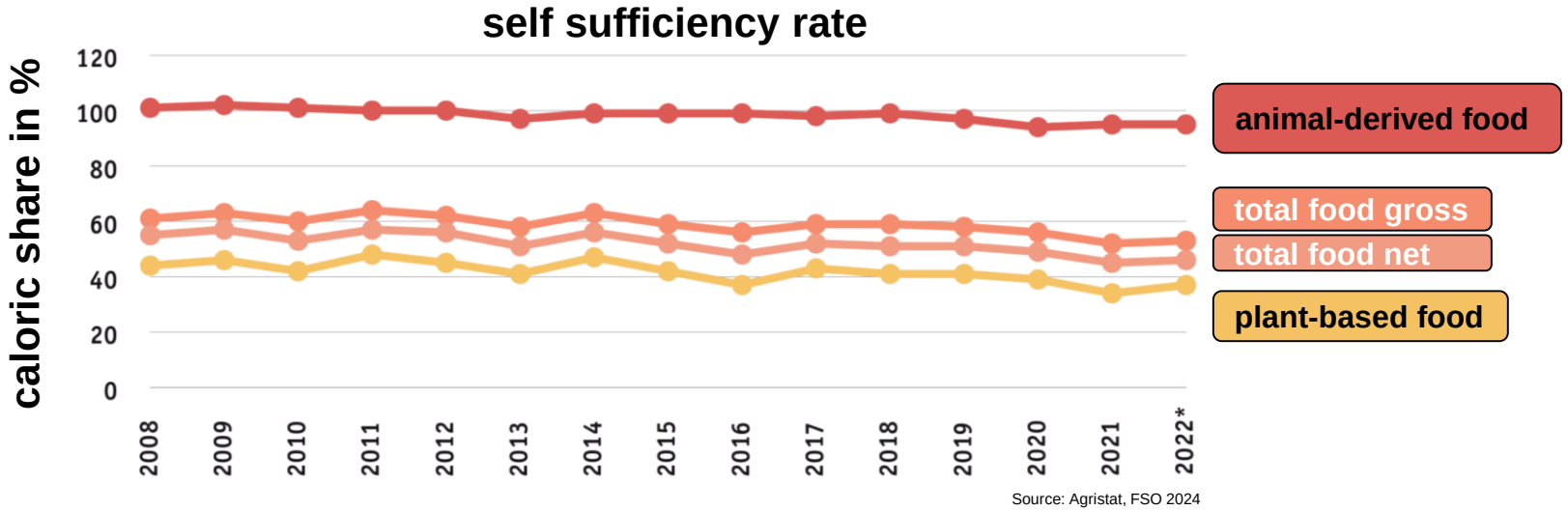
20. Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting – 21. October 2025


1. Introduction and Context
2. Challenges and Gaps
3. Strategic Response

# How Switzerland's Farmland is Used



# Crop Production in Switzerland



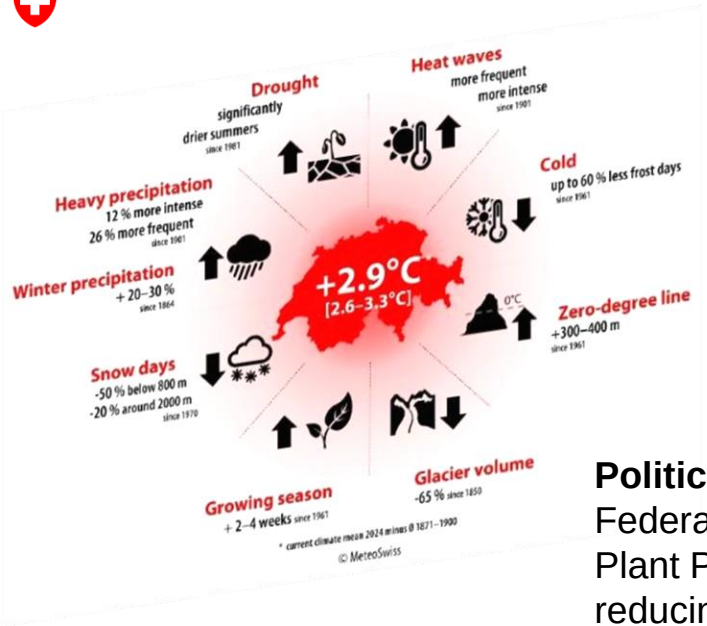

Source: Agristat, FSO 2024

**Total Agricultural Production Value for 2024 is 12.0 Billion CHF:** Estimated crop production value is 4.14 billion CHF, highlighting its economic importance.

**Strategic Agricultural Goals:** Long-term goals include protecting crops and maintaining self-sufficiency amid population growth, aligned with AP30$^{+}$ policy.

# 2. Challenges and Gaps

# Challenges





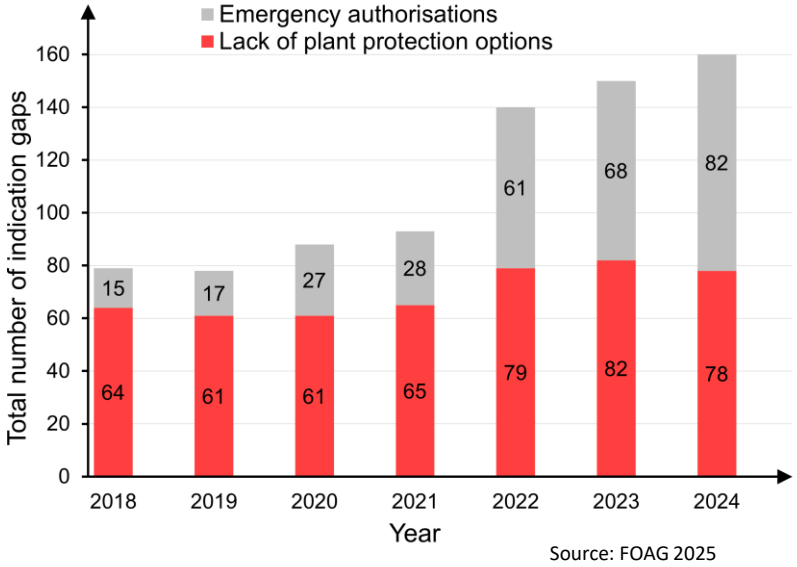
**Agricultural Challenges**
Swiss agriculture struggles with climate change, growing food demand, and limited natural resources.

**Political Initiatives**
Federal Policies like the National Action Plan or the Reduction Path for Plant Protection Products of the Swiss Parliament (Pa. Iv. 19.475) aim at reducing pesticide risks and promote safer farming practices.

**Shortage of Innovation**
Innovative, sustainable solutions are essential to balance productivity and environmental protection in agriculture.

# Current Gaps in Plant Protection

## Protection Gaps in Swiss Crops




Source: FOAG 2025

**Regulatory Challenges**
Switzerland is not part of the EU Plant Protection Products (PPP) registration system, this complicates access to new plant protection solutions.

**Limitations of IPM Measures**
Limited IPM-measures to control pests (insects, diseases, weeds, …).

# Why Gaps Exist

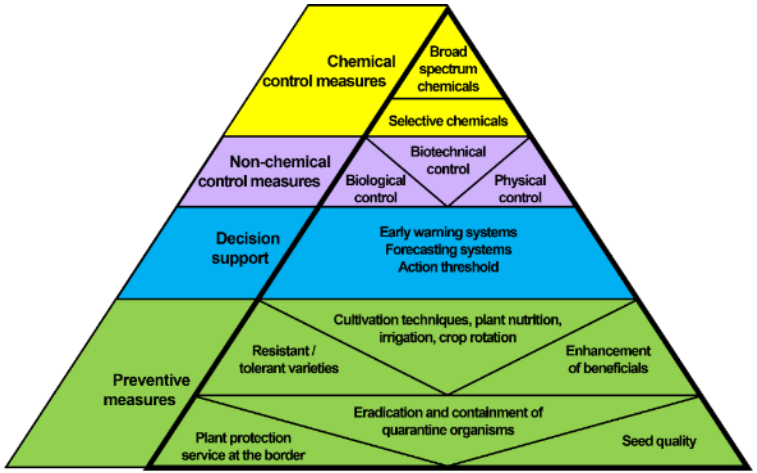
## Withdrawal of Active Substances

The removal of pesticides and difficulty in finding alternatives to pyrethroids and copper limits available options for controlling pests effectively.

## Challenges in Developing Alternatives

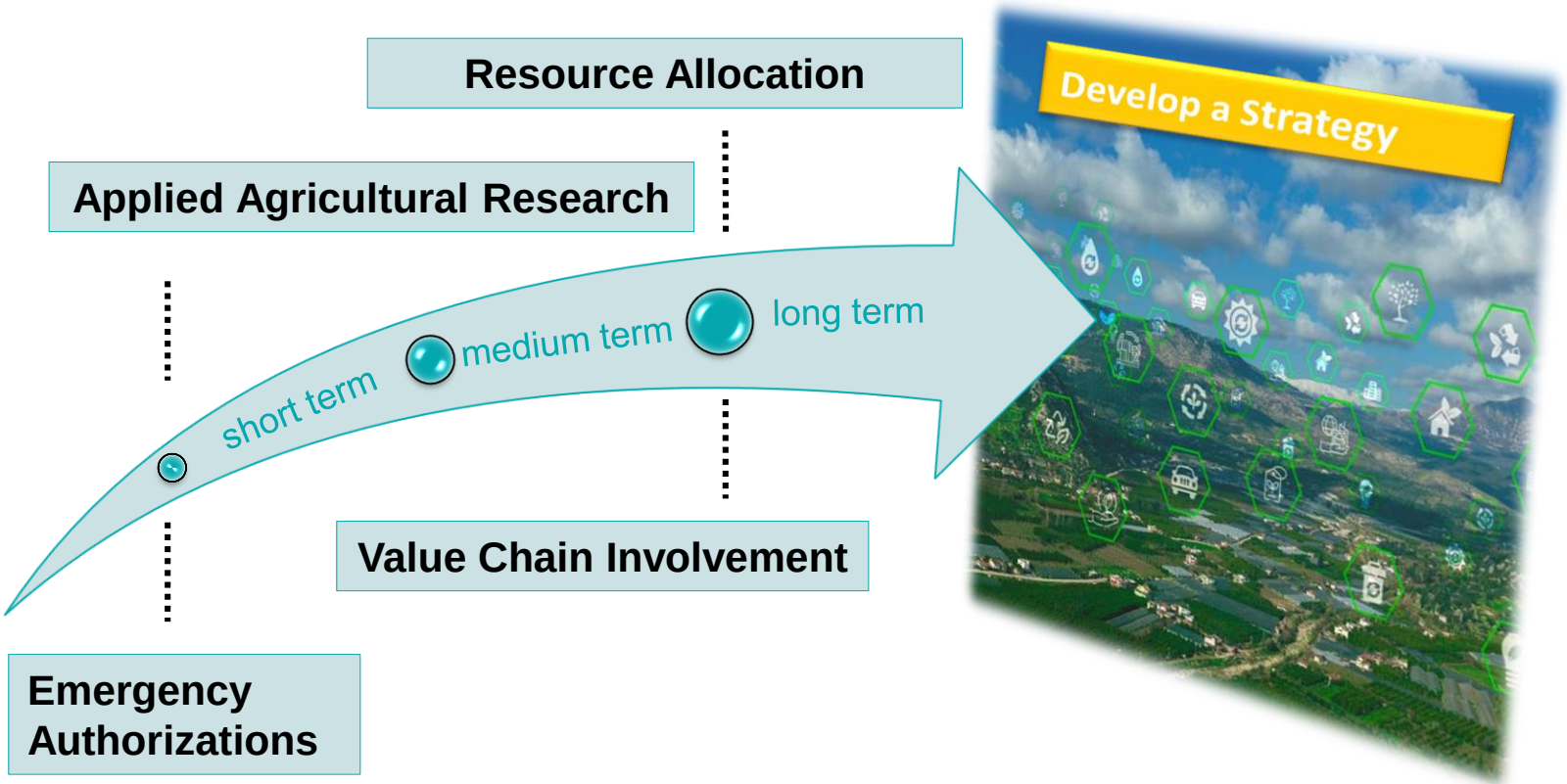
Developing new crop protection solutions is slow, costly, and requires significant research and innovation.

## New Invasive Pest Threats, e.g.

# 3. Strategic Response

# Searching for Solutions



# Vision & Focus of Strategy


**Long-Term Protection Goals**
The aim is to halve protection gaps by **2035** through sustainable, integrated crop protection strategies.

**Modernizing IPM Practices**
The strategy focuses on modernizing Integrated Pest Management to improve protection efficiency.

**Value Chain Coordination**
Coordination throughout the value chain (from farm to fork) and enhancing research are key to developing targeted measures that reinforce resilient agriculture.

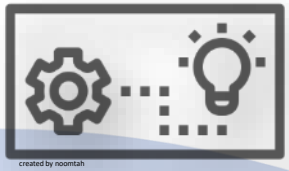
**Implementation Road Map**
A timeline with key milestones guides the implementation of the measures vision towards resilient and sustainable agriculture by 2035.

# Strategy (in Progress)

Including relevant stakeholders

Agri-sector organizations and agr-industry, research and educational institutions, retail sector

Gaps



Situation analysis and workshops

Fields of Actions & Measures

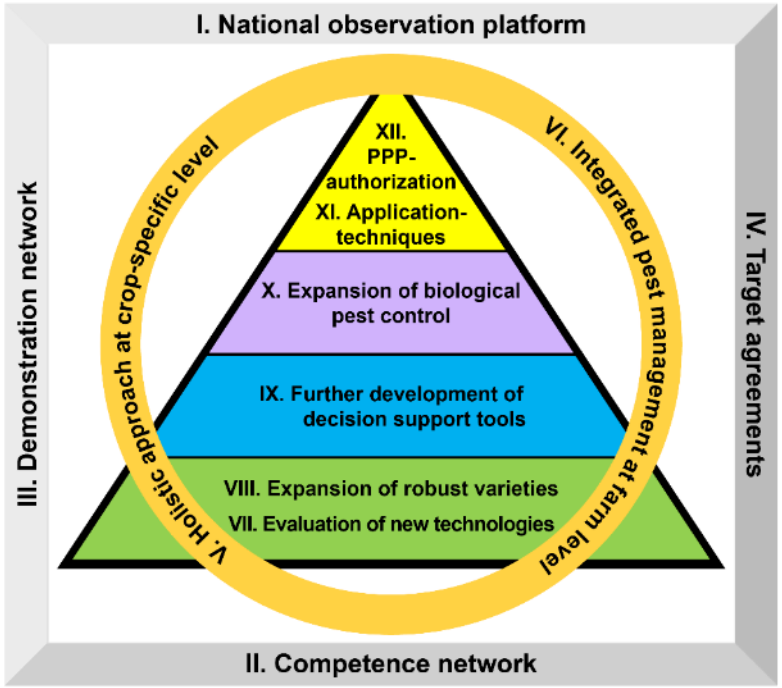
Implementation

Acts, Ordinances, Funds, e.g. via “agricultural policy” AP30+

Strategic objectives

Value-Adding Plant Production, Efficient Use of Production Factors, Natural Resource Protection

# Proposed Measures (Overview)




**Three Measure Categories**

The 12 measures are organized into three main categories to streamline strategic implementation effectively.

**Addressing Strategic Gaps**

These measures are designed to identify and close existing gaps to meet strategic objectives successfully.

**Interaction and Synergy**

The measures interact synergistically to reinforce one another, enhancing overall strategy effectiveness.

# Institutional & Collaborative Framework

**IV. Participatory Target agreements**

**Example for potato industry:**

MEDIA Source: https://swiss-food.ch/artikel/kartoffelbauern-wollen-robuste-sorten

## Potato farmers want robust varieties

*«As the use of crop protection has been massively reduced, the potato industry now wants to focus on more robust varieties. The industry has even concluded a target agreement with the federal government. It is ambitious: By 2040, robust varieties should grow on 80% of potato cultivation areas.»*

**rm (data)**

rop damage and protection options

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to set objectives involving all

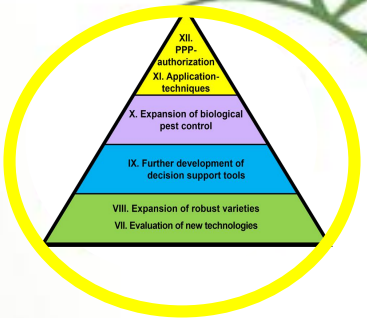
chain

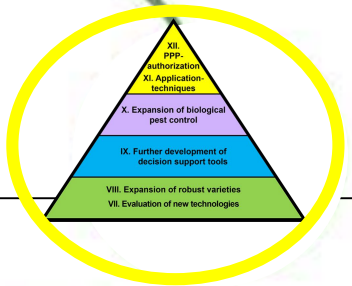
gies by sharing risks and benefits

# Strengthening IPM

**V. Crop-Specific IPM Strategies**

Developing protection strategies tailored to the needs of specific crops → to improve pest management effectiveness and sustainability.

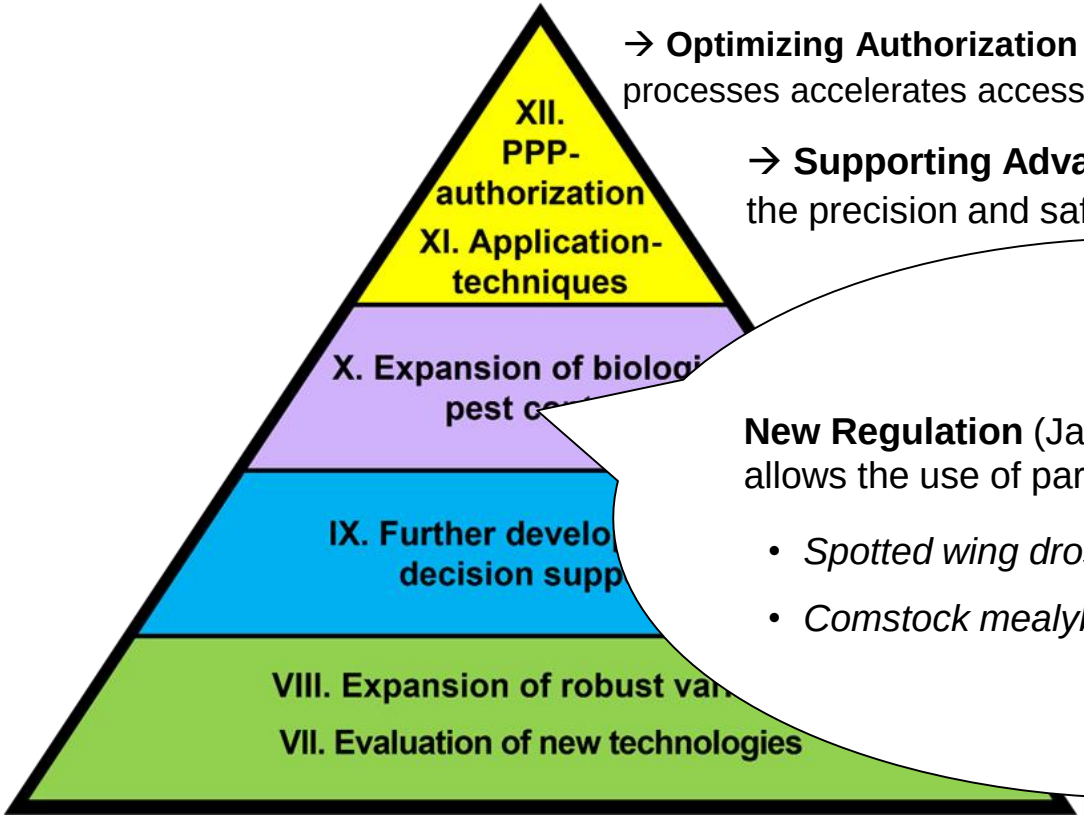



**VI. IPM Implementation at Farm-Level**

Using PPP quotas and incentives → to encourage the adoption of alternative pest control measures.

# Specific IPM Measures




→ **Optimizing Authorization Processes -** streamlining PPP authorization processes accelerates access to safe and effective crop protection solutions.

→ **Supporting Advanced Application Techniques** to improve the precision and safety of pest control measures.

**Control** leverages
vasive) pests

s .

**Cultivation**
**op Varieties** to

**New Regulation** (January 1, 2026)
allows the use of parasitoids against:

- *Spotted wing drosophila* (*Drosophila suzukii*)
- *Comstock mealybug* (*Pseudococcus comstocki*).

**ative Technology** –
process to facilitate testing of new innovative protection possibilities (e.g. RNA-Sprays, CRISPR/Cas).

# The Role of Biocontrol

Picture: Agroline Bioprotect

**III. Demonstration Network**

Enable the showcasing of biocontrol product efficiency to stakeholders and potential users.

**VII. Evaluation of New Technologies**

Integration of upcoming biocontrol solutions.

**X. Expansion of Classical Biological Pest Control**

Propagation and distribution of beneficial organisms.

**XII. PPP Authorization**

Optimizing processes facilitates faster approval and wider distribution of low-risk products (e.g. Granulovirus).






# Thank you for your attention!