

Farmers' Horizon: One Year After the Protest

European Survey 2025 – Highlights

CropLife Europe, in partnership with IPSOS and Euronews, has launched a European-wide survey to explore farmers' perspectives on crop protection tools, technology adoption, and the impact of key regulatory developments expected in 2025.

Have the challenges faced by farmers in early 2024 been resolved by recent EU actions, or is a new wave of protests imminent?

What additional measures are needed to support European farmers in overcoming ongoing difficulties?

The survey underscores a strong demand for economic support, fairer market conditions, and targeted investment. Farmers view creating a more equitable marketplace and ensuring financial sustainability as their top priority. This is closely followed by calls to simplify complex regulations and improve access to innovation, both of which are seen as essential to the sector's future resilience and competitiveness.

Farmers are calling for a streamlined, science-based regulatory environment that supports innovation while ensuring continued access to essential tools. Maintaining and enhancing the crop protection toolbox is vital to sustaining productivity and resilience in an increasingly volatile world.

Methodology

The survey captures farmers' sentiments one year after widespread agricultural protests across Europe.

- **Countries surveyed:** Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Ireland, Poland, and Romania.
- **Sample:** 1,998 interviews with farm owners or co-owners, weighted to reflect regional distribution, farm size, age groups, and national acreage shares.
- **Fieldwork:** Conducted online via web intercept, by Ipsos, from 5 March to 3 April 2025.

Top Findings

European Farmers Still Under Pressure

The survey reveals that farmers continue to face a **perfect storm of economic, administrative, and regulatory challenges**. Rising input costs and shrinking profit margins are threatening their livelihoods, while navigating complex regulations and paperwork consumes significant time and resources.

- **2 out of 3** farmers report a worsening economic situation and administrative workload compared to last year.
- **69%** say that current product prices do not allow for a sufficient profit margin.
- **50%** struggle to cover basic farm expenses.

Echoes of the 2024 Protests

In 2024, more than half of surveyed farmers took to the streets, with **over two-thirds in Spain, Germany, and the Netherlands** leading the mobilisation. Yet, a year later, **over 90% remain disappointed**, citing a lack of tangible policy reforms.

Bridging the Innovation Gap

Farmers report **increasing pressure from pests and diseases**, alongside shortages of both **conventional and innovative crop protection tools**.

- **1 in 3** farmers struggle to access standard crop protection products, particularly in Spain and Germany.
- **Digital technology adoption** (e.g., decision-support tools, satellite imagery, biological inputs) remains low, averaging just **20–30%**.
- Despite growing interest in **drones and autonomous equipment**, access remains limited due to cost and regulatory hurdles.
- **Two-thirds** of farmers say they lack the financial resources to invest in new tools or machinery or to sell their products at a profitable price.

Farming at a Crossroads

With 51% of farmers feeling pessimistic about their future, the agricultural sector is in urgent need of reform and support.

Many are questioning the long-term viability of farming as a career.

- **1 in 5** farmers plan to stop farming within five years.
- **5%** hope to exit the profession within one year.
- Over **50%** say they are ready to **protest again**, reflecting continued frustration and lack of relief.

Top Priorities for EU Action

The message from farmers is clear: **urgent action is needed**. Across all countries surveyed, the following were identified as top policy priorities:

- **Deliver financial relief: 82%** call for fairer redistribution, tax breaks, and streamlined access to subsidies.
- **Cut red tape: 57%** want simpler regulations and reduced administrative burdens.
- **Unlock innovation: 1 in 3** urge greater support for research, innovation, and access to an effective crop protection toolbox.